

SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



You're making
spring **BRIGHTER**
for Arlington
families in need

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**Arlington
Life Shelter**

CELEBRATING
25 Years

Spring 2012



Becky Orander, LMSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

Springtime is upon us! In the spirit of renewal, I hope you'll be inspired by the amazing success stories in the following pages. I'm so encouraged by folks achieving self-sufficiency, and so grateful to the donors, volunteers and community partners like you who make these life transformations possible. You make such a difference!

As I enjoy the warm sunshine and bluebonnets along the highway, I'm reminded that summer is fast approaching. For homeless families, this is often a worrisome time of year.

Imagine you're a homeless parent. Without a home, where will your children go when school lets out for summer break? Will they be safe while you're out looking for work? How will they feed themselves?

Thanks to your support, parents at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) won't have to worry about what will happen to their kids this summer. Children at the shelter and in transitional housing will enjoy enriching activities all summer long because of our community partners. Many will get to go to day camp for the first time, go swimming, go on field trips and play with friends all day.

By providing places for children to go and activities to build their abilities and confidence, we're setting them up for lifetimes of success.

We wouldn't be able to offer any such opportunities to homeless children without friends like you. Because of your support, we're able to remove the barriers that hinder success and help to break the cycle of poverty for younger generations.

As we continue to celebrate our 25th year of service to men, women and children in need, I'm full of gratitude to you for making our work possible. Thank you!

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CELEBRATING 25 Years

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You Give Families the Hope to Survive

Peter thought if he and his two sons, George, 15, and Allan, 11, could survive the sudden death of their beloved wife and mother in 2001, they could survive anything. But in 2009, Peter suddenly lost his new job and their home. With no other place to go, they stayed in a motel, which quickly absorbed their savings. The trio became homeless and once again felt utterly hopeless.

Thankfully, a friend at Mansfield Bible Church told Peter about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). With the security of a place to stay and the counseling they needed, Peter was able to find a job at DFW Airport and the boys' grades drastically improved.

Now, two years later and just a summer away from graduating



Peter, George and Allan are thriving, thanks to your support

from the shelter's transitional housing program, Peter and his son's lives are better than they could have imagined. Peter has worked at the airport for two years but will soon be advancing to more lucrative work - he's set to receive a scholarship to get his CDL so he can drive trucks.

George thrives in his classes and hopes to own his own business someday. Allan leads his school in the number of books read - he has 300 volumes under his belt. He

wants to be a rocket scientist when he grows up.

"[The program] vaulted us to a better position," Peter says. "We're full of hope and expectations for a bright and promising future."

The family is overwhelmed with gratitude for the shelter's guidance and the support of generous donors like you.

"What you've done is more than we ever intended," George says. "Many thanks."

"Thanks for helping us," adds Allan.

A True Servant's Heart

But Patsy's involvement doesn't stop there.

Patsy has served on the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) board of directors, is an active member of the PALS (Partners of the Arlington Life Shelter) auxiliary group, and volunteers her time and talents wherever she sees a need.

And with all she does to improve the lives of shelter residents, she insists that she's getting just as much in return.

"Volunteering here is extremely rewarding," she says. "We give people life skills and 'teach them to fish' instead of just giving them fish. We keep serving because we enjoy the mission."

She says what keeps her coming back is the countless success stories she's seen over the years. She knows her time and talents

aren't going to waste because she says she watches residents pull themselves out of homelessness again and again with the support of donors and volunteers.

Patsy and her team from Grace Covenant Church have had such a good experience over the years that she encourages everyone to get involved using whatever resources, skills or expertise they have available. Whether teaching life-skills classes or donating photography sessions for homeless families, Patsy believes everyone can make a difference.

"Simple things mean a lot for a lot of people," she says.

Thank you, Patsy, for your faithful service to the hundreds of people whose lives you've touched. We look forward to many, many more years of partnership.

THANK YOU!

The Arlington Life Shelter's service to the homeless would not be possible without the support of our corporate partners.

Tom's Mechanical

More than 100 homeless men, women and children have new shoes thanks to the generosity of Rich Ashton, president of Tom's Mechanical, and his staff. When the company learned that lack of proper shoes was keeping the shelter's children from playing sports and their parents from finding jobs, Tom and the staff donated \$2,300 in Payless Gift cards. What a difference they've made!

Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital

As an active partner with the Arlington Life Shelter for the past 25 years, Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital continues to show compassionate care for the homeless. The hospital recently provided the shelter with a defibrillator and covers for our mattresses and pillows. Arlington Memorial's involvement goes further than just in-kind gifts by providing volunteers throughout the year, senior leadership to serve on the shelter's board of directors and medical consultation services.



CELEBRATING 25 Years

WISH LIST

Bottled water
Deodorant
Home Depot gift cards
Paper goods



Tim Von Hatten

You Help Teach Skills that Breed Success

Tim Von Hatten is the picture of stability. He's never missed a day of work at his landscape irrigation job, he coaches his niece and nephews' youth sports teams and he's preparing to buy his first house. But if you met Tim just a few years ago, you'd be shocked by his transformation.

In February 2010, Tim was at the end of his rope. He struggled with a paralyzing drug addiction, which he'd been fighting since his early teens. Tim depended on family members for a place to stay, but in time, even they gave up on him. With no safe place to go, he found himself homeless. The Arlington Life Shelter became a beacon of light in his darkest time.

During Tim's eight weeks at the shelter, he got control over his drug addiction and learned the skills he needed to be confident and self-sufficient. By supporting the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), you've played a role in helping Tim learn

how to structure his life and prepare to be a stable professional.

"I've worked hard to do things right since leaving the shelter," he says. "I've obtained two irrigation licenses and have not missed a single day of work since starting. The Arlington Life Shelter taught me how to be reliable and dependable."

Tim has even developed a five-year plan, which includes achieving a management position, starting a family and continuing to give back to the shelter. He currently leads a course for men living at the shelter, focusing on good habits that create successful people. Your generosity has created a domino effect of success!

Tim says he's so proud of his new life and overwhelmingly appreciative of the people like you who made his transformation possible.

"I'm just so thankful that you gave me a second chance at life," he says.



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