

THE OPEN DOOR

guiding the journey from homeless to home

Presbyterian Night Shelter | Holiday Newsletter 2025



Deborah looks forward to a bright, hopeful future!

YOU HELPED DEBORAH FEEL SEEN

If you asked Deborah why she moved to Fort Worth a few years ago, she would tell you it's where she's meant to be.

After spending most of her life in a small town in Arkansas, where she never really felt safe or at home, she decided to follow her adult daughter's footsteps here.

Deborah and her 17-year-old grandson Anthony, whom she cares for, arrived in Texas in 2022. Initially, they lived with a friend, trying to keep costs down as they settled in a new city. Then, they moved to a motel.

But expenses kept piling up. Deborah was doing everything she could to find work and also care for Anthony, who has disabilities and an autism diagnosis. But then she tore her Achilles tendon. At that point she had to shift her focus from planning to survival.

That's when she came to Presbyterian Night Shelter. They arrived in the fall, right before the holidays.

"I figured, we're in a shelter — Santa Claus ain't coming this year," she remembers with a chuckle. But thanks to the compassion of friends like you, she was wrong.

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Not only were there holiday gifts for the kids, but activities and celebrations for the family too.

"I was amazed at how much assistance families got to help [give] the children some normalcy," Deborah says.

Holiday cheer was just one piece of the comprehensive care Deborah and Anthony benefited from. Staff arranged transportation to Deborah's medical appointments and helped connect Anthony with doctors, mental health specialists, and even a neurologist.

"They care, not just about your physical well-being, but your mental well-being," she shares.

Staff also assisted Deborah in securing a two-bedroom home within one of our Journey Home Housing permanent supportive housing communities, where she and Anthony now live and thrive.

When she saw her new home, Deborah couldn't believe her eyes. "I thought somebody already lived there," she says, laughing. "They told me, 'No ma'am, this is all your furniture.'"

Housing is just the beginning of the next phase of Deborah's life. With a stable, safe home, Deborah has begun teaching Anthony life skills like budgeting through her own great example.

She's also planning to gain custody of her young great-granddaughter, who has nonverbal autism.

"[Presbyterian Night Shelter] didn't just see our situation," she says. "They saw *us*." Joy, support, a bright future, and a new home — your partnership makes it all possible!

MARTHA UPLIFTS OUR COMMUNITY

A little over 25 years ago, Martha retired from her career in corporate America. With the time that retirement afforded her, Martha could focus on what was really important to her — helping people.

All her life, Martha has found true meaning in caring for her community through tutoring and volunteering. "It's just the way I am," she says.

At 60, she came to Presbyterian Night Shelter as part of a church group. In her own words, she felt moved by "the variety of opportunities [provided] to help all walks of life."

In the beginning, Martha and her church volunteered through the church's Angel Forest program, helping Presbyterian Night Shelter organize and distribute Christmas gifts for children staying at the Shelter, ensuring they could experience some of the magic of Christmas.

Right now, her church team is focused on making sure guests who are moving into their own housing have needed household items. Those little details make a huge difference for someone in a transition period.



If you feel called to donate time, Martha suggests following your passions as a way to connect with community. "[You] need to feel it's worthwhile," she explains. "God wants us to take care of ourselves as we take care of each other!"

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
Please visit journeyhome.org/volunteer.



KATHERINE SAYS, "BETTER DAYS WILL COME!"

Each of Katherine's five children has a distinct, vibrant personality. Amari, Ezekiel, Levi, Aiden, and Jade are sure to make their own marks on the world, and Katherine can't wait to see it happen.

To build the brightest future possible for her family, Katherine had to make the hard decision to let them stay with a trusted church family when she came to Fort Worth after leaving an abusive relationship.

She arrived at Presbyterian Night Shelter ready for a fresh start. "I knew I had to set things up so my kids could have what I didn't," she explains.

"The classes [available at the Shelter] really help," she continues. Budgeting, job preparation, goal-setting, and more were topics she took to heart. "They set you up for the next step."

Katherine built a strong community with staff, volunteers, and fellow guests at the Lowdon-Schutts Women's Center where she is currently staying. She's also reconnected with her faith. "It's healing," she says simply.

Now, Katherine is taking steps to enroll at Tarrant County College and study nursing. She's looking forward to this next step in creating a stable home for her children, whom she visits as often as possible.

With faith, optimism, and gratitude, she says, "better days will come!"

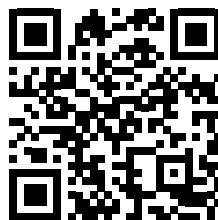
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS GALA

We look forward to celebrating with you!

The 31st Annual Home for the Holidays Gala is right around the corner, and we're excited for a wonderful evening. We will gather on Friday, December 5, 2025, for dining, auctions, and dancing. While the main event is sold out, you can still join the Silent Auction!

To participate, simply scan the QR code to register. Then follow along and place your bids in real time! The Silent Auction opens online on Friday, November 28, 2025.

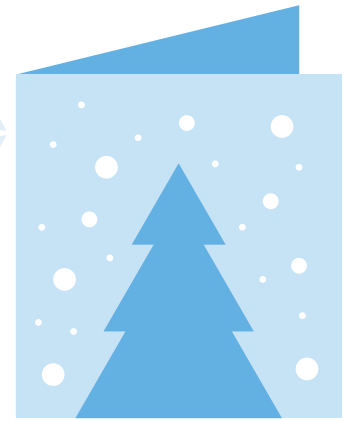
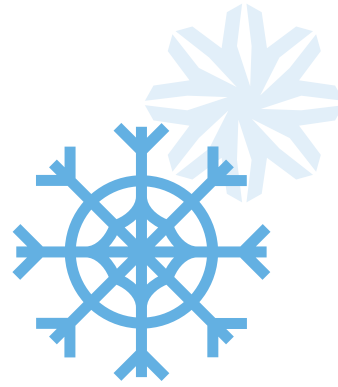
HOME *For the* HOLIDAYS



Use the QR code to register for the Silent Auction. We are grateful for your support!



Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer



DEAR FRIEND,

While many of us look forward to this festive time of year, the holiday spirit can be in short supply for our neighbors who focus every day on just surviving.

It's been an especially hard year for many, but we remain committed to caring for our neighbors through shelter, employment, and supportive housing. Looking ahead, exciting things are on the horizon.

With the recent generous donation of a commercial building, Presbyterian Night Shelter is launching the Greater Good Collective to create low-barrier employment through community-minded microbusinesses, prioritizing populations often excluded from the workforce, such as women and mothers.

Building on UpSpire's proven employment model, the Greater Good Collective will equip individuals with the tools, training, and wraparound supports they need to build stability and thrive long-term.

This past October, we also celebrated the grand opening of 144 units of permanent supportive housing—96 units at Journey Home Housing at Crowley Road and 48 at Journey Home Housing at Camp Bowie West in partnership with New Leaf Community Services.

Thanks to your support and partnership, the holidays are already brighter for our neighbors facing homelessness — like Katherine, who you met in this issue of *The Open Door*.

We are fortunate to be part of this strong and compassionate community. We're grateful for your support during the holidays and throughout the year. Thank you!

Warmest Wishes,

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.