

The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

FALL 2025



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Our Mission:

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

Arlington Life Shelter

325 W. DIVISION ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

Dear Friend,

For 38 years, the Arlington Life Shelter has stood as a lifeline in our community, offering more than just a safe place, a bed, and three meals a day. We are a life-changing program shelter, providing resources and intense case management to those who want to become self-sufficient once again.

The demand for our 24/7, year-round services is essential. Since 2019, nationwide inflation has surged over 25%, pushing up rent, groceries, utilities, and more. These pressures—higher expenses and fewer safety nets-have left more of our neighbors with nowhere else to turn.

Now is the time for us to stand together and offer a lifeline.

Our work isn’t just needed—it’s essential.

When our neighbors have the chance to thrive, everyone benefits. Your investment in the Arlington Life Shelter’s mission is an investment in a stronger tomorrow — one that we can make together.

In this issue of *The Road Home*, you’ll meet Jackie, p. 4. Jackie’s story is proof that faith and hope, alongside your generosity, truly has transformative power. I hope you are as inspired by her as I am.

As the transition to fall begins changing the scenery and weather around us, I remain grateful for your steadfast support. Thank you for being such a caring neighbor and friend!

Gratefully,

Stephanie

Stephanie R. Melchert
President & CEO



Stephanie R. Melchert
PRESIDENT & CEO

You Share Hope With Kyiara’s Family



Mom of Zi-Yanna (7) and Za’Riyah (3), Kyiara knows her goals and hardworking attitude set a powerful example for her children to follow as they grow up.

“[The Shelter helped with] putting her in emotional counseling, putting her in physical therapy,”

Right now, Kyiara’s goal is twofold — complete a criminal justice program, including

a forensics internship, and regain stability for her family.

Friends like you have helped Kyiara take meaningful steps towards her goals. After losing her previous housing, Kyiara found temporary family support. When she saw an opening at the Arlington Life Shelter, she jumped at the opportunity to take charge of her future.

“I think that was one of the best decisions I made,” she

says. “It’s very beneficial for my kids...they provided a lot of resources that really helped.”

Zi-Yanna, who has shoulder dystocia, has especially benefitted from the support. “[The Shelter helped with] putting her in emotional counseling, putting her in physical therapy,” Kyiara says.

Now, the sisters have no shortage of dreams for the future. Teacher, police officer, doctor — “I want to be a teenager,” Za’Riyah says, sharing the sense of humor she inherited from her mother.

Balancing school, work and motherhood is no easy task, but Kyiara is committed. Friends like you are helping her family along the way to self-sufficiency!



After 23 years as an administrative assistant, Liz has countless stories of themed parties, nerf gun fights and more.

“We always tried to have fun...[after] I retired, I didn’t have enough to do,” she shares.

Thankfully, Liz soon found a meaningful task to fill her time — volunteering with the Arlington Life Shelter through a local church connection.

Volunteer Liz Shares Food, Care and Hope

Her first task? Making 150 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to share with Shelter guests. Soon, her tasks expanded to include picking up donations from local corporate partners, like Chick-fil-A.

Liz’s thoughtful volunteering brings the comfort of a wholesome meal to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and hardship. “There’s so many people out there that need help...if you’re able to [contribute], why shouldn’t you?” She asks.

After witnessing the level of need in our community, Liz knows the impact one person can have. She recounts the story of meeting a man who was unable to feed his dog, leading to her regularly purchasing, portioning and donating pet food.

If you have time to donate, Liz encourages you to volunteer. “You get what you give,” she says simply. Thank you, Liz, for sharing your support with our community!

You Helped Jackie on The Road Home



Jackie's faith is a cornerstone of her journey

"I'm grateful and I'm thankful, because the Arlington Life Shelter allowed me to be restored, to gain my strength and my dignity."

Jackie's faith is a guiding light in her life. "It doesn't matter what I go through, I just trust Him," she explains of her relationship with God.

It was during the COVID pandemic that Jackie started a new job at a nursing home. After her previous workplace closed, she was ready to regain stability.

But she soon found the role required long hours on her feet, which impacted her health. After a few weeks, Jackie suffered a complete body shut down related to her scoliosis.

With limited mobility and still in pain, Jackie began looking for help regaining housing stability and healing. That's how she came to the Arlington Life Shelter.

"I'm grateful and I'm thankful, because the Arlington Life Shelter allowed me to be restored, to gain my strength and my dignity," she says.

"Financial [class], bible study, women's empowerment," she continues, listing off the classes that uplifted her and reaffirmed her faith. "This journey was for me to get where God [wants] me, but I could not have done it without this village."

While here, Jackie received a housing opportunity through a housing program partner. She hopes to return to the Shelter soon — this time as a volunteer. "I want to give back," she says, inspired by your generosity!

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY IS SEPTEMBER 18!

On Thursday, September 18, 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. Early Giving opens on Friday, September 1.

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

**NORTH TEXAS
GIVING
DAY**
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A GREAT WAY TO GIVE: IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE GIVING

We invite you to consider supporting our mission through various tax-smart giving options, including gifts from your IRA or stock donations. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your retirement account can be a powerful way to support our mission while also reducing your taxable income. We encourage you to consult with your tax professional for personalized advice regarding these opportunities. Thank you for considering this impactful way to give.