

# The Open Door

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



## Crafting the Future

*A new program provides skills and opportunities for a better life*

*page 6*



Presbyterian Night Shelter

guiding the journey home for **40** years

[JourneyHome.org](http://JourneyHome.org)





**Our Mission:**  
**Guiding the journey from  
homeless to home.**

**Presbyterian Night Shelter strives  
to break the cycles of homelessness  
and empower our guests through  
shelter, housing, and employment.**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

From the CEO	3
Shelter	4
Employment	6
Housing	8
2024 By the Numbers	10
2023 Financial Report	12
It Takes a Village	12
Home for the Holidays Gala Reflection	13
Day of Service	14
From the Board Chair	15

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**FROM THE CEO**

Dear Friends,

**A**S WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT 2024, I'M SO PROUD OF EVERYTHING PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH. In December, we celebrated our 40th year of service in Fort Worth – a milestone birthday to be sure! What began as a simple, temporary “sit up” shelter in an old elementary school on Rosedale Avenue has grown into the largest shelter serving unhoused individuals and families in North Texas, providing not only emergency shelter, meals, and case management, but employment opportunities and permanent affordable housing as well.

This past year, we focused our growth primarily in two areas: employment and housing. With the launch of UpSpire Furniture, we are growing our employment-based social enterprise. In addition to providing full-time employment and benefits, UpSpire is giving employees the opportunity to learn a craft and develop skills that can help propel them into future jobs. You can read more about UpSpire Furniture on page 6 of this report.

***“We are able to  
accomplish all of  
this because of our  
hardworking staff,  
dedicated volunteers  
and our many  
generous donors...”***

In April, we celebrated our official grand opening of Journey Home Housing at Seminary, providing permanent affordable housing for families exiting homelessness and creating a wonderful community in the process. Later in the summer, we broke ground on Journey Home Housing at Crowley Road, which will provide 96 more units of housing for individuals. This moves us closer to our goal of one thousand units of housing by our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are excited to celebrate our grand opening of Crowley Road later this spring, as well as begin construction on Camp Bowie West affordable housing community in partnership with New Leaf Community Services.

I know that we are all proud of the good work we have been able to do this past year to help so many, as our 2024 By the Numbers show. We helped guide the journey home for 1,465 individuals, including 507 children. We served 526,274 meals, offered 949 classes at True Worth Place, and helped 3,058 guests through case management.

We are able to accomplish all of this because of our hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers, and our many generous donors. To each of you who have done your part to ensure that Presbyterian Night Shelter continues to be a place of help and hope to our many guests who rely on us, thank you! You make a difference! Together, we are changing lives every single day.

Sincerely,  
**TOBY OWEN | CEO**





**Scan the QR Code  
to watch the video  
“Guiding the Journey  
for 40 Years”**





## EXPANDING SPACES

*When extreme weather hits, extra measures must be taken to bring people in from the cold*



**A**FTER A RELATIVELY MILD DECEMBER, Old Man Winter came roaring into North Texas with two Arctic blasts, bringing low temperatures in the high teens and low twenties as well as a wintery mix of snow and freezing rain. When such extreme weather hits, Presbyterian Night Shelter stands ready to ensure the safety and well-being of our guests, even if that means stretching our resources to do so.

“Our ability to expand capacity during times of cold weather, other than fire code limitations, is dependent on available resources on hand,” says Alexander Allen, Vice President of Operations for the Shelter. “Basic needs like beds, cots, blankets, water, and food determine our readiness to absorb more guests into the building.”

Shelter staff swung into action to prepare for our extra guests, rearranging furniture in both the men and women’s shelters. Bunk beds that are usually generously spaced 5-6 feet apart were squeezed to a tighter 3 feet in order to accommodate additional camping cots while still remaining ADA compliant. “We also limit our overnight guests to just two bags each to reduce overcrowding the space with excessive bags and personal items,” Allen explained.

**O**n any normal night, the Shelter’s capacity is 725 individuals across all of our facilities. On these bone-chillingly cold nights, however, capacity was increased to safely accommodate over 790 guests. Of course, we still must abide by code compliance with regards to capacity. “Our buildings are only permitted for a specific number of people,” Allen continues, “Once we hit that number, we become dependent on other community agencies and the City of Fort Worth overflow shelters to accommodate the influx of people seeking shelter from the weather.”

*On these bone-chillingly cold nights, capacity was increased to accomodate over 790 guests.*



Guests line up in the snow to check into the Shelter

## Our Shelters

### KARL TRAVIS MEN’S CENTER

Emergency shelter and transitional housing program for single adult men (18+). Provides case management to help individuals exit homelessness.

### LOWDON-SCHUTTS WOMEN’S CENTER

Emergency shelter and transitional housing program for single adult women (18+). Provides case management to help individuals exit homelessness.

### PATRIOT HOUSE

Transitional housing program for veterans experiencing homelessness to prepare them for permanent housing and independent living within 12 months.

### THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

#### FAMILY SERVICES CENTER

Provides transitional housing for single mothers, single fathers, or two-parent families with children.

### MIMI HUNTER-FITZGERALD

#### SAFE HAVEN CENTER

Project-based permanent housing program for those battling severe mental illness.

Special accommodations were made in True Worth Place, too. On a normal day, our day shelter serves around 300 guests. But with Arctic air driving people to seek shelter, that number was closer to 500. Again, furniture was rearranged to allow more space for people, and stanchions set up to help direct the increased number of people lining up for meal services. We also increased the hours of meal service, and the kitchen made about 125 more meals than they normally do. Daphine McGhee, Manager of Food Services, and her crew worked doubly hard to ensure everyone had a hot meal to help them beat the cold. “After it’s all over, I may have to get extra veggies and fruit,” she said during the rush. “It’s tight but we’ll make it work!”

During dangerous weather events, our magnificent donors always step up to help us respond, whether that is through donations of water, cold medications, or other items from our Amazon Wish List, or even monetary donations to help procure necessary supplies. Keeping our most vulnerable neighbors safe during extreme weather is truly a community effort.

## TRUE WORTH PLACE

True Worth Place is a one-of-a-kind facility that offers day shelter plus consolidated access to a variety of services - from immediate physical needs to longer-term job and home-readiness concerns - all in a convenient, compassionate place that fosters an environment of respect.





## CRAFTING THE FUTURE

*UpSpire Furniture is providing skills and creating opportunities*

**U**PSPIRE WAS CREATED TO LOWER THE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT, particularly for those experiencing homelessness or exiting incarceration. Since 2016, we have provided full-time jobs with benefits in the areas of Litter Abatement, Landscaping, Commercial Janitorial, and Staffing. Each year, the number of employees on UpSpire's payroll has grown, as well as the number of people who have been able to pull themselves out of homelessness, thanks to the support and steady income full-time employment provides. All across Fort Worth, people have come to recognize our iconic blue and white trucks parked alongside highways, roadways, or in parks with litter crews fanning out and collecting tons of litter each year.

Our new venture launched in 2024 aims to not only provide employment, but also valuable skills that will open up future opportunities. "The launch of UpSpire Furniture is a significant milestone because it marks our first venture into a skills-based enterprise," says Toby Owen, CEO of Presbyterian Night Shelter. "Unlike our other programs focused on manual labor, such as landscaping and litter abatement, this initiative provides participants with specialized training in a valuable craft. Once fully trained, workers will have a marketable skill that can open doors to other career opportunities, including fields like furniture making, cabinetry, and construction."

The apprenticeship-style program is led by Jasper Clements, a craftsman and artist hand-selected by Owen to oversee the operation and to teach the valuable skills to the crew. Participants enter the program as Cadets, learning the fundamentals of carpentry and woodworking, as well as the importance of teamwork. As they become more confident in their skills, Cadets can advance to Apprentices and then to Junior Craftsman. Each level up brings more responsibility, a larger time commitment, and a bigger arsenal of tools they are trained to use.

"I just try to create a work environment where we are accomplishing something every day, because I know that motivates people," Clements says. "People want to feel like they've accomplished something, especially when they've gotten to this point."



*"People want to feel they have accomplished something, especially when they've gotten to this point."*



local nonprofit, the entire shop was a mess. "I didn't have to say 'you do this, you do that,' I didn't have to give any direction," he says. "We came back, and nobody even said, 'hey let's clean.' Everybody just started grabbing different things and putting things up. Nobody said a word to — I'm getting goosebumps — nobody said a word to each other, they just worked together like a machine; and I looked up a couple of times and thought, 'this is how it should work!'"

And accomplish things they have! Already, the team has produced quality furniture sets to fully furnish each new Journey Home Housing unit. Their stunning, dark walnut and white maple ping pong table helped raise funds during the Live Auction at our recent Home for the Holidays Gala, and their custom cutting boards are in high demand. During the furniture launch event in October, Owen made a commitment to provide every child exiting homelessness through Presbyterian Night Shelter with a sturdy, handcrafted bed. One section of the shop is completely dedicated to the production of these beds.

The idea of giving back is inspiring the team, too. Tommy, who has advanced to a Junior Craftsman in just a few months, is proud of the work they are accomplishing. "This is a full 180 for me," he says. "To know the furniture we make goes to families and kids who need it...it's incredible to be a part of that."

For Clements, one of the joys of leading this program is seeing his crew become a cohesive team all working in one direction. Recently, upon returning from delivering an order of tables to a



*To learn more about UpSpire Furniture, or to inquire about ordering furniture, email*  
***UpSpireFurniture@journeyhome.org***



## BEYOND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*Supportive services can make the difference*

**A**S A HOUSING FIRST ORGANIZATION, Presbyterian Night Shelter recognizes that the first step to help an individual or family experiencing homelessness is to get them into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Once they are housed, other underlying issues that perhaps led to their homelessness can be addressed. And while it is true that the best way to end homelessness for someone is with housing, it's also true that case management and supportive services are often necessary tools to keep them housed.



Construction commenced in Summer 2024 on 96 units of affordable housing at Crowley Road

Launching Journey Home Housing has allowed us to offer adults experiencing chronic homelessness and families with children access to both permanent, affordable housing and on-site supportive services that can really make the difference in their housing stability. For many moving into Journey Home Housing, they may have access to a limited time of financial assistance to help them pay the rent through various financial aid programs, however, that assistance can only go so far.

"Getting short term assistance is great, but I'm noticing that families need a little bit longer," says Krystal Lotspeich, Vice President of Housing Services. "When families come in, it's almost like that first six months is spent just adjusting to not being homeless. It's almost as if they are coming in and not even planning or thinking about how to stabilize." She explains that it takes time for some people to get acclimated simply to having walls, floor, and a roof, or to begin coping with the emotional trauma that invariably comes with experiencing homelessness. There are other adjustments to get used to as well, such as paying utility bills, or learning to budget for food or childcare in addition to the rent.

Supportive services are an important part of Journey Home Housing and are available to residents. While they're not compulsory, Lotspeich observes that those who choose to engage with case management or other services are able to steady themselves more quickly. Even though residents live in affordable housing, it's still not easy to cover the cost of rent, plus utilities, food, and childcare. Some families still struggle to meet basic needs, not to mention save for their long-term goals. And while that stress may be felt by all residents, those in case management tend to be better equipped with coping skills and are ultimately more successful at steadying themselves and staying out of homelessness.

Support services can come in many forms, such as case management, mentoring, or even medical help. For instance, at Seminary, residents are able to access guidance from a case manager, who helps them navigate the various forms and applications that may be required. A partnership with Junior League of Fort Worth is providing learning opportunities for a range of topics like financial literacy, self-care, or a peer-led forum to discuss challenges of raising children in today's world. AIDS Outreach Services has come out to do testing – something many residents have never done before.

**W**ith construction in progress on two new communities for individuals with a disability who are experiencing chronic homelessness —Crowley Road and Camp Bowie West— more permanent affordable housing is one the way. This pushes Presbyterian Night Shelter closer to our ambitious goal of providing one-thousand units of affordable housing within the next ten years.

"The hope is that we make a dent in homelessness and are able to see the beautiful journey of getting people into their home and thriving in their life," Lotspeich says about the future of Journey Home Housing, "that we see people go from their worst moments and get them into a place where they have the opportunity to thrive, and then do thrive!"

*"...it's almost like the first six months are spent just adjusting to not being homeless."*



### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT JOURNEY HOME HOUSING

Residents at both Quail Trail and Seminary participated in the National Night Out, an annual community-building event to promote partnerships and camaraderie. Representatives from both FWPD and FWFD visited our residents and enjoyed games, pizza, and more. The kiddos especially loved getting to sit in the fire truck!





# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

Presbyterian Night Shelter’s mission, guiding the journey from homeless to home, becomes a reality when we are able to move people out of homelessness and into a place they can call home. The process of helping guests enter sustainable living is complex and takes time, trust, and guidance.



IN 2024, THE HARD WORK OF OUR STAFF, ALONG WITH THE OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FROM OUR DONORS AND COMMUNITY, HELPED GUIDE

1,465

GUESTS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS!

\*This number includes 507 children



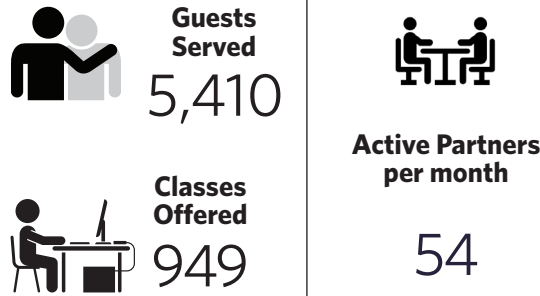
## Additional ways we helped our neighbors experiencing homelessness in 2024

### Presbyterian Night Shelter



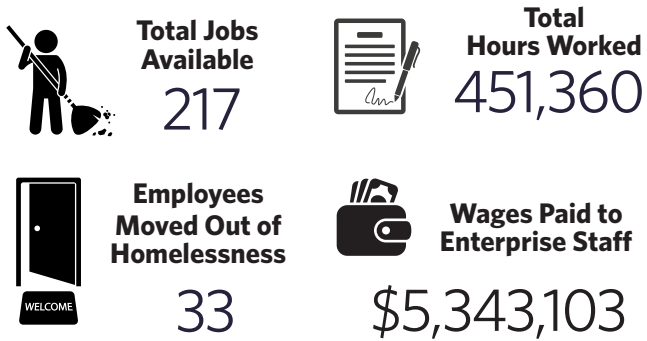
### True Worth

A PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER ENTERPRISE

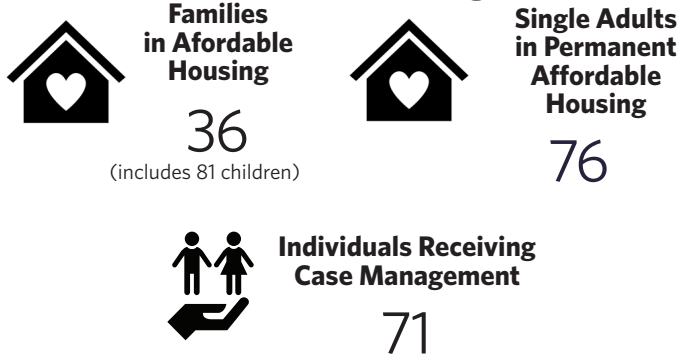


### UPSPIRE

UPLIFTING PEOPLE | INSPIRED WORKFORCE



### Journey Home Housing



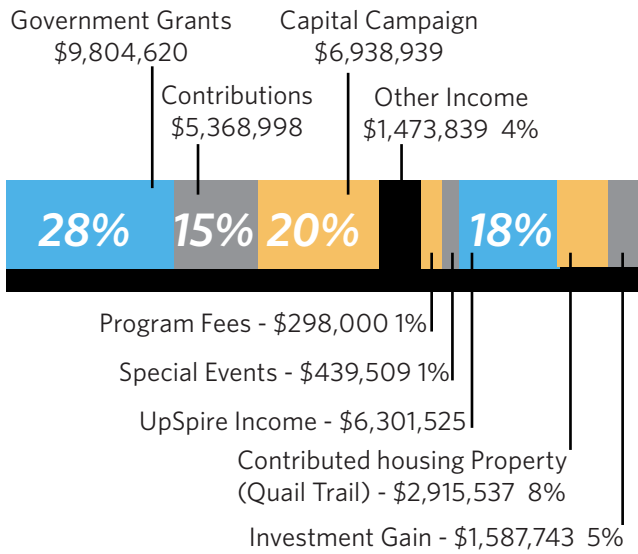


# 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

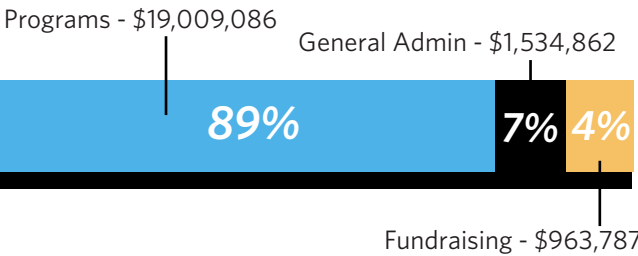
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Audited financial information  
Year Ended 12/31/2023

### REVENUE - \$35,128,710



### EXPENSES - \$21,507,735



#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Government Grants	\$9,804,620
Contributions	\$5,368,998
Capital Campaign	\$6,938,939
Contributed Housing Property Quail Trail	\$2,915,537
Other Income	\$1,473,839
Program Fees	\$298,000
Special Events	\$439,509
UpSpire Revenue	\$6,301,525
Investment Gain	\$1,587,743
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$35,128,710</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program	\$19,009,086
General and Admin	\$1,534,862
Fundraising	\$963,787
<b>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$21,507,735</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$13,620,975
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$51,649,895
Net Assets - End of Year	\$65,270,870



(L-R) Co-Chairs, Dr. Jason & Mrs. Kaci Biggers;  
Toby Owen, CEO;  
Mrs. Courtney & Dr. Brian Tulbert

THE 30TH ANIVERSARY HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS GALA was one for the record books, raising over \$530,000 for the programs of Presbyterian Night Shelter!

Thank you to our Co-Chairs, Kaci Biggers and Courtney Tulbert, our dedicated committee members, our Emcee, Marc Istook, and all of those who so generously donated in-kind items for our silent auction, live auction, and raffles.



To see photos from the Home for the Holidays Gala, scan this QR code!

## 30th Anniversary Home for the Holidays Gala

### OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

#### PRESENTING

Luther King Capital Management

POINSETTIA Jere C. Robertson Virginia Street Smith

HOLLY Paul Dorman, Harriette & Arnie Gachman, and Michelle & Dan Lowrance

#### MISTLETOE

BrevAll Technologies  
Jamie Downing  
Frost  
Glen Gibson/Red & Rio Foundation  
J.P. Morgan Private Bank  
Joy & Scot Pierce  
Michele & Fred Reynolds  
The Rios Group

JJ Saltsman & Steven Magsig  
Kathy & Micky Severson/  
Lisa & Steve Staples  
Shipp Needham Economic  
Analysis, LLC  
Molly & Mitch Snyder  
Sundance Disposal Solutions  
Texas Capital

#### IVY

Carol Adcock  
Armanino  
Baird & Ravnaas  
Baird/The Ryan-Jones Group  
Balcom Agency  
Audrey & Bryan Ballew  
Janice & Bryan Barrett  
Amber Benson  
Susi & Mike Bickley  
Mrs. Kaci & Dr. Jason Biggers  
Biltmore Homes  
Amy & Jason Brown  
Jazmin & Tyler Caton  
First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth  
Jennifer Hove & Dan Kilkenny  
JPS Foundation  
Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation

Claire & Herd Midkiff  
Muckleroy & Falls  
Jane & Frank Neal  
Alicia & Philip Newburn  
Phuong & Jimmy Nguyen  
Open Door SS Class Arborlawn UMC  
Erin & Toby Owen  
QuikTrip  
Sara & Matt Robison  
Rachel & Greg Saltsman  
St. Stephen Presbyterian Church  
Mrs. Jacqueline & Rev. Karl Travis and  
Mrs. Elizabeth & Dr. Adam Baggs  
TrustPoint Legal, PLLC  
Mrs. Courtney & Dr. Brian Tulbert  
Robyn & Walter Virden  
Lisa & Burch Waldron

\*As of November 1, 2024

Save the date: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Home for the Holidays Gala  
Friday, December 5, 2025



## It Takes a Village



Would you like to become a volunteer? Scan this QR code to begin:

OUR VOLUNTEERS ONCE AGAIN STEPPED UP IN 2024, increasing the volunteer hours served by 13% from 2023. This year, we had **1,963 volunteers** working across our campus, logging 16,486 volunteer hours! Whether serving or preparing meals, working in the mail room, or hosting game nights, our volunteers showed just how much they care for our guests. And in December, we received donated Christmas gifts for every man, woman, veteran, and child we serve!





## Day of Service



**135** VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED THEIR SATURDAY MORNING ON OCTOBER 26, 2024 to tackle numerous campus projects at the Shelter. A new kitchen was installed in Patriot House, a new pergola erected at Safe Haven, mulch laid at The Morris Foundation Family Services Center and UpSpire, and our deep freeze had a big clean out!

Thank you to all who helped on the big day, including representatives from **Lockheed Martin, Home Depot, Celebration Community Church, The Well Church, State Farm, TPG, Young Men's Service League, Southlake Rotary Club, TCU Library Club, First Command Financial, and Atmos Energy.** It was a terrific day!

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR SPONSORS:**

**LOCKHEED MARTIN**

**TPG**

**ATMOS  
energy**

**FIRST  
COMMAND**  
Get Squared Away



**Save the Date**

**Saturday,  
October 25, 2025**

*Interested in sponsoring  
this event?*

Contact:

[volunteers@journeyhome.org](mailto:volunteers@journeyhome.org)

**In Loving Memory of  
Judi Glover**

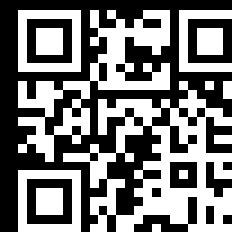


**Judi Glover** was a beloved member of the Presbyterian Night Shelter family for many years. As Director of Volunteer Engagement, she touched the lives of community members seeking to volunteer their time, fellow staff members, and the lives of our guests. Judi was a light to so many. Her positive attitude, sense of humor, and loving spirit will be sorely missed.

## Current Needs

**Water  
Men's Underwear  
Women's Underwear  
Sheets  
Blankets  
Rain Ponchos  
Insect Repellent  
Sunscreen  
Over-the-Counter  
Cold Medications  
Children's Tylenol  
Hygiene Items**

Scan this QR Code  
to visit our  
Amazon Wishlist  
and order in-kind  
donations



**DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER,**

**O**N DECEMBER 10, 2024 PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER CELEBRATED 40 years of guiding the journey from homeless to home. What began as an overnight emergency shelter in 1984 has grown into the largest provider of homeless services in the county. Day in and day out, we offer meals, showers, case management, and more through our shelter facilities for men, women, families, and veterans.

However, there is more to ending the cycle of homelessness than simply providing meals and shelter, which is why we created Journey Home Housing. Last spring, we gathered for the grand opening and dedication of Journey Home Housing at Seminary, which provides affordable permanent housing with wraparound services for families with children.

***"Looking forward  
to 2025, we remain  
focused on these  
essential stabilizing  
programs of housing  
and employment."***

While housing is a crucial piece of the puzzle, another vital tool to ending homelessness is a reliable income, which we offer through UpSpire, our employment-based social enterprise. In October, we celebrated the launch of UpSpire Furniture, a skills-based training program providing carpentry training and job experience for a cohort of apprentices.

Looking forward, we remain focused on these essential stabilizing programs of housing and employment. Construction continues on 96 new units of affordable, permanent housing for people exiting homelessness at Journey Home Housing at Crowley Road, and UpSpire is forging new business partnerships so to offer even more jobs with fair pay and full benefits.

It is my honor to serve as board chair of such a transformative organization. I continue to be inspired by the commitment and creativity of the Presbyterian Night Shelter team, and I remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support and blessings from our community. Together, we can make a lasting impact as we work to guide our guests on their journey home.



In Service,

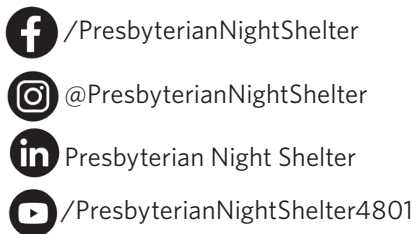
**AMY KNIGHT BROWN | BOARD CHAIR**



Presbyterian Night Shelter

P.O. Box 2645  
Fort Worth, Texas 76113

*Follow us on social media:*



## We've come a long way in 40 years!

**P**RESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER BEGAN AS A SIMPLE "SIT UP" SHELTER in 1984, in the aftermath of North Texas' coldest winter on record. Housed in an old elementary school building, it was intended to be a temporary arrangement with chairs and tables — no beds, just a place to keep warm. But as more and more people showed up, the need for something more permanent quickly became evident, and a property was purchased at 2400 Cypress Street where our very first structure was built.

Today, we operate facilities for men, women, families, veterans, and individuals with severe mental illnesses. In addition to lifesaving shelter, we remove barriers to employment and housing. Driven by our mission, each program and initiative of the Shelter works together to empower our guests to exit homelessness, equipped with new skills and confidence to maintain their housing stability.



Presbyterian  
Night Shelter  
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home for 40 years