



THE OPEN DOOR

guiding the journey from homeless to home

Presbyterian Night Shelter | Fall Newsletter 2025



"THIS PLACE IS LIFE-CHANGING"

For 12 years, Freddie's daily life was dedicated to protecting our nation in the Army. He started as a mechanic and was eventually stationed in Germany, where he spent nine of his 12 service years.

Coming back to civilian life wasn't the easiest transition. "It's been rough," he shares. "It's a lot on you." Always an optimist, he adds, "But it's constructive — you can better yourself."

Freddie joined the construction industry after leaving the Army. He built a new routine. But then, everything changed.

In February, a head-on vehicle collision left Freddie with five fractures. He couldn't work while healing from such serious physical damage.

"I do construction for a living... but you know, going from \$300 a day to nothing a day, it'll put you in a bad place," he explains.

That's when friends like you stepped in.

After the moment of impact, Freddie faced many challenges at once. First and foremost, he needed to heal — but without a job or income, balancing life's demands was nearly impossible.

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Thankfully, Freddie learned about Presbyterian Night Shelter through the VA. He remembers the surprise of learning that such a resource existed, and the hope that discovery stirred in his heart.

Freddie arrived at Patriot House, our transitional housing program meant specifically for veterans, ready to put in the work. There, he received specialized support from an encouraging community.

Critical documents, case management, housing support, and veteran-specific support groups helped Freddie get back on his feet in just five short weeks. "[staff and volunteers] can guide you in ways I didn't even know existed," he explains.

Now, Freddie has recovered from the accident and secured an apartment. He looks forward to returning to construction work.

"This place is life-changing," he says. "I've seen four or five people get housing just in the short time I've been here. It's a blessing to see someone come here with nothing and leave with a chance at life again."

He adds,

"Without [Patriot House], I don't know where I'd be today. I can't thank them enough."

VOLUNTEER SHERI SAYS, "YOUR STORY MATTERS"

Ask Sheri what her life's purpose is, and she'll answer without hesitation — "My calling is to do missions work."

A student at Bright Divinity School at TCU, Sheri is pursuing a Master of Divinity, continuing her education after working in trauma research.

In 2022, Sheri covered a mental health support group shift at the Mimi Hunter-Fitzgerald Safe Haven Center, our shelter for people with severe mental health conditions. Immediately, she wanted to get more involved.

"It occurred to me that they could use a Bible study," she explains. So, she assembled a team of volunteers from her church to make it happen. Since then, the group has established four Bible studies across our campus, including one at Patriot House.

The groups offer guests spiritual support but also provide an outlet to build community and share experiences and opinions. "Your story matters," Sheri says.

She is often moved by the selflessness of Patriot House guests. "A lot of times it's the veterans [in group] that will step up to help," Sheri explains.

She adds,

"I came here thinking I'm helping them, but I get filled up too...this may be one of the things that I continue doing for as long as I live."

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Please visit journeyhome.org/volunteer.



Sheri hosts a Bible Study group weekly and any guest at Patriot House is welcome to join in.



Gary, an Army Veteran, found help and hope at Patriot House.

YOU HELPED GARY FIND PEACE

A quiet afternoon of fishing is how Gary finds peace. Although it isn't quite the same now without his late wife, he still appreciates the stillness and time outside.

"I like quiet time. I like to fish. I love to cook," he says. The meals Gary makes remind him of his large family, whom he loves to cook for at reunions and holiday gatherings.

Gary's peace recently became uncertain after the high cost of living impacted his housing security. But thankfully, your friendship provided a lifeline in the chaos.

When Gary came to Presbyterian Night Shelter, he found help in a variety of forms. As an Army Veteran, Gary had access to Patriot House and benefitted from veteran-specific programming.

One-on-one guidance from staff and volunteers, as well as group support, helped Gary form meaningful connections at Patriot House.

"You feel the love from the [staff]... they try to help you."

In just one month at Patriot House, Gary received a housing voucher — a key step in returning to self-sufficiency in the long-term and regaining the peace of housing security.

Soon, Gary will have his very own place to call home — which means a kitchen to cook family meals in again. Thank you for helping make this possible!

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF SERVICE!



Our Day of Service is right around the corner! This day of volunteering will take place Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 8:00am-12:00pm. We will have some big projects to tackle across our campus and are counting on lots of hands to help get everything done.

Day of Service is a terrific sponsorship and volunteer opportunity for businesses, faith groups, school groups, community groups, and others with a heart for their community!

If you would like to be a sponsor of this meaningful annual event, or if you would like to sign your group up to put in some sweat equity, contact Lillian Holmes, Donor Engagement Manager, at lholfmes@journeyhome.org.

**TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
OR SPONSOR THIS EVENT,
USE THE QR CODE:**





Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

As the season begins to change around us, I hope you remember that you provide a pillar of stability and hope for our neighbors. Thank you.

This fall, we look forward to our Day of Service, when our community comes together in service of the veterans who have so generously given their own service to our nation. I hope you'll consider joining us for this important day.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that over 40,000 veterans are homeless on any given night in our country. The lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders can impact our veterans even more, making our shared work especially important.

Run in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, our Patriot House Veteran Service

Center provides veteran-specific support, resources, and programming to help our neighbors who have served begin their journey home — like Gary, p. 3.

We continue to prioritize housing-first solutions for our veterans, and any neighbor looking for support on the journey home.

In 2024, partners like you helped 53 veterans move into permanent, independent housing. I hope you'll continue supporting our work so we can provide the same level of care throughout the rest of the year. Thank you again for your compassion!

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.