

# SHELTER

RESTORING HOPE TO THE  
HOMELESS THROUGH YOU

spirit



## You're Helping Children Succeed

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Becky Orander, MSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## dear friend,

Springtime is here, and schoolchildren across our community are preparing for tests to determine what they have learned during the year. Unfortunately, homeless children are at a significant disadvantage when faced with academic challenges like this. Because of their transient lifestyle, they often stay at the same school for only a few months.

Children arriving at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) lack the stability they desperately need to progress in school. Many have parents who did not complete high school, or are illiterate. Young mothers want their children to succeed in school, but education is rarely seen as a priority when finding a meal or safe place to sleep are critical to their immediate survival.

Can you imagine trying to concentrate on classwork when you're worried about where you will sleep that night? Hoarding becomes the norm at lunchtime when meals have been skipped and future meals unpredictable.

Because of your generosity, children staying at the Shelter not only have a safe, reliable place to come home to each night, but they also have the academic resources they need — like tutoring, homework help and after-school activities — to keep them on track with their peers.

Just one in three homeless youth graduate from high school. But thanks to your gifts, kids like Dillon receive the support to graduate and see a future. You can read about him and his dedicated mother, Dawn, on page three of this issue of *Shelter Spirit*.

Thanks to your support, homeless children and their parents have their basic needs met so they can concentrate on school and the future. Thank you for your commitment to helping our community's homeless.

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## A Child Gets Back on Track, Thanks to You

The past year hasn't been easy for Dawn and her 12-year-old son, Dillon. When they were forced to move out of their apartment several months ago, Dawn hoped they could get by staying with family nearby.

This was a good solution for a while, but Dawn soon worried they'd overstayed their welcome. When it was time to move on, they piled their possessions into a rented van and came back to Arlington in search of other opportunities.

But upon arriving, Dawn found her job search to be far more discouraging than she'd anticipated. With no transportation to help her get around Arlington, her savings dwindled steadily. Dawn and Dillon soon found themselves with no money, and nowhere to turn.



Dawn and her son, Dillon

After months of uncertainty, the mother and son were so relieved to be able to check into the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) in their time of need. They'd finally found a safe, stable environment where they could work on getting back to self-sufficiency.

Your gifts make it possible for families like Dillon's to get back on their feet. When they arrived at the Shelter, 12-year-old Dillon was already two grade levels behind his peers in school. But with the help of afterschool tutoring and family literacy nights, he's making great strides in his schoolwork.

Dawn has also benefitted greatly since coming to the Shelter — after a challenging search, she's now employed full time at a job she loves. And a couple of weeks ago, she was approved for transitional housing services through the Shelter — she and Dillon are almost ready to move into their own place to live!

"I came here, I found a job, I made the program work for me," Dawn says. "[Your] generosity touches more lives than [you] realize."

## A UTA Student Helps Out in a Big Way



Madison Munson

when she joined the organization UTA Volunteers.

After a few months as a member, she became Director of the Health and Homelessness Committee. From there, it didn't take her long to get involved with the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

Most notably, Madison led a national homeless awareness event on UTA's campus called One Night Without a Home. Held last fall, the event helped 54 UTA students experience one night of homelessness by spending the night outside. Shelter clients shared how homelessness affected them and the impact it had on their children.

Getting the chance to speak with families at the Shelter affected Madison in a big way.

"It definitely changed my view of life," she says. "It made me want to do more."

Since organizing this awareness event, Madison has become more and more active at the Shelter and recently joined our board of directors. We look forward to having her youth and enthusiasm on our team.

To others who might want to get involved with the Shelter, Madison shares wholehearted encouragement.

"Definitely get a tour...figure out what [the Shelter] is all about."

## EVENTS

### ***The Road Home Tour!***

Learn how the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) helps homeless families and individuals secure employment, become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty.

Tour our newly-renovated facility during the day while shelter residents are at school and work.

Learn of the personal challenges of raising children while homeless and finding hope amidst chaos.

Meet the executive director and board members and see the agency's work first-hand.

Discover our community's "final safety net" in 59 minutes.

**April 24 at 12 noon**  
(light lunch provided)

**May 8 at 8:30 a.m.**

**May 22 at 12 noon**  
(light lunch provided)

Please RSVP to Annamarie at  
817-548-9885 ext 2116  
or via email

[asaavedra@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:asaavedra@arlingtonlifeshelter.org)

## WISH LIST

Home Depot gift cards  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Facial Tissue  
Plastic Forks, Spoons, & Knives



*William, Ava and Kyntasha at the shelter*

## You're Giving Children Stability

When William, proud husband and devoted father of four, was offered a well-paying job, he and his family looked forward to new beginnings and a bright future.

Unfortunately, the new job didn't come through as expected. Determined to support his family, William immediately accepted a minimum wage job instead. But even with his hard work, he couldn't make enough to provide for his family and cover the rent. With nothing left in their savings account and no family to help them out, they didn't know what to do.

Where would they go for shelter? How could they make their four children, Kyntrell, 7, Diante, 5, Asia, 4 and Ava, 2, understand their difficult situation?

William and Kyntasha learned about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) just in time. Thanks to your gifts, the family was greeted that night with a nutritious meal and warm beds.

Now, Kyntrell and Diante are able to go to school each day — something that might not have been possible without a reliable

place to stay. And after school is over, they return to the Shelter for tutoring and recreation at a local park. Ava and Asia enjoy going to daycare to learn and play while their siblings are at school.

This means that William and Kyntasha have time to take advantage of the Shelter's programs, like classes to strengthen their financial literacy and parenting skills. They also receive assistance with their job search, so they can soon rely on a more secure income to get back on the path to self-sufficiency.

Kyntasha is so thankful that the Shelter has been there for her family in their time of extreme need — and she knows it's all because of the gifts of generous friends like you.

"[Your donations] help more than anything else. Even the smallest amount helps," she says.



**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

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