

SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



Our Homeless Neighbors Have HOPE Because of You

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*Deanna
and Pamela*

FALL 2010



**Arlington
Life Shelter**



Becky Orander, LMSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

I can hardly believe another school year is underway! I know many children in our community were excited to head back to school so they could catch up with friends and meet their new teachers.

But I also know that the start of a new school year is one of the hardest times of the year for the children in the care of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). Because so many of these kids come to us from unstable home situations, it's been very difficult for them to focus on school work.

More often than not, they're an entire grade level behind other kids their age – and they need our help to get caught up.

Fortunately, your support of the Arlington Life Shelter is helping the children in our care as they aim for structure and success in this new school year. Thanks to you, families and individuals in our community who face the desperation of homelessness have a lifeline to hold onto – just long enough to get back on their feet. And in the case of our precious children, long enough to get on academic solid ground.

I'm so grateful for all you do to help our community's homeless men, women and children. Thank you for your continued partnership!

**“Man’s mind,
once stretched
by a new idea,
never regains
its original
dimensions.”**
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Volunteers Teach Valuable Skills

At the Arlington Life Shelter, residents are given the chance to rebuild their lives and work their way back to self-sufficiency with the help of important resources like a nine-week job-readiness program and money management classes. James Mihills is one of the many dedicated people who help facilitate this essential service.

A certified public accountant, James has taught money management classes for years at his church, Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ in Arlington. A few years ago, he decided to explore more ways to give back to the community. When he learned that the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) needed someone to help teach money management classes to its residents, he jumped at the opportunity.

“I wanted to work with an organization that is impacting our city,” he explains. “I feel like the people here at the Arlington Life Shelter are my neighbors. People can be more self-sustaining, and I wanted to help.”



James Mihills helps organize and teach the shelter's money management classes.

Now James helps in many different areas at the shelter and he encourages everyone to get involved in whatever way they're able.

“When you spend time here, you really are helping your neighbors move toward self-sufficiency,” says James. “You're making a long-term difference in the residents and in the community as a whole.”

The Arlington Life Shelter simply couldn't exist without the support of dedicated volunteers and community leaders like James Mihills. We are so grateful for his commitment to improving the lives of our community's homeless families and individuals.

You Give Second Chances



Graciela has spent most of her life putting others' needs above her own. She worked hard throughout her adult years to raise her children, all of whom are now grown and have families of their own.

Graciela is single now and has an empty nest. She never thought she'd be alone and found herself not knowing where to turn without the companionship and stability of her family.

She ended up in a less-than-ideal living situation with several roommates, so she decided to make a new start. But last fall her plans fell through, her wallet was stolen, and suddenly she didn't have a roof over her head. With nowhere else to turn, she came to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

Graciela says it was hard to ask for help – especially right before the holidays. But thanks to the support of friends like you, she was given a warm bed, hot meals and life-saving resources to help her find her way back to self-sufficiency.

“I don't know where I would have been [if not for the Arlington Life Shelter],” says

Graciela. “They want to help you get back on your feet – and I'm really grateful.”

After just one month at the shelter, Graciela found a job as a landscaper's assistant. Two months later, she was able to move out of the shelter and into an apartment of her own through the shelter's transitional housing program. She's now saving her earnings and following a budget, thanks to the skills she learned from the shelter's money management class.

Graciela is so grateful that she's been given a second chance at life. And she knows she has friends like you to thank.

“It's very much appreciated!” she says. “This really does make a difference. It helps people get [back] on their feet and shows [them] that [you] care.”

THANK YOU

Independent Insurance Agents of Tarrant County

Thank You to the Independent Insurance Agents of Tarrant County for enabling the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) to provide the children in our care with the opportunity to attend summer camp this year!

Thank you to the following groups and individuals for helping with repairs to keep the shelter safe for our residents this summer:

Center Point Church
Church on Rush Creek
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
First United Methodist Church
of Arlington
Lamar Baptist Church
John David Moritz
Pantego Bible Church
Gene Pfretzschner
St. Albans Episcopal Church
Tate Springs Baptist Church

EVENTS

“A Home for the Holidays” Cocktail Party

Thursday, December 2
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a holiday party to benefit the homeless children and families who will be spending the holidays at the Arlington Life Shelter this year. This special event, held at the **Cacharel Grand Ballroom in Arlington**, is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season of joy by sharing with others. Thanks to our generous sponsors, 100 percent of funds raised through this event will go directly to the care of resident families and individuals.

Table sponsorships begin at \$1,000. **To host a table, please contact Chandra Thompson at cthompson@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.**

Watch our [website](#) for information on individual tickets available for purchase September 15.



Pamela has a bright future, thanks to the support of friends like you.

You Make Families’ Dreams Come True

The University of Texas at Arlington has a bright new crop of freshman students this year – among them a young track star who’s had to fight harder than most just to make it to college.

But thanks to you, Pamela is finally getting the chance to pursue her dreams.

Pamela, at 18, is the youngest of five children. Four years ago, her parents got divorced, so her mom was left to raise her on her own.

Pamela’s mom, Deanna had a job at a local grocery store, but with a minimum wage income, she just couldn’t afford the house payments anymore. After running out of friends and family to stay with, the two found themselves homeless. With nowhere else to turn, Pamela and Deanna came to stay at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) last year.

Thanks to the support of friends like you, mother and daughter were given warm beds, hot meals and so much more. Pamela was able to stay in school, excel in athletics and apply for college.

Last January, the two moved into an apartment of their own through the shelter’s transitional housing program. Deanna is working to get back on her feet and plans to go back to school to become a nurse.

And Pamela was recently awarded a full four-year athletic scholarship to the University of Texas at Arlington to run track! Though she’s excited about this opportunity, she says her top priority is to succeed in her classes.

“I want to make the Dean’s List all four years,” she says.

Pamela plans to study mechanical engineering but says she might also like to become a registered nurse or coach. No matter what, her future is bright.

Pamela and Deanna know that they wouldn’t be where they are today without the compassion and generosity of friends like you.

“The only thing I can say is thank you,” says Pamela. “You provided this place for those who want to do better and go places with their lives. I’m very grateful.”



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

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