

The Road Home

STORIES OF **HOPE** FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER





Stephanie Melchert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

We're just weeks away from wrapping up another school year — and what a year it's been.

In many cases, our community's children have had to adjust to remote learning, hybrid learning and everything in between — while facing all the uncertainties of COVID-19.

For children impacted by homelessness, those uncertainties often include how to attend school from home without a home to speak of...

This summer, our community's children and families impacted by homelessness will face yet another hurdle: where to spend hot summer days when school's out.

But thanks to friends like you, the Arlington Life Shelter is now able to accommodate families and individuals 24 hours a day while adults work to make a better life for themselves and their families.

And when school starts again in the fall, children at the shelter will have ongoing access to school, whether it's in person...or from "home" at the [Shelter](#).

I hope you'll enjoy hearing from a few of the individuals and families you're already helping in this summer edition of *The Road Home*. Moms like Diamond (page 3) are so grateful for your generosity.

Thank you for helping make sure children, families and individuals have the support they need to transition to brighter, happier futures!

Gratefully,

Stephanie Melchert

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Our Mission:

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



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You Gave Mother and Daughter Fresh Start



"Everyone told me not to come, but I'm glad I put my pride aside and came here."

When Diamond lost both of her jobs in the midst of

the COVID-19 pandemic, she says she was relieved to find a helping hand for her and her 4-year-old daughter thanks to your generosity.

After searching online for a place to stay, Diamond found the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) and decided it was the best place for her and her daughter.

She says in her first week staying at the Shelter, she received a housing voucher and she began getting job interviews three weeks into her stay.

"My prayers were answered," she says, smiling.

Diamond continues to focus on finding a steady job and a

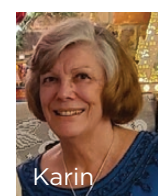
long-term place to live, getting her car fixed and especially preparing her daughter for the next school year.

"My first week here I was in the mindset, 'try not to rely on [staff] help'" Diamond says. "But then I realized they are really helpful, and it was needed."

And while Diamond works to get back on her feet, she especially wants to thank you for helping give her and her daughter the fresh start they needed.

"Thank you so much," she says. **"Thank you for caring like you do."**

Karin Honors Son by Serving Neighbors



"Before you do for yourself, you see what others need."

It's with that motto in mind, and the memory of her late son, Scott, that Karin Farris, 74, has made volunteer service at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) a regular part of her life in the last couple of years.

Karin makes it a habit to call the Shelter to see what items are needed, and she typically finds a way to bring those items within a couple of days' time.

"I take it as a challenge, I ask, 'What do you need?'" She laughed as she remembered, "I went to five different stores looking for thermal underwear right before a predicted snowstorm."

But for Karin, it's all a part of honoring Scott, who served as a volunteer and supporter of the Shelter before his death.

She not only brings necessities to the Shelter, but also treats to brighten guests' days, like special holiday-themed bags for Halloween

and Valentine's Day. Karin also loves that Shelter guests are treated with dignity.

"It's not just a Shelter to spend the night and get some food. It's a new start. It's a Life Shelter."

Thank you, Karin, for so willingly giving your time and resources to honor both Scott, and the guests of the Arlington Life Shelter. You're a part of countless new beginnings in our community.

You Encourage and Inspire Neighbors Impacted by Homelessness

Christian was fighting for his life just a couple of months ago — thanks to you, he has a fresh start and a positive outlook for his future.

“I was working in roofing and somebody stole my money and my car and almost killed me,” Christian shares of his horrifying experience, revealing the scar where his neck was cut.

When Christian had nowhere else to turn, a friend told him about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). Once at the Shelter, Christian says he felt immediately relieved, comfortable and safe.

“I feel better here,” he says.

Since arriving, Christian says staff have helped him work on getting an ID again, which will allow him to start looking for new work. Once that’s is

in place, he hopes to find an apartment and buy another car.

And since coming to the Shelter, Christian is also inspired to do even more with his future.

“When I start making money again, I’m going to start helping people too,” he says.

Thank you for not only giving neighbors like Christian the tools they need to start over again, but for inspiring them to pay it forward. Shelter guests like Christian are so grateful for you.

“Thank you for everything,” he says. “Thank you for helping people in need.”



JOIN OUR PATH OF KINDNESS PROGRAM



Arlington Life Shelter invites you to participate in our Path of Kindness Program by purchasing a personalized brick paver that will be placed at the entrance of our facility.

Our hope is to show the men, women and children served by the shelter that they are loved and supported by many individuals, organizations, businesses and faith communities.

Bricks can be purchased in Memory or Honor of a loved one or to leave your own personal legacy and are

available in two sizes: 4"x 8" for \$250 and 8"x 8" for \$400.

Make your order online today by visiting <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/lifeshelter> or scanning the code below with your smartphone today. Our next order will be submitted on August 1st, so please place your order by July 31st.

