



# THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter

Brad Jay  
BOARD PRESIDENT



### dear friend,

You're simply amazing. In the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak across our community, and the world, you have truly stepped up to make sure your homeless neighbors have the shelter and support they need.

And thanks to your generosity, the Arlington Life Shelter is thrilled to finally be so close to moving into our new building! With its completion almost here, we can open our doors to even more homeless neighbors — and give them even more tools to thrive in our community.

I'm also thrilled to welcome Jim Reeder as the Shelter's Interim Executive Director. Jim served as our capital campaign manager, and we appreciate his leadership at this time, especially as we navigate changes due to COVID-19.

When schools were first closed due to virus concerns this spring, we made the decision to become a 24-hour shelter immediately to accommodate our youngest residents who now had nowhere else to go during the daytime.

Though we planned to make the switch to a 24-hour shelter in June, you made it possible right away through your generous donations.

We simply wouldn't be where we are without your generosity, and I'm confident we can count on your partnership moving forward.

You can read more about the difference you've already made in this edition of *The Road Home*. As we continue down this road of uncertainties, Shelter residents need you now more than ever. Thank you for your support!

Gratefully,

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

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## Rocky Has Fresh Outlook, Thanks to You

*"It's been dark for a long time, but now I see the light at the end of the tunnel."*

Last year was especially difficult for Rocky, but the support of friends like you is giving him a fresh, positive outlook, despite facing new challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Rocky says he came to the Arlington Life Shelter after his father passed away, just a few months ago. Without a job or other family he could count on, Rocky had nowhere else to turn.

"Most people who come here are just down on their luck," he says.

Now, Rocky has a housing voucher and will soon move out of the Shelter. With plans for his future

falling into place, he's so grateful to donors like you. You've even inspired him to help others in similar situations to his.

"If I can make someone laugh or make someone smile, that's all they need," he says. "And you never know — that could go a long way."

Rocky says he's been equally encouraged by both Shelter staff and the many volunteers who help. He says that support has motivated him to be positive and keep going.

"It's been dark for a long time, but now I see the light at the end of the tunnel," he says with gratitude for how far you've helped him come.

Rocky



## Couple Invests in Rebuilding Lives

"I just think there's no greater need in Arlington [than homelessness], and there's no greater way to help the homeless than through the Arlington Life Shelter."

Dr. Vernon and Lynne Kenner have supported the Arlington Life Shelter for more than 10 years now.

When they heard about plans for a new building and expansion of the current shelter, they knew they wanted to make an even bigger commitment.

"The Shelter's mission is so important to us because we realize there is a growing population of homeless people in our community," Lynne says.

The couple ultimately decided to donate specifically to the Shelter's recent capital campaign and allocated a donation to the creation of the Shelter's new prayer and meditation room.

"We felt that rebuilding lives is one of the best investments," Lynne

says, adding "to help others and improve their quality of life."

Now that construction at the Shelter is in its final phase, the Kenners are encouraged to know that even more homeless neighbors will have the support they need to start over.

"[We] would really like the homeless to know they are loved and not forgotten," Lynne says. "All of us are on this journey of life together."

We're so grateful to Dr. Vernon and Lynne for enthusiastically investing in our shared mission.



## WE'RE ON THE MOVE!

During this final phase of construction of our new facility, client services have temporarily been relocated. Our Division Street location is closed during this transition and partner agencies are helping provide space for shelter services.

As of **March 23rd**, the Arlington Life Shelter will operate from North Davis Church of Christ's Family Life Center (1601 N Davis Dr., Arlington, TX 76012) for both shelter and food services. New resident intake will occur at the same location daily from 2pm-4pm. The Shelter will be able to accommodate a maximum of 50 residents (due to social distancing guidelines issued by the CDC). The Shelter will remain open for residents 24 hours per day.

Further details can be found at [arlingtonlifeshelter.org](http://arlingtonlifeshelter.org).

## WARM OUR HOME

In preparation of re-opening our doors to men, women and children impacted by homelessness, we need your help with restocking our new facility. Most of our supplies, furniture, etc. had to be donated when we moved out back in January. From bedding and linens to furniture and food, your support is greatly appreciated. Our hope is that our new facility will be ready before June 1, so that we may provide relief to those in need faster. We anticipate a significant increase in those seeking shelter and our services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To make a monetary donation from your phone text "NEWHOME" to 817-985-4354 or text "WISHLIST" to view our Amazon Wish List.



James and his sons

*"Everything you do for us is something we don't have."*

## You Gave Family Stability to Start Over

After James experienced several financial setbacks in Abilene, a friend offered him and his two sons a place to stay in Arlington. But when that arrangement fell through, friends like you made all the difference for his family.

James and his sons were living out of their car before they found out about the Shelter. Almost three months later, the family moved into a home of their own.

"It's helping us get through," James said of the support they received after arriving at the Arlington Life Shelter.

James' 12-year-old son, Isaac, has significant health problems that require regular medical attention — James says Shelter staff helped navigate Isaac's doctor appointments and care during their entire stay.

And because James knew his sons were well taken care of, he was able to focus on skill development classes, finding work and a home. He started working two new jobs even while staying at the Shelter.

"It gives us a stable place," James shared of the Shelter.

He says your gifts went even further, to not only provide food and shelter, but even school supplies for his sons when school was still in session.

"Everything you do for us is something we don't have," he said.

Thank you for giving families like James' the support they need to start over. Your support during times of crisis and all year long makes a lasting difference!