

# December 2025 E-Newsletter

## A Doorway to Dignity

**A**t Presbyterian Night Shelter, we learned long ago that the ability to earn a steady income is fundamental to someone's ability to exit homelessness. And so we created UpSpire – to lower barriers to employment so that people can get back on their feet. UpSpire gives individuals a choice, a voice, and a pathway to a sustainable lifestyle through full-time employment with benefits, job coaching, and support.

While UpSpire is changing lives, it has also become an important partner to the City of Fort Worth, which recently brought on five new Litter Abatement teams, creating twenty-five brand new jobs.

"You get your dignity back," says Tommy Sanford, a Journeyman Carpenter at WOODWORKS by UpSpire. Tommy first came to the Shelter as a guest with no ID, few resources, and dwindling hope. Working with his Journey Home Guide, Tommy took advantage of all the Shelter had to offer, regaining his stability. Initially slated to work in the kitchen, a different job opportunity sent him to WOODWORKS instead. An opportunity that would awaken a new passion within him.

"It's been the best experience," he says, "the best learning experience imaginable. I'd never built furniture before I stepped into this warehouse. I never worked in an environment that means much more than just a paycheck."

UpSpire will continue playing an even more important part in Fort Worth with the launch of our newest social enterprise in 2026: Greater Good Collective. This UpSpire expansion will include a donation station, a curated thrift store, and coffee shop, adding vital jobs for women and mothers in Fort Worth's Las Vegas Trail district.

Today, Tommy is not only thriving in his vocation, he is also mentoring other individuals as they travel a similar path on their journey home. "Everybody's got a light," he says, smiling, "It's just, you know, helping them turn that switch on."



*Tommy hones his new-found passion.*



*The WOODWORKS by UpSpire crew delivers furniture to a Journey Home Housing community.*

To see more of Tommy's story, scan the QR Code.



# 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL HOME *For the* HOLIDAYS GALA

PRESENTED BY:



The 31st Annual Home for the Holidays Gala was a huge success, surpassing the fundraising goal in support of Presbyterian Night Shelter's programs and community resources.

We are grateful to Texas Capital for presenting this year's event, as well as to our other generous sponsors.

Thanks to our wonderful Gala Committee and our Gala Co-Chairs, Mrs. Kaci & Dr. Jason Biggers and Mrs. Courtney & Dr. Brian Tulbert. Marc Istook once again emceed the program, and Jeff Copeland was the lively auctioneer.



Toby Owen, CEO of  
Presbyterian Night Shelter



Courtney Tulbert and Kaci Biggers welcomes  
the audience.



Marc Istook, Emcee



(L) Auctioneer Jeff Copeland works the room.



**2025 Gala Co-Chairs L-R:**  
Dr. Brian Tulbert, Mrs. Courtney Tulbert;  
Toby Owen, CEO of Presbyterian Night Shelter;  
Mrs. Kaci Biggers, Dr. Jason Biggers



2025 Gala Committee



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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An exciting moment during the Live Auction.



Fun at the After-Party.



To see and download all the photos from the Home for the Holidays Gala, scan the QR Code.





# 'Tis the Season!

**Thank you** for helping our neighbors feel loved this holiday season. So many people have stepped up this year serving meals, collecting coats and cold weather clothes, and delivering special gifts to make the holidays just a little bit brighter.

From donating Thanksgiving meals to all of our Journey Home Housing communities, to providing gifts for our kiddos at The Morris Foundation Family Services Center, our veterans at Patriot House, and all of the other guests at the Shelter — we are so grateful for the love and care our guests receive from our generous community of support during this season of giving!



Your Donation **DOUBLES**  
for neighbors like Denise and Macho



**There is still time to DOUBLE your impact before the end of the year!**

Our generous friend, Glen Gibson, founder of the Red & Rio Foundation is matching all gifts, up to \$40,000.

That means 2X the support for neighbors like Denise and Macho, who, thanks to the generosity of people like you, will enjoy the holidays in their new Journey Home Housing apartment.

Make your end-of-the-year gift go twice as far! Use the QR code to go to the donation page.

