



THE OPEN DOOR

guiding the journey from homeless to home

Presbyterian Night Shelter | Winter Newsletter 2026

SONIA FOUND HEALING AND HOPE

Sonia knows firsthand how quickly life can change.

One day, she was working hard as usual in a job that had taken her from Amarillo to Dallas, when she suffered a severe hand injury.

All of a sudden, life looked very different. Sonia faced a lot of healing and recovery ahead, and her ability to work had been severely limited. She began using her savings to make ends meet, feeling anxiety creep in as the account dwindled each month.

“The money that I had ran out,” she sums up.

Running out of options, Sonia began asking around for resources. From a friend, she heard of a place in Fort Worth where support was available — Presbyterian Night Shelter. She felt a glimmer of hope.

“So, I came here,” she says. That’s when things began changing again, but this time for the better.

When she arrived, Sonia had multiple pressing health concerns, including the hand injury and high blood pressure. “They worked with me,” she says of Presbyterian Night Shelter’s staff. They supported her through care coordination and support in navigating. Soon, her blood pressure was down, and her injury had been addressed.



Sonia often wears a hopeful smile

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“They don’t just help with medical — they help with mental [health] too,” Sonia continues. “I felt safe...as time went on, I relaxed, and I felt comfortable.”

Our Journey Home Guides helped Sonia navigate through a disability income application: income that could bring back key autonomy. “They want you to be independent,” she says gratefully.

In Sonia’s journey to stability and a home of her own, she attended classes like financial literacy, her favorite. She’s looking forward to putting what she learned into practice.

Altogether, the resources Sonia received provided a complete level of support and a foundation for a better future. After almost a year staying at our Lowdon-Schutts Women’s Center, she is preparing to return to independence soon.

Despite how quickly her life changed, Sonia is thankful for the opportunities that have opened up for her since coming to Presbyterian Night Shelter. “Had this place not been here...I don’t know where I would have ended up,” she says gratefully.

THREE SISTERS, COUNTLESS COMMUNITY BONDS

“These are our sisters.”

That’s Roquel, a founding member of the nonprofit Three Sisters Community Connection. She’s talking about the women she’s met volunteering at Lowdon-Schutts Women’s Center — connections that will last a lifetime.

“Helping other people just brings a joy to us,” Roquel says.

Every year, Three Sisters sets up a pop-up boutique for the guests at Lowdon-Schutts Women’s Center. Clothing, undergarments, you name it — they set out the items (all new, all free) and make sure to take any requests.

“We’re staying true to our ladies...they make suggestions, and we listen,” she says.

The effect of the pop-up boutique is clear. Roquel and her sisters, acting on compassion instilled in them by their grandmother, are sharing more than just clothes and hygiene items. They’re sharing dignity and friendship through a traditional shopping experience.

Now four years in, Roquel wants to continue listening and serving. She knows that’s what makes the pop-up so successful. Visitors feel heard, welcomed, and appreciated. When they leave, they leave with new



Roquel (Center) and fellow volunteers of 3 Sisters

items, new friends, and a sisterhood bracelet to remind them that they are loved.

Roquel sees the impact of her volunteering everywhere — especially when she spots those sisterhood bracelets. “It’s just beautiful,” she says.

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

INTRODUCING THE GREATER GOOD COLLECTIVE



Opening Spring 2026, Greater Good Collective will be a vibrant UpSpire expansion where neighbors connect and thrive. The campus will offer retail jobs at our coffee shop, thrift store, and boutique, creating opportunities for women and mothers seeking stability and meaningful employment.

Come visit, share a cup, and make a difference together!



Safety and stability are the most important things to Briana

BRIANA'S DREAM IS COMING TRUE

When Briana envisions her future, she dreams of a safe neighborhood street outside of her very own front window. "Not too much noise...somewhere calm, quiet," she explains. A stable home where she can raise her soon-to-be-born child with kind neighbors and a reliable roof overhead.

Originally from New York, Briana moved to Texas 12 years ago. She went back and forth between the homes of her mother, aunt, and sister, but it wasn't sustainable.

It wasn't until she came to Presbyterian Night Shelter that Briana finally gained the tools to build her own safe future.

Here, Briana found a community that cared. She connected with a fellow guest at the Lowdon-Schutts Women's Center, whom she now calls her best friend.

Staff assisted Briana with obtaining vital documents and began working right away to fast-track her housing application. "They want me to have housing before I have my child," she shares.

Now, Briana's dream of a safe and stable place of her own is closer than ever. She looks forward to giving her baby a loving, safe home.

"[I want to be] the best mom that I can be for my child,"

she shares, adding gratitude for friends like you who've helped along the way.



Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

As we all settle into the new year, I want to take a moment to say how much we appreciate you. We're able to transform lives at Presbyterian Night Shelter because of you. Thank you sincerely for helping us break the cycle of homelessness in our hometown.

This year, we have big news: Greater Good Collective will launch soon as an expansion of UpSpire focused on creating jobs for women and mothers with young children. Through initiatives like this, we continue expanding pathways to stability and employment opportunities.

Together with you, we continue working to address the housing barriers impacting North Texans. From helping individuals regain stability to supporting families as they prepare for a place to call home, your partnership makes lasting change possible.

The stories you've read in this issue of *The Open Door* bring that work to life. From Sonia's journey of healing

and renewed hope, to the care and dignity shared through volunteer partnerships, to a mother preparing a safe future for her child, these pages reflect what your partnership makes possible.

Your support allows us to meet people where they are and provide employment opportunities, housing support, emergency shelter, and daily essentials when they are needed most.

Thank you for standing with us and for continuing to care so deeply about our neighbors. Partners like you are proof that our community truly does make a difference.

Warmest Wishes,

Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer

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We strive to break the cycles of homelessness and empower our guests through shelter, housing, and employment.



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.