

# *The Road Home*

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER







Stephanie R. Melchert  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This past year and a half has felt like a string of challenges – all one right after another. From tackling the pandemic head on during its initial surge to fighting its long-lasting effects on our community ... I know of one thing for sure.

We are stronger together.

The [Arlington Life Shelter](#) could not be more grateful for your outstanding support. Through our darkest times, there is always a silver lining — and that’s you!

Your commitment to helping provide a safe, clean space for neighbors experiencing homelessness is paving the way for bright futures and a powerful sense of community across North Texas.

Your thoughtfulness and its impact provide us with a sense of hope every day at the Arlington Life Shelter.

I hope you’ll enjoy hearing stories from your neighbors in this issue of The Road Home while keeping in mind your kindness and generosity are directly helping neighbors just like Reggie (page 3) and Ladonna (page 4).

As we face colder months ahead, your gifts are getting individuals and families back on their feet. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for being our silver lining.

Gratefully,  
*Stephanie Melchert*

**Our Mission:** To promote self-sufficiency by providing shelter, employment programs and transitional services for North Texans impacted by homelessness.

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SHELTER SUPPLY LIST

Thank you for generously supporting Shelter guests. Your donations will be enjoyed all year long. In addition to our Immediate Needs, we are requesting help with replenishing the supplies we use daily in both our programming and development departments.

- Stamps
- White Copy Paper
- Case or Reams
- Light Blue Cardstock
- Astrobrights Pulsar
- Pink 65 lb paper
- Lime Green 24lb paper
- Yellow 24lb paper
- 1/3 cut file folders (any color)
- Reinforced Classification Folder, 2"
- Expansion, Letter Size, Manila
- Blue Painters Tape (wide and narrow)
- Large Reusable Shopping Bags

Arlington Life Shelter

325 W. DIVISION ST.  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011  
817-548-9885

Thanks to You, Reggie Has a New Job!

Reggie is a Dallas native who took a short break from Texas to lend his services as a pastor at a small church in California.

Unfortunately, the church dissolved and Reggie found himself unemployed. On top of no longer having a job, Reggie also lost his home when the church property was sold.

Jobless and without a roof over his head, Reggie had no money and no family he could turn to for help. On his way back home to Texas, he was referred to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) where he would have a chance to get back on his feet.

“Arlington Life Shelter is unique – I feel safe here,” Reggie says gratefully. “This place is secure and clean. I have so much support.”

Your kindness makes that support possible for people like Reggie! With your help, Reggie was given access to the tools he needed to regain self-sufficiency, like guidance building his resume.

And thanks to you, Reggie recently started a job as a security officer for the airport!

We’re so proud of Reggie and others like him who have come through the Arlington Life

Shelter ready to make a change in their lives. Thank you for everything you do to make transformations possible!



Reggie

Beatrice’s Hard Work Pays Off

Beatrice Davis drives by the Arlington Life Shelter on her way to teach third grade social studies at Webb Elementary School. That was how three years ago, on her regular drive to work, she was inspired to turn a school lesson into a service project for her students.

The Earn, Save, Spend & Donate Program is a school-wide project for all subjects and grades. Beatrice sends a letter to parents asking them to assign chores and pay kids for their work. The students bring the money to school and Beatrice uses it to purchase much-needed items for the Shelter, like toiletries and cleaning supplies.

“Every year, I look to make the program better than the year before,” Beatrice says. “I want to make it better so that even more schools and communities can start a similar program.”

One of these major improvements took place last year, when schools shut down because of the pandemic. The program’s website added a donation link and raised an incredible \$7,000!

“Everyone should get excited to help the community in some way or another,” Beatrice shares. “The community is so touched by what we do and that keeps us going.”

Thank you for all your hard work, Beatrice. You, your students and the Webb family are making a huge difference in countless lives.



Beatrice



## You're Helping Ladonna and Her Boys Get Back on Their Feet



When Ladonna first came up from Louisiana with her three boys, her family “left with the clothes on our back and only a hope for a better future,” she shares.

During their first three days in Texas, Ladonna, Xavier (14), Tristan (5) and Tyler (3) slept in a broken-down car. They had no family or friends nearby.

When Ladonna heard about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) and

was welcomed with open arms, she felt blessed beyond belief.

“It’s a step up from sleeping in a car,” Ladonna says.

With assistance from the Shelter, Ladonna is planning to earn her GED as well as her driver’s license. And she also wants to find a house for her and her boys!

**“They helped me with everything and anything**

**we could possibly need,”** she explains.

Now, for fun, Ladonna takes Xavier, Tristan and Tyler to the park across the street. There’s also a new TV in the upstairs lounge of the Shelter where the kids watch movies when it’s too hot to play outside.

Amenities like this and the referral services at our facility that aid people like Ladonna are only available because of generosity from friends like you. Thank you for everything you do.

“We could be a lot worse off. And we are forever grateful,” says Ladonna.

— 9.23.21 —  
**COMMUNITIES**  
FOUNDATION of TEXAS  
— NTX —  
**GIVING**  
**DAY** presented by **amazon**

Save the date to get up and give to Arlington Life Shelter on 9.23.21 for North Texas Giving Day!  
#BeTheGood



Arlington Life Shelter is thrilled to announce that when you make your gift on North Texas Giving Day, each dollar will be matched up to \$110,000 thanks to the Moritz Family and Gregg & Nancy Wilkinson, No Frills Grill & Sports Bars. The demand for homeless

services is increasing, a trend we expect to continue. Help us reach our goal of \$210,000 on 9.23.21 to allow us to serve as many individuals and families possible experiencing homelessness.