

SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



You're Renewing Lives This Spring!

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*Yolandah
practices piano
at the Arlington
Life Shelter.*

Spring 2011



**Arlington
Life Shelter**



Becky Orander, LMSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

Summer is closer than it may seem. The warm spring weather will soon turn downright hot and kids will be jumping for joy as the last day of school approaches.

But for homeless parents out looking for work and not knowing whether their children will be safe by themselves, summer can be especially frightening.

Not so at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). Because of your gifts and the support of this community, we're able to provide safe, wholesome, structured activities for homeless children – not just during the school year, but all summer long.

And with your help, we're working hard to help families regain their self-sufficiency and return to homes of their own where their children can continue to thrive.

One way we're doing that is by focusing on helping residents identify their own unique skillsets so they can seek out jobs that they didn't even know they were qualified to do. Many of our residents first gain minimum-wage jobs as soon as they enter the program, and while they're working to save up money and gain new experience, they're also using their new jobs as a launching pad to begin certification programs in different growing professions.

And when children see their parents working in the healthcare industry, for example, their horizons are broadened, too. Rather than modeling the life of a minimum-wage employee, parents are able to find more meaningful and exciting work that their children will then be drawn to.

Thank you for the support you give that makes the Arlington Life Shelter such a special place. Because of you, we're able to help truly break the cycle of poverty and homelessness for the next generation.

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Giving Back is a Family Affair

For Scott Reading and his wife Amanda, teaching their three young daughters to think about those less fortunate has become a very important part of their family.

Five years ago, when Scott was first introduced to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), he admits he had some misconceptions about who is homeless and what a homeless shelter is like. But he quickly learned that sometimes, all it takes is a bout of bad luck or an unfortunate circumstance, and a family just like his could lose everything.

Scott became heavily involved with the shelter from that point forward. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2006, acting as treasurer and now vice president of fund development. His day job is as a vice president for Frost Bank, so Scott is taking what he does well and using it to better his community.

In addition to Scott's work and board responsibilities and Amanda's full-time



Scott with daughters Katherine and Elizabeth.

job and school schedule, they make sure to involve their family in helping the shelter however they can.

Scott says they're so pleased with how their daughters, 9-year-old Elizabeth, 7-year-old Katherine and baby Annabelle are learning to put others' needs first. Elizabeth, especially, has developed an increased awareness of the poor and even saves up her own money to help others.

"These little lessons are being taught without me having to teach them," says Scott. "It's been really gratifying to see that my children are starting to grasp giving back to the community."

We're so grateful to Scott and Amanda for their dedicated service and the fact that they're raising up a new generation of compassionate people!

From Homeless to Hard-Working



William had never had any trouble supporting himself and had held a steady job for years. But when he lost his job, things started to take a downward turn.

He eventually lost his home and then his car – which meant he didn't have anywhere to sleep. He bounced around, staying with friends and family as long as they could keep him, all the while looking for a job on foot. He found a couple of jobs that were temporary and managed to scrape together enough money to pay rent on a new apartment...for a while.

When he came up short again, William knew he needed to do something different. He called a friend to ask if he could store some of his things at his house, dropped the rest of his belongings off at a charity and asked for a ride to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). It was the best decision he could have made.

While at the shelter, William quickly found a job with the help of staff and shelter resources. He was so determined to turn his life around that he walked six and a half miles each way to and from work every day. Not long after, he found an even better job at the college bookstore on Cooper, and has worked there ever since – it's been five years now!

William's confidence and joy have returned and he's proud to be supporting himself again in his own apartment. He credits your support of the Arlington Life Shelter for helping him regain his life.

"When you find you're at the bottom, you need a hand to make that first step," he says. "Thank you!"

THANK YOU

The [Arlington Life Shelter's](#) Children's Program recently received a generous \$14,000 donation from the **North Davis Church of Christ Carter Children's Fund**. This new fund, unveiled in March, was created in honor of Bob and Sheila Carter for their long-time dedication to the families at the shelter. Thank you North Davis Church of Christ!

Shelter residents are sleeping under a new roof tonight, thanks to the generosity of the **PALS Auxiliary, Amon Carter Foundation and numerous church partners**. Thank you for helping us keep the residents dry and safe!



WISH LIST

Help our residents beat the heat this summer by donating **large bath towels, swim towels, lemonade mix, iced tea mix and paper cups**. Items can be brought to the shelter's front door Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or to the side door after 5 p.m. Thank you!



Covona and Yolandah are grateful for your generosity.

You Give Children the Stability to Thrive

Yolandah is a bright, happy and spirited sixth-grader. She makes the honor roll at school, loves to draw, read, write, play basketball and practice piano. And like other kids her age – she loves to play on the computer.

She also happens to be homeless.

It wasn't a sudden occurrence – Yolandah and her mom Covona were actually doing pretty well for a while. In fact, this time last year Covona was helping with a fundraiser for the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) at her work.

But then her hours were cut back. She was struggling to make the rent at that point, but it wasn't until she was laid off completely that she just couldn't afford their home at all.

"You don't know what to do," she says as she remembers how frightening it was to not know where they were going to sleep.

Covona found friends and family to keep Yolandah while she slept in the car, looking everyday for jobs and resources. But living in her car was just not a sustainable option. She needed a safe and stable place for herself and Yolandah to stay until they could get back on their feet.

That's when she made the call to the Arlington Life Shelter, where they were accepted with open arms. Thanks to your support of the shelter, Covona has been able to pick back up her pursuit of higher education and Yolandah is thriving in the children's program.

With summer just around the corner, kids like Yolandah will be safe and happy even when school is out. By giving to the Arlington Life Shelter, you make it possible for parents to go out and make a better life for their families without having to worry about the health or safety of their children.

"Thank you," says Covona. "It's a blessing...and I'm happy that God spoke to your heart to give."



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

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