

SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



Homeless Children are Prepared for Success, Thanks to You

A message from
the director...page 2

You've brought hope to
a worried mother...page 3

A model of community
involvement...page 3

Working parents are grateful
for your support...page 4





Becky Orander, LMSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

So many of our neighbors in need are feeling the pinch of economic uncertainty and cutbacks. For local school districts, limited funding means no longer being able to provide free school uniforms and school supplies to families in need.

While these may seem like small things to you or me, they can be a huge expense to a homeless family.

Fortunately, for those neighbors who fall through the cracks into homelessness, you're there to help lift them back up. Your gifts to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) are breaking the cycle of poverty by helping children stay in school and be prepared to learn.

I hear success stories everyday, and when I do, I think of you and how I wish I could tell you right then and there just how much your support means to the people you've helped. I was thrilled to learn recently that a young man who came to the shelter with his family when he was in the 7th grade is now a proud college freshman with a full scholarship to Baylor University! And his parents still say how grateful they are for the role that generous people like you have played in their son's life.

Before we know it, fall will set in and the holidays will be on our heels. As we at the shelter prepare for the coming months, I hope we can continue to count on your support. Your gifts truly make a difference - thank you.

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Thank You for Changing Lives

Everything was going well until LaKendra unexpectedly lost her restaurant-management job in November 2009. As a single mother with a baby at the time, she was panicked.

A few months later, when LaKendra and her daughter TyKeria lost their apartment, she didn't know what to do. Her family lived out of state and she didn't know anyone else who could help. Fortunately, she'd heard about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

She admits it was hard at first to swallow her pride - she'd never been one to ask for help. But she's so glad she did. Within two weeks of coming to the shelter, LaKendra was back to work and rebuilding a life for herself and TyKeria. They were able to move into the shelter's transitional housing program and have access to all the resources they needed to get back on their feet.



LaKendra and TyKeria

TyKeria is now three years old and thriving - thanks to the support you've helped provide. And LaKendra has been promoted at work and is saving money so that when she graduates from the Arlington Life Shelter program, she'll be able to maintain their new, better life.

"The Arlington Life Shelter is helping me do what I need to do so I

can make a better life for myself and my daughter," says LaKendra.

Words of appreciation for your generosity flow easily for her.

"Thank you so much - from the bottom of my heart," says LaKendra. "You really are making a change in people's lives."

Tom's Mechanical Models Community Involvement



Rich Ashton, owner of Tom's Mechanical in Arlington, has been a strong supporter of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) since coming in for his first tour a couple of years ago. He says he remembers being blown away by how much could be done with so little - and he knew right away that he wanted to help.

Rich and his team at Tom's Mechanical started out by making in-kind gifts whenever they learned of a specific need. But last winter, the company stepped up its involvement when Rich challenged his employees to donate new coats to the shelter, to be matched by an additional coat from him for each one given. The result was more than 70 much-needed coats for shelter residents during one of the coldest winters on record.

With such success Rich and his team were encouraged and continue to find helpful, innovative ways to be involved with the work of helping return our homeless neighbors to self-sufficiency.

"Our employees love the idea of helping people," he says.

"Whenever and wherever we are able, they're there to help."

In addition to special in-kind gifts, Rich and his company also provide the shelter with generous financial support. Rich has become an advocate for the homeless and spreads the shelter's story among other small businesses and community leaders. He encourages everyone to help, however they can.

"Your money and time are efficiently spent," Rich says of gifts to the shelter. "What we give as a company is making a difference for the shelter and in people's lives."

We are very grateful to Rich and the entire Tom's Mechanical team. Their generosity enables the shelter to help people get back on their feet.

SAVE THE DATE!

“Home for the Holidays”

December 1, 2011

Cacharel Restaurant

Share your compassion for the homeless this holiday season. Join us for dinner, a silent auction, Adopt-a-Need Tree and entertainment. To purchase tables or individual tickets, contact Liesl Gray at 817-548-9885 Ext. 2116 or LGray@ArlingtonLifeShelter.org

Join PALS Auxiliary

Bring cake for the monthly birthday party for residents or help children shop at the shelter’s Christmas store. These are just a couple of ways auxiliary members help the homeless of our community. Contact Linda Brookshire at linda-brookshire@att.net or Tricia Brock at triciahb2006@yahoo.com to learn more.

FALL WISH LIST

- Payless gift cards
- New pillows
- Pillowcases
- Lysol
- Bottled water



Genesis, Royce and Tashona

A Hardworking Family is Grateful for Your Help

Tashona is a licensed nurse, Royce recently re-enlisted in the military and they both have college degrees. But despite their very best efforts, they fell on hard times and needed help to provide for their two children - Genesis, 4, and Wayne, 12.

Tashona and Royce want their kids to have all the best opportunities in life and will do whatever it takes to make sure that happens. Recently that meant reaching out to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

You see, before re-enlisting in the Army, Royce had been working a full-time day job. But when he was laid off, it sent the family into a tailspin. At the time, Tashona was nearly finished with nursing school but didn’t yet have a viable income to support everyone on her own. They scraped by as long as they could, but eventually they became homeless.

Fearing for the safety and well-being of Genesis and Wayne, they knew they needed help, and quick. The Arlington Life Shelter was just the lifeline they were looking for.

They’ve now been at the shelter for six weeks and things have already turned around dramatically. Tashona is working full-time as a nurse and Royce will report for active duty in Killeen as soon as he’s able to get his family settled into their own home - which won’t be long.

They’ve done a lot of research and plan to move to Mansfield. They say they’ll start out by renting an apartment and save up to buy a house within a year - just like other former Arlington Life Shelter residents they’ve met.

As parents, Tashona and Royce couldn’t be more grateful for the support system you’ve helped provide their children during this difficult time. Genesis attends Pre-K and Wayne just started junior high - both kids have excelled since coming to the shelter.

Tashona has a hard time even expressing the depth of her gratitude for what you’ve done for her family.

“There are not even words to say thank you,” she says. “This has been a true blessing to us.”



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