

October 2026 E-Newsletter

A Caring Community's Generous Response

A SERIES OF STRUCTURE FIRES AFFECTED PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER THIS SUMMER, impacting Shelter guests and Housing residents. A house fire and an apartment fire displaced a number of residents in our Housing Solutions (HoSo) program (see related story elsewhere in this publication). A third fire took out a storage

building containing winter supplies for Shelter guests, including coats, clothing, hygiene products, and housewares. Between the fire, water, and smoke damage, the contents were a total loss. Fortunately, no one was injured in any of these incidents.

The storage building fire was particularly challenging because it destroyed supplies our guests will need as colder weather approaches. While all three fires made the local news, for the Shelter, the bigger story is how quickly and generously the community responded.



CBS 11 was one of the news outlets reporting the storage building fire.

"I tell you, the response that we had from the community – it was just tremendous," stated Toby Owen, Chief Executive Officer. "I've always known that Fort Worth and our community is a very giving community, and within just a few days, all of the items were replaced from the donations we received."

Donors from across the Metroplex joined the effort by making financial contributions, as well as in-kind donations – whether new items ordered through our Amazon wish list or gently used items dropped off at our Greater Give Donation Station. Financial contributions have fully funded the planned replacement of the storage building.

"We plan to rebuild the shed," Owen continues, "and we're also going to do a few other things that will add a little more safety and security around where that shed's located."

Plans for the new building will also include better storage solutions that will allow us to maximize all that we have received.

(continues on page 2)



Scan QR code to watch Toby Owen's message of gratitude to the community:



Community Response (cont. from p. 1)

The old structure will soon be demolished, and the space will be cleared and prepared for construction of the new storage unit. In the meantime, donations are being safely stored in the UpSpire warehouse and inside the dispensaries in our overnight shelter facilities.

"I'm super thankful for the community," Owen concludes. "They showed up to help us in a very specific and immediate way by providing all the products we needed to help our guests, as well as financial support to be able to rebuild. I'm very thankful for our community – they make a tremendous difference."



HoSo Helps Residents Find Home — Again

A THREE-ALARM FIRE RIPPED THROUGH THE MARIPOSA APARTMENTS IN THE WHITE SETTLEMENT AREA OF FORT WORTH ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 25, 2026. The Fort Worth Fire Department at the time estimated that at least 100 residents were displaced after the building was completely devastated. Among those residents were ten Housing Solutions (HoSo) tenants.

Ashlee Coleman, Program Manager for HoSo, learned about the fire as soon as she got to work. "I walked into work," she said, "and my lead, Beth, says, 'I think the apartments of one of our clients might be on fire.'"

Soon, word came in from another client that indeed their building was on fire. The entire HoSo team jumped into action, making phone calls to find all the residents and ensure they were okay.

"We were able to get ahold of quite a few by phone," Coleman continues, "but there were some we couldn't get ahold of, so we got concerned." She and several of her team members hopped into the car and drove to the apartment complex, which was still burning. They set about trying to locate every one of the clients in their care, handing out water to firefighters and residents in the midst of the confusion.

"It was a little nerve-wracking when I couldn't get ahold of a few clients," she says. "And one particular client, his unit was like the worst one of all. We kept calling and calling him and leaving voice mail. So that was challenging. I think it was the next day when we finally heard from him. Both he and his old dog had gotten out right away."

Ultimately, all of the HoSo clients were located – all safe and all uninjured. The apartments, however, were a total loss. Coleman explains that the City of Fort Worth and the Red Cross were both amazing partners to work with, providing gift cards and hotel vouchers for those who were suddenly faced with the prospect of no roof over their heads. Meanwhile, the HoSo staff went to work, focused and committed to ensuring the residents were not displaced for long, making phone calls and finding suitable, available space where they could land on their feet.



"The staff was tremendous in helping the people who were actually displaced," commented Toby Owen. "They were able to [rehouse all the residents] within about one or two weeks. That's extremely quick to find that many places for someone to live."

Coleman credits the team's determination and willingness to do whatever was needed. "We had to stop everything we were doing. When I tell you everybody jumped in and took control of the situation – getting inspections done, advocating for clients – they did everything. They got the van to transport clients to their new units, they helped them get their groceries, helping clients get the items they needed for their new places. They were so amazing," she says with pride.



EACH YEAR, OUR DAY OF SERVICE IS A HIGHLIGHT, bringing hundreds of volunteers together to tackle a variety of projects around our seven-acre campus. This year, volunteers will create a new outdoor gaming area for veterans at Patriot House and refresh campus landscaping. We'll also clean and organize freezers, our Dispensary, and other storage areas. We look forward to an impactful morning of service and community.

Here's a huge thank you to our sponsors: *Lockheed Martin*, *First Command Financial*, *Atmos*, *TPG*, *Range Resources*, *Men Serving God*, and *Ciera Bank*. Special thanks to *Frost* for sponsoring breakfast for our hardworking crews!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | 8:00AM-12:00PM



SPONSORED BY

LOCKHEED MARTIN 

Where the Lovelight Gleams



PRESENTED BY  **Texas Capital**

Our stellar Gala Committee is setting the stage for an unforgettable **32nd Annual Home for the Holidays Gala presented by Texas Capital!** On **Friday, Dec. 4, 2026**. The Fort Worth Club will sparkle with glitter and glam — all to benefit Presbyterian Night Shelter.

You don't have to attend to share in the excitement — or win! Scan the QR code to register for the Silent Auction and purchase Raffle tickets. The Silent Auction opens on Friday, November 27, 2026 at 9:00am.



Browse the items, place your bids, and follow the action online! Raffle winners will be drawn at the Gala.



Golden Ticket Raffle

Your golden opportunity is almost here! Our Home for the Holidays Golden Ticket Raffle opens Wednesday, November 4, with a chance to win a **Rolex Men's Deepsea 44 mm watch with an Oystersteel bracelet**. Its distinctive D-blue dial transitions from brilliant blue to deep black, complemented by luminous hour markers, a date display, and a black ceramic Cerachrom bezel.

Tickets are \$100 each, with only 300 available. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Gala on Friday, December 4, and you do not need to be present to win.

Keep an eye out for the ticket purchase link, coming November 4!

WOODWORKS BY UPSPIRE™

Give something meaningful this holiday season.

WOODWORKS by UpSpire offers beautiful, handcrafted gifts that create jobs, build skills, and support adults transitioning out of homelessness. With customizable options, every purchase is a gift with purpose.



Pictured: Decorative Christmas Trees

Holiday Gift Catalog 2026

Holiday Shopping Made Simple

With the holidays right around the corner, our WOODWORKS by UpSpire crew is as busy as a shop full of elves, creating unique gifts for those special people on your shopping list! Check out the 2026 Holiday Gift Catalog to find the perfect handcrafted gift. Each item is made with skill and love, and every purchase supports hands-on training and employment through WOODWORKS. Order by December 14, 2026, to receive your items before Christmas. Use the QR Code to see this year's offerings!



Calling All Artisans!

The Greater Good Collective is hosting our first Artisan Market on **Saturday, November 14, from 10 AM to 5 PM**. Come get a jump on your holiday shopping as there are sure to be plenty of unique handcrafted items that will make the perfect gift for your friends and loved ones. We are also looking for artisans to join us. If you handcraft jewelry, pottery, textiles, home goods, bath and body products, or one-of-a-kind pieces, we'd love to have you.



It's a chance to share your work with our community just in time for holiday shopping. Use the QR code to apply!



Saturday, November 14, 2026
10AM – 5PM



the Greater good
COLLECTIVE

2603 South Cherry Lane
Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Benefiting the Presbyterian Night Shelter of Fort Worth

