

# *The Road Home*

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

SUMMER 2023





Stephanie Melchert  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## Dear Friend,

Today I want to thank you. Your kindness truly makes for a stronger North Texas and brings hope to countless neighbors facing the uncertainty and impact of homelessness.

In the summer, heat can make life unbearable for our neighbors without shelter. And with the summer break from school, families sometimes have no choice but to put jobs on hold to take care of children, sometimes at the risk of eviction or foreclosure...

Thankfully, because of you, summer is also a time for a new life and a fresh start. Your generosity helps ensure that our neighbors have the resources, support and encouragement needed to forge a path to self-sufficiency – all year long.

Please, take a moment to read through our enclosed summer newsletter and reflect on the impact you made in our community this year.

Read stories from just a few of the many neighbors who found hope at Arlington Life Shelter, like Vanessa (page 4). With friends like you behind her, Vanessa is headed toward a brighter future to share with her son, Chase.

From all of us here at Arlington Life Shelter – thank you, friend.

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert  
Executive Director

### 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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## A New Life Awaits Cheri and Rodney!



Cheri and her husband Rodney smile with hope.

Rodney, 55, and Cheri, 52, are the proud grandparents of little Mia, who's turning two this year. The couple loves spending time with her — something they're excited to do

again soon in a home of their own, thanks to donors like you!

In 2021, Cheri and Rodney came to Arlington Life Shelter looking for a little extra support. The couple was financially stable enough to leave the program early, but when Cheri's health took a bad turn, medical bills began piling up.

Because of failing health, Cheri lost her job, and Rodney's mechanic business folded under the weight of the extra medical costs. Without income, the couple became homeless.

Thankfully, Cheri and Rodney knew where to go for help. "Arlington Life Shelter,

from what I know, is the best of the best," Rodney says. "They give more than you could think."

Thanks to your incredible generosity, the Shelter can help North Texans like Rodney and Cheri create a path to self-sufficiency.

For Rodney and Cheri, that support is invaluable. "This time, we are going to stay longer so we can save more and do better," Rodney says confidently.

A fresh start is just around the corner for Rodney and Cheri. In Cheri's own words,

**"to provide what you have provided...it's everything to us."**

## A Volunteer for 15 Years...And Counting!

Cheryl is a loving mom of two and grandmother of five. For most of her life, she worked as a dietician, taking care of her community's health and well-being.

In 1978, Cheryl moved to Arlington from Colorado. She got involved in the Arlington Woman's Club, where she learned about PALS – Partners of Arlington Life Shelter.

PALS is a volunteer group dedicated to increasing community awareness of the Shelter's projects, as well as providing extra financial support.

Through PALS, for the past 15 years Cheryl has

helped host birthday parties, Bingo games and Christmas parties for many Shelter residents. She has shared hope, encouragement and care with everyone she meets. Now, she serves as the President of PALS.

**"It's just nice to see that the shelter is helping people get back on their feet," she shares.**

To anyone considering volunteering through the Arlington Life Shelter, Cheryl encourages you to think of the many ways to get involved, from planning events to just attending PALS' open meetings.



Cheryl always stays involved in the community.

A big thanks to Cheryl for her continued partnership in our mission to serve North Texas individuals and families facing homelessness!

## Vanessia Finds a Second Chance Thanks to You!

With her son, Chase as her inspiration and with friends like you behind her, Vanessia refuses to give up.

The past few years have brought extra hardship into Vanessia's life. In the height of the pandemic, she lost her job and had to rely on programs like Texas Rent Relief to keep her apartment.

"I felt like I had lost everything," she says. "I had no one to turn to for help."

Because of her incredible resiliency and love for Chase, Vanessia kept pushing on. She got a job at an online retailer – but it was too late to keep her apartment, and the family was evicted.

Vanessia ensured that Chase could stay with his father while she searched for a solution.

Propelled by her dream of a stable life for her family,

**Vanessia smiles with gratitude for donors like you.**



Vanessia came to Arlington Life Shelter looking for a fresh start. Right away, she enrolled in the Shelter's programs and began taking charge of her new life.

Since arriving at Arlington Life Shelter, Vanessia has found a caring place to recover while also learning several new financial skills, from budgeting to

managing credit. Along the way, staff have encouraged and supported her.

**"The people here...help us feel safe," she says.**

Because of donors like you, Vanessia can plan for the future and build a thriving life to enjoy alongside Chase. Thank you for your partnership in this important mission!

### STOCK THE SHELTER!

It's almost time to Stock the Shelter!

Each year, we use many daily necessities as we serve our clients. Stock the Shelter is a great opportunity to help us secure much-needed supplies for the coming months.

Please, take a look at our Amazon wishlist below and consider donating any of these items to help us with daily operation.

The drive will run from June 12-30.

Thank you so much for your incredible partnership in our mission of providing shelter, employment programs and transitional services for North Texans impacted by homelessness!

