

The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

FALL 2024





Stephanie R. Melchert
PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friend,

As we begin this fall season together, full of change and possibility, I hope you take a minute to reflect on how your generosity has impacted our community this year.

By supporting the Arlington Life Shelter, your partnership has truly changed lives. Because of you, support is available 24/7, 365 days a year for our neighbors facing homelessness.

Right now, your compassion is especially appreciated as the cost of living is forcing countless neighbors into homelessness and hardship. Thankfully, there's an opportunity coming up to make a difference — North Texas Giving Day. I hope you will stand with us, and so many more neighbors, on this special occasion.

In this issue of *The Road Home*, you'll meet Edwin, page 3, who found meaningful community and support at the Arlington Life Shelter because you choose to give.

On behalf of Edwin, and so many more North Texans who have found hope this year, thank you. I look forward to carrying this mission with you into this new season.

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert
President & CEO

Our Mission:

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

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Arlington Life Shelter

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Edwin is thankful for you!

Your Generosity Helped Edwin Thrive!

challenge to adjust. He turned briefly to substance abuse in order to cope, but soon found religion in recovery.

“[My case manager Shalanda] was just wonderful.”

Guided by his faith, Edwin spent the next ten years working at AT&T. But when the rods in his back broke, he needed surgery again. While dedicating time to recovering, he lost his job. The financial hardship meant that Edwin soon became homeless.

Thankfully, because of your support of the Arlington Life Shelter, Edwin had a place

to stay, comprehensive case management, and the support he needed to get back on his feet.

“[My case manager Shalanda] was just wonderful,” he says. With her help, Edwin could navigate the complex process of securing disability benefits and housing.

Through his stay with us, Edwin has maintained a part-time job which he loves. And with his housing application now approved, he’s ready to return to self-sufficiency. Citing your support, Edwin says he’s inspired to give back through ministry in the future!

Tim Tucker’s Lifetime of Volunteering

Two decades — that’s how long Tim Tucker has been volunteering at the Arlington Life Shelter. It all started at the Men’s Club at Tim’s church, where the group began preparing and delivering meals to the Shelter.

In childhood, Tim was raised to appreciate the value of community and how meaningful it is to give back. Now, twenty years in, he can say for certain that it’s worth it.

“The people that make the meals, serve the meals, make the lunches, all inspire me to continue.”

Tim is especially grateful for the entire team, and wants to thank them for their impact. “The people that make the meals, serve the meals, make the lunches, all inspire me to continue,” Tim says.

Not only does Tim make strong connections with community members, but he’s also making a tangible difference for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Three years into his volunteer journey, Tim took on a leadership role in coordinating between the church and the Arlington Life Shelter. It’s a bigger responsibility, he says, explaining that this position



Tim has volunteered for over 20 years

includes organizing other volunteers, securing resources and keeping things operating.

To anyone curious about what it’s like to donate time, Tim says, “just jump in. You’d probably find out it’s the right thing to do.” Thank you, Tim, for your dedication and compassion!

Your Compassion Helped Krystal's Family



Eugene, Trayvon, Krystal and Cory share grateful smiles.

In 2019, Krystal and Cory tied the knot. Their love for each other serves as a wonderful example to Krystal's children, Eugene, 12, and Trayvon, 10.

The couple has worked hard to care for the boys through everything, including recent challenges like financial hardship. "We had hard times. Lots of jobs, staying in a hotel," Krystal explains.

Thankfully, friends like you were there to help. "When

we couldn't afford [the hotel] any longer, a couple of people I knew...gave me the [Arlington Life Shelter] address," says Krystal.

Here, the family was greeted with a warm welcome. Right away, Krystal says, the boys made new friends and began settling in. And Cory and Krystal took classes on financial management.

With the support of our dedicated staff, Cory landed a

new job at UPS, and Krystal is excited to return to the medical field. "Our case worker is very, very great," Krystal says with gratitude.

When we asked what she's most looking forward to in the future, she shared, "Getting more stable...[learning the tools needed] to start over with." With the future looking bright, Krystal is so thankful that you chose to give!

North Texas Giving Day is September 19!

On Thursday, September 19, join North Texas in a day of generosity by donating to the Arlington Life Shelter. Your support helps us continue our mission to provide shelter, meals, and vital support services for homeless individuals and families on their path to self-sufficiency.

Use the QR code to make your donation. Early Giving opens on Friday, September 1.



**NORTH TEXAS
GIVING DAY**
COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
SPONSORED BY amazon

A Great Way to Give: IRA Qualified Charitable Giving

If you're interested in making a planned gift in support of the Arlington Life Shelter's mission into the future, consider making an IRA qualified charitable distribution.

If you are over the age of 70, you can use your IRA Administrator to transfer up to \$100,000 annually. Because your gift goes directly to a qualified charity, the IRA distribution is excluded from your adjusted gross income and will provide tax benefits for you.

For tax advice, please reach out to your tax professional for assistance.