

THE OPEN DOOR

guiding the journey from homeless to home

Presbyterian Night Shelter | Fall Newsletter 2024

LEROY IS THANKFUL FOR YOU!

By the time he was 18, Leroy knew that his curiosity and drive would take him far in life. So he joined the Marine Corps, where he was able to experience the world — and where he became a father, too.

Following his service, Leroy tried to adjust back to civilian life, but challenges, including PTSD, impacted his transition. Without the support he needed to heal, Leroy ended up serving time.

“After I got out of the service...it all piled up,” he says. “And then it was hard to get resources, hard to get help. I needed help.”

When he was released, Leroy began seeking the resources he needed, not only to heal himself but also to create a more stable life for his three children...

“There’s always another day when you just get up and try. Don’t give up.”

First and foremost, Leroy needed to find a stable job in order to regain custody of his children. After moving mountains to find a job that could fit his needed requirements, he found the right fit at Presbyterian Night Shelter.

As a member on our maintenance team, Leroy was able to get his feet underneath him. His incredible work ethic was noted right away. It was apparent that Leroy cared deeply for his children.

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Leroy is a loving father and dedicated member of the Presbyterian Night Shelter maintenance team.

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Leroy was introduced to our Family and Individual Rapid Exit program (FIRE), which provided the crucial housing assistance that he needed to focus on his children and create a safe environment for them.

“They provided me with my deposit, my first three months of rent. They provide the furniture and stuff into the unit, which is a blessing for me,” Leroy says, explaining how the FIRE program helped him settle into a new home.

Your support of Presbyterian Night Shelter made it possible for Leroy to build a stronger, more hopeful future. Now, his home is lively with his joyful children.

Sharing a word of encouragement inspired by Presbyterian Night Shelter, Leroy says, “there’s always another day when you just get up and try. Don’t give up.”

30TH ANNIVERSARY HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS GALA



Let the spirit of giving propel you into the holiday season as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary Home for the Holidays Gala, presented by Luther

King Capital Management on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Join us at the Fort Worth Club for a festive evening of dining, dancing, live and silent auctions, as well as raffles and other fun games, all benefitting Presbyterian Night Shelter. And if you can't attend in person, you can still be part of the action by following our silent auction online.

For sponsorships, contact Chris Stolarzyk, Annual Giving Manager, cstolarzyk@journeyhome.org.



Volunteers Linda, Wally and Patricia host Game Night every second Tuesday.

15 YEARS OF GAME NIGHTS

Every second Tuesday, volunteers Wally, Patricia, and Linda bring board games and refreshments to Presbyterian Night Shelter. Game Night is a beloved event, and the trio has been hosting it for over 15 years.

It all started when the group's church connected with Presbyterian Night Shelter. Now, the volunteers have created meaningful relationships with the guests who attend the monthly activity.

Through their 15 years of service, Wally, Patricia, and Linda have helped Presbyterian Night Shelter continue to grow and expand. When the Morris Foundation Family Services Center opened in 2016, they helped furnish two rooms. They also help organize baby showers for new mothers, Christmas gifts for children, and many more celebratory activities.

They note the inspiring number of individuals and families who have found lasting change through our programs. “It’s really rare to see a family come back through...once they’ve been helped to find their own apartment and jobs,” Linda says.

To anyone interested in getting involved, Wally and Patricia share words of encouragement, saying that the conversations they’ve had with shelter guests are special and often profound. We want to share a heartfelt *thank you* to this special team!

You can learn more about volunteering by visiting journeyhome.org/volunteer.



Smiles all around for Carol and Albert and their children Angelo, Jamal, and Albert Jr.

YOU HELPED CAROL AND ALBERT'S FAMILY THRIVE

Carol and Albert's family happily called California home until the cost of living became too expensive. So, they made the tough decision to leave, traveling over 20 hours to Texas, where Albert has relatives.

"When we got here, we didn't want to rely on anyone... [we] just wanted that independence," Albert shares.

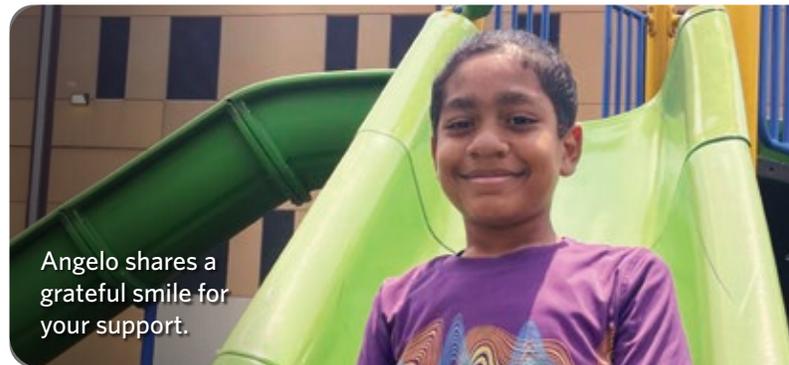
When they arrived, they faced limited options for housing. After several temporary accommodations, the family found needed refuge at the Morris Foundation Family Services Center.

Our dedicated case managers ensured that, right away, the three children were enrolled and thriving in school. The family got set up in a room, and registered in our Family and Individual Rapid Exit (FIRE) program.

The FIRE program jumpstarted the family's house hunt. Soon, they moved into a three-bedroom apartment, giving Albert and Carol the breathing room they needed to create a stronger future for the whole family.

Now, Albert and Carol have plans to begin homeschooling their children, with the goal of saving up for a trailer and educating the kids through travel and experience.

"Don't be ashamed to ask for help," Carol says, reflecting on her family's journey with Presbyterian Night Shelter and the lessons she's learned along the way. Thank you for helping this family find hope!



Angelo shares a grateful smile for your support.



Jamal is excited to travel with his family!



Albert's future is bright thanks in part to you!



Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Today, I want to share my gratitude for you.

In the past year, our community has faced significant hardship. By last count, 45 families in Tarrant County were living in their cars. The average age of a child calling a vehicle “home” was just 8 years old.

Many families have been forced into homelessness because of local shelter capacity, increasing living costs, and increasing evictions. That’s why I’m grateful for you — because you help ensure our community members, and families especially, have a place to go for help.

We have focused our efforts on mitigating these problems by increasing our own capacity, operating programs like Family and Individual Rapid Exit (FIRE), and opening Journey Home Housing at

Seminary, meant specifically for families. And we couldn’t have done it without your support.

As you’ll read, Carol and Albert’s family (page 4) has recently settled into a new apartment. Like many more neighbors, they are looking forward to a stronger tomorrow because of you.

In this issue of *The Open Door*, I hope you take a moment to celebrate our shared progress this fall, and think of the impact we can have by standing together for a brighter future. Thank you again.

With gratitude,

Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer

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Our Mission:

“Guiding the journey from homeless to home.”

We work to help Tarrant County residents facing homelessness attain stability, independence, and break the cycle of homelessness.