



THE OPEN DOOR

guiding the journey from homeless to home

Presbyterian Night Shelter | Fall Newsletter 2026



Joe worked tirelessly to purchase a new car.

JOE FORGED A NEW FUTURE

By the time he was in his early 20s, Joe had seen more than many people have in a lifetime. He enlisted in the Marine Corps right out of high school, and his four-year service took him to Beirut, Lebanon, where he was on the ground during the Lebanese Civil War.

Returning to civilian life was like stepping into another world. To cope with the huge change, Joe did the one thing he does best: he got to work.

And he built a life for himself. Jobs in electrical, plumbing and HVAC gave him the stability to take care of himself. He moved to the Dallas Fort Worth area. Things were working out...

"And then all of a sudden, I ran into some problems," Joe says. "And I just went spiraling downhill."

"I ended up in the county jail on a charge I didn't commit," he continues. "I was there for six months, and they dropped the charge...but then, they basically dropped me out the front door."

"I was standing in the street, homeless."

"I'd never been homeless before," Joe says. He slept on couches and even lived in a friend's tool shed at one point, just to have a roof overhead.

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Presbyterian Night Shelter,” he continues. “And they had [room at] Patriot House.”

Here, Joe was in good company, surrounded by people who were as motivated and invested in his

It wasn’t in Joe’s nature to get comfortable in the uncertainty. “You’ve got to have a place to stay, but you’ve also got to build a future,” he says.

“I contacted the VA, and the VA contacted

future as he was, from staff to volunteers to fellow Veterans with shared experiences.

“[Patriot House] provided an avenue to build a future, with all these resources,” Joe says.

Each step, from getting his critical documents to getting a job and saving for a car, brought Joe one step closer to regaining stability.

After nine months of hard work, Joe moved into Journey Home Housing at Crowley Road, one of Presbyterian Night Shelter’s permanent supportive housing communities. And he’s not done yet: he aims to land a new job in his field soon.

“There’s a way out of homelessness,” he says. “Don’t give up. Never stop trying.”

A MONTHLY VISIT FILLS PATTI’S HEART

Patti has a routine. On the last Thursday of every month, she’ll meet with a volunteer ministry group at her church and head to Presbyterian Night Shelter for a celebration.

The occasion? A monthly birthday and bingo party with the residents of Patriot House.

For Patti, the day has deeper roots. Her brother received help from a similar organization in San Diego when he found himself homeless. Two years ago, he passed away. And in the grief of losing him, Patti made a discovery.

“Because of him, I wanted to do something,” she says. “[Volunteering here] really gives me that connection to my brother.”

Since August of 2024, Patti has found true meaning at Patriot House. “You’re always needed,” she says. She loves seeing how supportive the environment is here. “If someone wins a prize and they pick the bag of chips, they’ll open it and offer it to every guy in that room.”

“They help me more than I ever help them,” she shares.



Patti along with her volunteer group from White Chapel and Patriot House guests.



Prizes for bingo include clothes, food and more.



Patriot House guests enjoy a lively bingo game!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Please visit journeyhome.org/volunteer.

NEXT STOP, HOME!

Andrew can’t wait to get home. The journey back to stability has taken time, but it will be worth it once he has his own space, privacy, and, most importantly, the chance to get a new pet.

“I would love to be able to get another dog,” he says.

Andrew has always loved animals. During his time touring Germany and Iraq with the Army, he wasn’t able to keep one.

After his service, Andrew began feeling the effects of a hard transition. He put his all into keeping things moving, and worked a few different jobs. But layoffs, a divorce, a period of time in jail — it added up. By the time he was released, he knew it was time to try something different.

He heard about Patriot House days after being released, and came straight over. Here was a safe place, a veteran-focused program, practical help navigating paperwork and documents, and meaningful community. “I’ve met a lot of good guys here...I made two really good friends,” he says.

Now, Andrew has received a housing voucher.

“Being here has opened the doors to allow me to get the help that I need,”

he says. The next step? Getting a house, and the furry friend that will make it a *home*!



Andrew has made lifelong friends at Patriot House.

ALL ABOUT DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS



If you’re considering how your impact can go further at Presbyterian Night Shelter, a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) may be the right choice for you.

A donor-advised fund is a charitable giving account, managed by an institution or foundation, that grows tax-free.

It’s similar to establishing a private foundation, but lets you maximize your donations with less

expense and paperwork than a private foundation.

You can contribute cash or assets to the account, as well as claim an immediate tax deduction for donations.

Consult with your attorney or estate planning professional to determine if this is the right step for you.

Have questions? Please contact our Development Office at (817) 632-7414 or plannedgiving@journeyhome.org.



Toby Owen
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Soon, we'll be trading the hot summer sun for fall. At Presbyterian Night Shelter, our work continues no matter what season it is — and we are so grateful to count you a part of it.

The most recent national Point in Time Count showed a staggering number: an estimated 32,495 veterans are currently experiencing homelessness nationwide, with roughly half of that population living with severe mental illness.

But homelessness and mental illness don't have to be the cost of freedom. Together, we can show the people who served our country that we care, that we see them, and that they aren't alone. That's why we operate Patriot House, in partnership with the Veterans Administration, where Veterans just like Andrew, p. 3, and Joe found hope for a new life.

Our Veteran-focused programming at Patriot House supports not just immediate needs, but

long-term success as well, making it possible for Veterans facing homelessness to not only leave homelessness, but to leave it behind for good.

A 16% decrease in Veteran homelessness in Tarrant County this past year shows our approach is working. Your partnership plays a key role in making this happen.

As long as our neighbors are experiencing homelessness, we will be here to provide the resources, tools, and encouragement needed to guide the journey home. Thank you for being a part of this mission, and happy fall!

With gratitude,

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.