

SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit

You're Bringing Families In From the Cold

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Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

As a brand new year gets underway, I find myself full of excitement and anticipation. It's hard to believe that Christmas Eve marked the [Arlington Life Shelter's](#) 25th year of service! Nearly 20,000 homeless men, women and children have received assistance in returning to self-sufficiency, thanks to your support.

Let me share a story with you. I recently had the pleasure to hear from a young mother who became certified as a Nurse's Assistant while residing at the shelter. She loves her new career, and it has led her to realize her true passion — working with the elderly. She described her new life with pride, and noted that her confidence is helping her become a better parent. And then, bringing tears of pride to my eyes, she told me her plans to go back to school at UTA to become a registered nurse.

Each year brings new opportunities to help more people like this young mother regain self-sufficiency. To that end, we recently embarked on some exciting renovations, thanks to the Joe Barton Family Foundation and partners like you.

We know that in times of instability and change, providing a comfortable, safe environment is crucial. There's now a special area for the children to play while their parents check in, and when it's mealtime, residents eat family-style around a dinner table. We also just put in a library with additional computers for adults and teens to do homework without distraction.

Thanks to your partnership, which makes renovations like these possible, the Arlington Life Shelter has helped thousands of homeless parents and individuals secure and maintain employment. All but five of our shelter residents are currently working, providing income for their families and showing their children that, with effort, success is possible.

It's because of your partnership and generosity that young mothers are finding careers and getting back to self-sufficiency. Thank you for helping our homeless neighbors!

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A Family Finds Stable Ground, Thanks to You

Jacklyn and her husband James, proud parents of 10-month-old Bryanna, are no strangers to hard work. When Jacklyn's good job at a professional cleaning service relocated, she could no longer make the commute without a car. But her work ethic and dedication to her family wouldn't keep her down for long — she quickly found another job close by.

Things were going pretty well for the couple until Jacklyn had to have an emergency cesarean with the birth of Bryanna, leaving the family with a lot of medical bills and causing Jacklyn to miss more work than she'd planned. The young family was in a financial bind.

Unable to pay their rent, they had to turn to a relative for temporary shelter. But the



Jacklyn and her daughter, Bryanna

move came with a tradeoff. With no car or public transportation to get them to their old jobs, Jacklyn and James were now both unemployed.

When it was time to move out of the relative's house, Jacklyn and James were out of other options. With a 10-month-old to care for, they were terrified.

But on that lonely night, your generosity to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) brought Jacklyn, James and Bryanna in from the cold.

Now safe at the Shelter and with no other distractions, Jacklyn

and James can fully dedicate themselves to finding new employment. And as they continue their search, the couple is so thankful that even in their time of hardship, little Bryanna has a safe place to sleep, grow and play.

"Thank you for donating everything we need!" Jacklyn says to the generous donors of the Arlington Life Shelter, a big smile on her face.

The Joe Barton Family Foundation is Funding Progress



Congressman Joe Barton presents Arlington Life Shelter with a generous check.

Congressman Joe Barton's Family Foundation seeks to improve lives in the district he serves. The [Arlington Life Shelter](#) was very fortunate to be selected out of the many other deserving local organizations under consideration.

"This is not a cookie cutter shelter — the people that run it take an interest in people, and they also demand accountability,"

Congressman Joe Barton says.

We can't mention our new renovations without a huge thank you to the Joe Barton Family Foundation. It was their contribution that made it all possible!

The Barton family has been involved with the Arlington Life Shelter in various ways over the past few years. Congressman Barton's wife, Terri, has served as a

volunteer, and his daughter-in-law, Amy, recently organized a holiday gift drive. With all he's seen of the Arlington Life Shelter, Congressman Barton really appreciates the good work that friends like you are making possible.

He knows that by helping our community's homeless population, his Foundation is making the way for a better future.

"With this partnership, we will encourage the homeless today that there is hope for a better life tomorrow," he says.

We're so excited about the renovations to make the shelter more family-friendly. Stop by for a visit sometime soon and see the progress made possible by the Joe Barton Family Foundation!

THANK YOU!



A big thanks to these generous sponsors for partnering with the Joe Barton Family Foundation to help with our recent renovations!

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John at the shelter

You're Saving Lives

Not so long ago, John was a recent college graduate with a good job. But when the economy began to slip, John, who was self-employed, felt the pinch. It was virtually impossible for him to find work. After a while, he couldn't pay his bills — including rent.

John soon found himself without a home. For a while, he got by living with friends and occasionally sleeping in his car. But after a year of this lifestyle, his car broke down and he had exhausted all other resources.

Feeling as if he had nowhere else to turn, John slept on the streets, and occasionally in an abandoned house. This was not the life he had planned for himself as a boy, singing in the Texas Boys' Choir, or as a young man working hard in college...yet here he was, homeless and alone.

When it seemed John had lost everything, the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) was his beacon of hope,

providing him not only a warm bed and a hot meal, but also job programs and classes that will help him get his finances back in order.

"I have hope now. When you don't have any place to turn, and you feel like nothing's going to help..." John trails off. "I feel a lot better about the future now."

John is most excited about the Shelter's job program - he can't wait to be working again soon. John knows his transformation from homeless and jobless to a working, productive member of society won't be instant, but with his background and dedication, it's clear that he's certainly headed in the right direction.

"You help restore hope to people. You help restore dignity to people. You make people feel safe," John says with gratitude for your generosity to the Arlington Life Shelter. "You're actually saving lives."



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

Together, we shepherd
homeless men, women and
children toward a lifestyle
of self-sufficiency.