

SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



Children are Prepared for Success, Thanks to You

A message from the
director...page 2

With your help,
children find stability...
page 3

A volunteer's
dedication paves
the way for brighter
futures...page 3

You're giving parents
a second chance...
page 4



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



dear friend,

Things sure were busy around [Arlington Life Shelter](#) the past few weeks with parents getting ready to send their children back to school. Many of the Shelter's younger residents were headed off to pre-k or kindergarten for the very first time. When the morning finally came, there were certainly some nervous faces...and the kids were pretty anxious, too!

Without a permanent address to put on enrollment forms — not to mention the stability that a permanent residence provides — homeless parents can have a hard time registering their children for school. But thanks to the support of people like you who make our work possible, children have a healthy breakfast, and leave the shelter for school each morning with backpacks full of supplies they need to perform their best in the classroom.

Early education couldn't be more important — the cost of investing in children at an early age versus fighting illiteracy in adults is astronomical. When they're able to start school at the right age, children begin on a journey to become productive, contributing members of our community.

In this issue of *Shelter Spirit*, read more about how we're instilling in children — and parents — the tools needed to succeed at school, and in life. We truly couldn't do this important work without your partnership. *Thank you.*

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With Your Help, Children Find Stability



Shonta, Ledarius and Maurice

Maurice, 3, and his brother Ledarius, 5, love school. Maurice is in preschool, and this month, Ledarius started kindergarten. Ledarius couldn't wait to make new friends, meet his teachers and wear his new uniform.

When the day finally came, their mother, Shonta, was so proud to send her little boys off to school. After the year they'd had, being able to start her kids in school on time was symbolic — for Shonta, it meant that everything would be okay.

You see, after a series of significant financial setbacks, Shonta found herself in the middle of every parent's nightmare — she and her children were homeless. She knew she had to find a solution quickly, for the sake of her two little boys.

Thanks to your support, Shonta found her answer in the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). "If not for the Shelter, we would still be homeless," she explains. "It was a true blessing."

Because you give, Shonta found the help she needed to get back to self-sufficiency. She immediately began working to restart her career, and now volunteers at a nearby office gaining skills that will help her find a steady job.

While Shonta dedicates herself to starting fresh, she feels relief knowing that her sons have

the stability young children so desperately need, thanks to your generosity to the Shelter.

Your support provided Maurice and Ledarius with school supplies and uniforms so that they could start the year off just like their classmates, for which Shonta is especially grateful.

"Thank you," she says, for providing for her family in their time of need. "We really appreciate you."

Volunteers Build Life-Changing Skills



Jamie and his family

For residents of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), learning to create a family budget is key to getting back on their feet and making lasting changes. Jamie Mihills is a star when it comes to helping residents with this important part of their return to

self-sufficiency — he's been using his accounting background to teach money management classes for 10 years now.

In fact, Jamie has expanded his impact over the years by encouraging other members of his church, Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ, to get involved. Church members now teach seven classes each month on budgeting and employment. The Shelter's board of directors values Jamie's expertise so much that this year he was appointed treasurer of the board and serves as chair of the finance committee.

Jamie loves being able to help identify the root causes of poverty and do his best to address them. He's so glad he found a place in his own backyard where he could do just that.

"I think the Arlington Life Shelter is pretty unique in that it provides our neighbors in the community who are dealing with financial hardships with a place to go and get a fresh start," he says.

A couple years ago, Jamie had the unique opportunity to see one of his former Shelter students thriving after graduating from the Shelter's program. He says seeing this former resident and his family come full-circle really helped him know the impact he and his fellow volunteers are making in the lives of real people.

We're so grateful to Jamie and all those who volunteer to teach important life skills to our residents. Your commitment to families in need truly changes lives!

EVENTS

Home for the Holidays **Thursday, December 5** **Sheraton Arlington**

Join us for a festive dinner event including entertainment, a silent auction and inspiration. Celebrate the holiday season knowing you're providing warm beds, full tummies and hot cocoa for homeless children and families.

To purchase a table, please contact Annamarie at 817-548-9886 ext 2116, or at asaavedra@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.

The Road Home Tour

Learn how the Arlington Life Shelter helps homeless families and individuals secure employment, become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty.

Tour our newly renovated facility during the day while shelter residents are at school and work.

Join us as we listen to stories and watch personal testimonials from former residents. Witness the challenges the homeless face during their journey to a life of self-sufficiency. Learn how the homeless are finding hope amidst chaos.

Discover our community's "final safety net" in 59 minutes.

Saturday, September 21 @ 10am

Wednesday, September 25 @ 12 Noon
(light lunch provided)

Wednesday, October 9 @ 12 Noon
(light lunch provided)

Please RSVP to Annamarie at
817-548-9885 ext 2116
or via email

asaavedra@arlingtonlifeshelter.org

WISH LIST

Home Depot gift cards
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Facial Tissue
Plastic Forks, Spoons & Knives



Daphne, Coralys and Narciso

You're Giving Parents A Second Chance

Two-year-old Coralys is toddling around the children's room at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). Her parents, Daphne and Narciso, smile as she rummages through the chest of toys to find her favorite, a shiny green ball. They're happy their family is together, and safe — fear from the threat of homelessness is still fresh on their minds.

Not too long ago, the family of three was getting along fine, with Daphne and Narciso supporting little Coralys by working temporary jobs through a temp agency. Even when Daphne's job was finished, they were still able to get by on Narciso's income — until his job ended, too. For weeks they tried to find more work through their temp agency, but were unsuccessful. Unable to earn an income, they could no longer afford to pay rent. This loving family of three soon found themselves with nowhere to go.

Thanks to your support, Daphne, Narciso and Coralys were welcomed at the Arlington Life Shelter. Daphne admits that she and Narciso were nervous when they arrived, but they knew they had to do what was in Coralys's

best interest. They were surprised to feel at ease in the Shelter's warm, friendly environment. Safe and secure once again, Daphne and Narciso began rebuilding their life together.

Now, the committed parents are benefitting from the job assistance program and other resources offered at the Shelter. Daphne especially likes the job search and self-esteem classes. She says they offer useful advice for mothers like her.

With help from the Shelter, Narciso has found work once again. He and Daphne have started saving money in order to move into a home of their own again soon.

"My goal is for us to get our own place, and get our lives back together," Daphne says. She also dreams of going back to school to earn a certificate in medical reporting. Until that day comes, she's so thankful that you support families like hers.

"Thank [you] for giving us shelter, food, providing us with things that we need — and for giving us a chance."



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

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