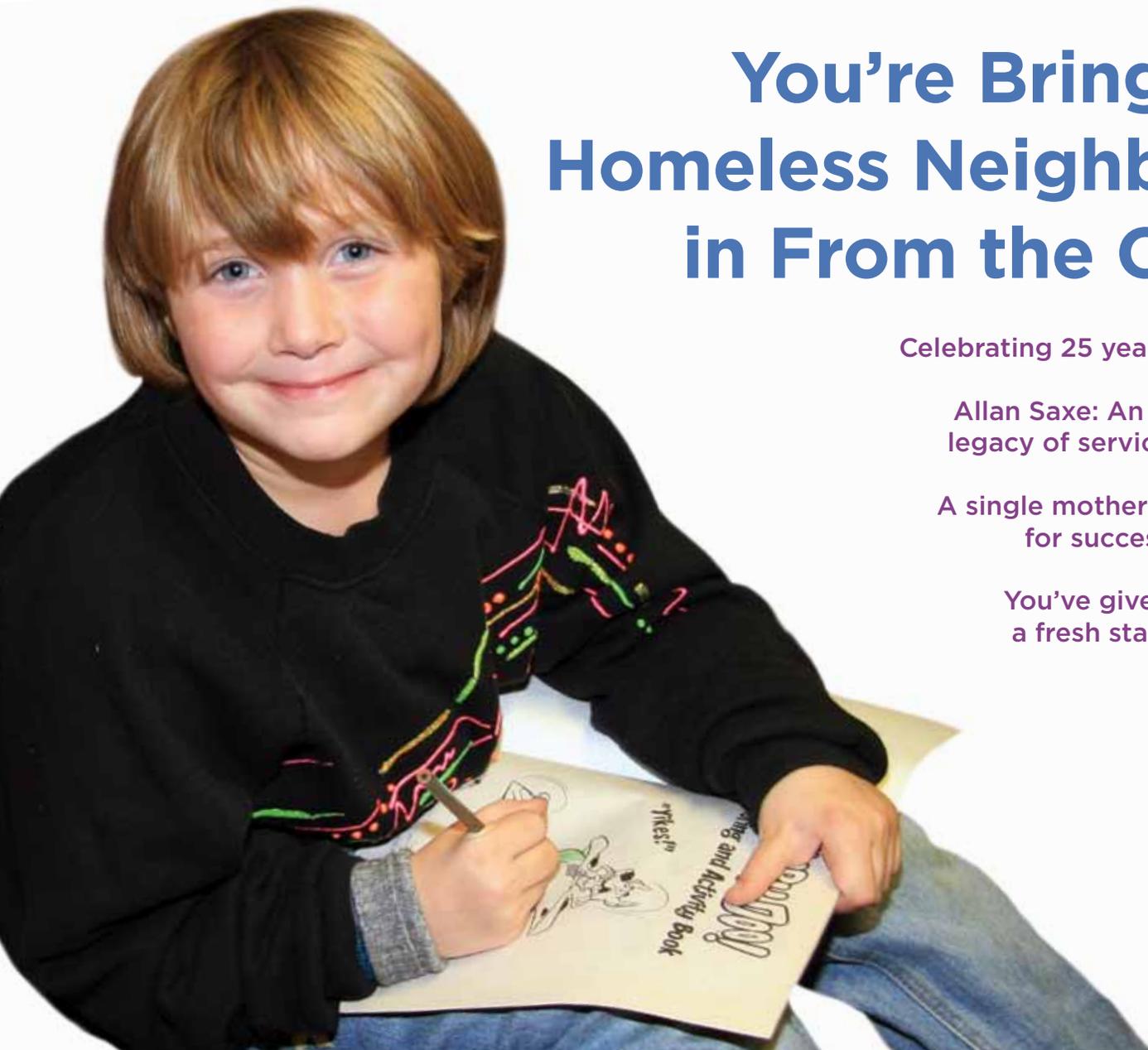


# SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE  
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



## You're Bringing Homeless Neighbors in From the Cold

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Becky Orander, LMSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## dear friend,

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Arlington Life Shelter's](#) service to the homeless of our community has begun! As we reflect on the past quarter-century, we're overwhelmed with gratitude for all of you who've made our work possible.

From our humble beginnings as a cold-weather shelter at First Presbyterian Church, to our current operation helping return men, women and children to self-sufficiency, what has remained constant is the incredible presence of volunteers and generous community supporters.

Over the past 25 years, nearly 23,000 homeless men, women and children who would otherwise go hungry have received 1.5 million meals. Twenty-three thousand persons needing safe shelter and protection from extreme weather have called the Arlington Life Shelter "home." I'm amazed when I think about this fete, accomplished only because of the outpouring of love and support.

Another key component that has set the Arlington Life Shelter apart from the beginning is our focus on education. The Arlington City Council and the shelter's founding leaders felt strongly that we should help people who are homeless to gain the skills needed to once again support themselves and contribute to a thriving community. That vision has expanded to include employment services such as job readiness training, job placement and career coaching. These important services are all made possible by you, our volunteers and donors.

While the face of homelessness has changed through the years, from single men working day-labor jobs to single mothers raising their children on low-wage positions, the heart of the Arlington Life Shelter has remained the same. Compassionate supporters and volunteers are the Arlington Life Shelter. Thank you for everything you do to help our homeless neighbors. We look forward to the next 25 years of service!

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CELEBRATING  
25 Years

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## Founder and Friend, Allan Saxe

You've seen his name on buildings, monuments and in the newspaper, and for good reason. Dr. Allan Saxe has achieved his position as a household name here in Arlington in the best kind of way - through substantial generosity and selfless service.

Allan's contributions to Arlington began decades ago when the young UTA professor started his philanthropic journey. Already a well-known community servant, he and other service-minded residents formed the Arlington Human Service Project. It was this group and Allan's persistence that were largely responsible for the inception of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) in 1987.

Allan recalls the major challenges of getting the support of the city, the churches and the community in the then-small, quiet Dallas-Fort Worth suburb. It was



Allan Saxe

difficult for people to see the need for a homeless shelter at the time, but Allan knew homelessness was a growing problem and needed the cooperation of the whole community if it was going to be addressed in the right way. Fortunately, from its humble beginnings with an all-volunteer staff in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, what was then the Arlington Night Shelter

quickly became an important community resource.

Allan remembers how exciting it was when the shelter was able to relocate to its current Division Street location after that first year. Since then, Allan says he's amazed by how far the organization has come and how many lives have been truly transformed.

Now the Arlington Life Shelter is much more than a roof over one's head, but rather an organization that teaches people the necessary life skills to succeed in the real world. Allan is proud of what the shelter has become and encourages each of us to take every chance to help those less fortunate.

"Life can turn in a minute," he says. "Help others in any way you can, anyone can be in their shoes at any point."

We are forever-grateful for Allan's foresight, persistence and ongoing generosity that have ultimately bettered the lives of thousands of Arlington Life Shelter residents over the years. Thank you just isn't enough.



Tomika has been in and out of work for the past year, struggling to stay afloat and provide for her 7-year-old daughter, Sanaya. At the end of her rope and down to her last penny, Tomika has trouble expressing how grateful she was to find the Arlington Life Shelter.

## Headed for Success, Thanks to You

Here, thanks to your generosity, Tomika and Sanaya are safe, warm and on their way to a better life. Tomika has already found steady part-time work and has a good lead on a full-time job in Grand Prairie. Sanaya is doing well in her first grade class, and looks forward to going "home" to the shelter each evening where she plays dress-up in her princess costume with all the other girls who've become her friends here.

"I've gotten so much help, it's unbelievable," says Tomika, grateful for a new chance and a fresh start. "I know I will be successful," she adds with confidence.

She's especially grateful for the medical and dental care they've

received - Sanaya's vaccinations are now up to date and she has a beautiful new pair of Disney princess glasses. Coming to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) has also given Tomika something intangible that every mother hopes for. She's become a role model for her daughter.

Sanaya says she wants to be a police officer when she grows up, because, as she puts it, "I always want to keep my mommy safe like she keeps me safe."

And very soon, Tomika and Sanaya will be out of the shelter and in an apartment of their own, thanks to the support of friends like you that has helped them get back on their feet.

# HEROES OF THE HOMELESS

## Congratulations to the recipients of the 2011 Hero of the Homeless Award.

The distinguished awardees include Mike McCoy of the Meadows Foundation, Larry Olive of Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital, Mark Strand of Bank of America, Zeb Strong of the University of Texas at Arlington, and Gigi Westerman of Strategic Image. The Hero of the Homeless award honors these individuals for their strong advocacy for the homeless and leadership service to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) over an extended period of time.

## JOIN US

### Host a Baby Shower

Looking for a fun and creative way to help expectant mothers and their infants and children at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#)? Consider hosting a baby shower in your home with your friends and family, and then bring the gifts to the shelter to be given to our homeless mothers and children. Enjoy fun and fellowship, and benefit those in need at the same time! Please call the shelter at 817-548-9885 to find out what gifts are most needed and to let us know if you're planning a shower.

## WINTER WISH LIST

Clothing irons  
Gas station gift cards  
Folding chairs  
Sturdy card tables  
Commercial microwave



Tia, Cheyenne and Rex

## You've Given a Family a Fresh Start

Things had been tough for a while for Tia, Rex, and their little girl, Cheyenne. Both Tia and Rex had been out of work, and could only scrape by for so long. Eventually, they couldn't keep up with their bills and they lost their home.

With a child to care for and with nowhere else to go, they desperately needed help. They were looking for a warm bed and a decent meal, but they were also looking for help to regain their self-sufficiency.

The couple knew about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) and that it was a unique place where they could get training, find help with their job searches and begin the journey toward their shared dream of becoming medical assistants. Tia had already begun the classes she would need for this new career, but her education had to be put on hold when she lost her job.

After just a few weeks at the Arlington Life Shelter, Tia is back to work part-time and looking diligently for a full-time job that

will help support her family and her dreams. Rex is also taking steps to help support his family and hopes to be generating income soon.

As for Cheyenne, she's thriving in her new environment and is doing well in school thanks to the volunteer tutors at the shelter who help her with her homework. Her favorite activities are practicing the piano, doing art projects and playing board games with her new friends. Being homeless hasn't limited her goals for her future and she says when she grows up, she wants to save people by being a firefighter, or "fire girl," in her words.

Tia and Rex are so grateful to have a place to stay - out of the cold - where they can be together as a family. They are confident that at this time next year, they'll be employed, financially stable and better educated...all thanks to your support of the Arlington Life Shelter.

"Thank you for everything!" says Tia, with genuine gratitude.



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