



# Presbyterian Night Shelter

guiding the journey home for **40** years

## March 2024 E-Newsletter

### The Love in Carrie's Closet

(click image to watch video)



**When Carrie Hamstra passed away from ALS, she left behind many broken-hearted friends and a closet full of amazing clothes.** Rather than simply donate her clothes to an organization, Carrie's friends decided to create a legacy in Carrie's name, using them as a starting point. Led by Courtney Tulbert, they acquired other donations of high-quality clothing items and started the nonprofit Carrie's Closet, to bring a pop-up boutique shopping experience to women who are exiting homelessness.

Carrie was a huge lover of fashion and when she could no longer care for herself toward the end of her life, her friends would pull together coordinated outfits for her for each week, lining them up for the nurses to put on her each day. Incredibly opinionated about everything she wore, Carrie would give an enthusiastic, "Yes!" or a firm, "No." to each item.

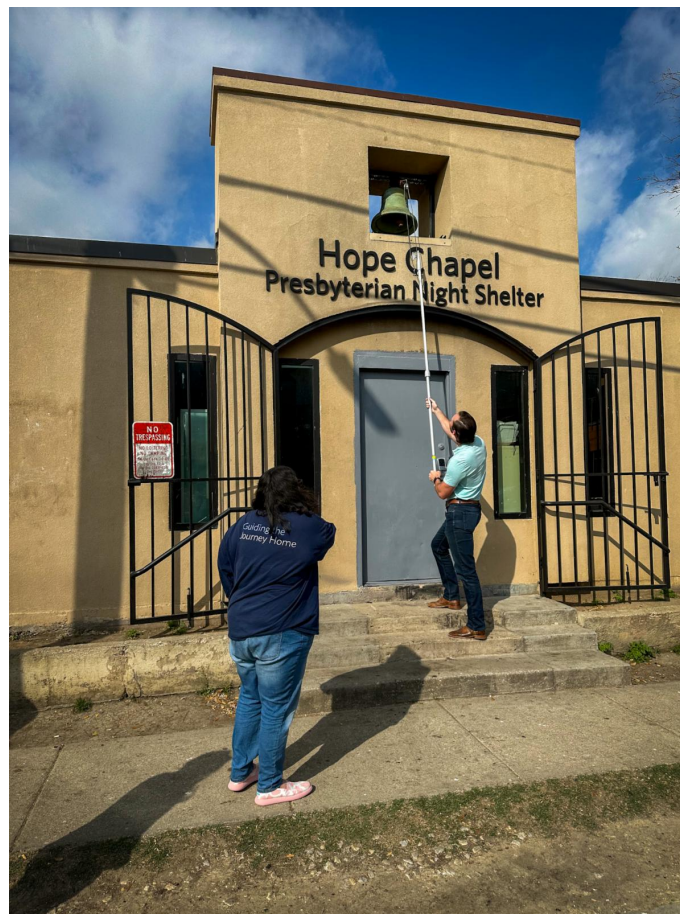
“One of the things that kept her going...was the fact that she could still choose what she wore,” says Tulbert, reminiscing about her late best friend. “We thought, well, if that kept her going and she knew that her end was not going to be one of ever coming out of that hospital bed, how would that be for women who did have a choice to turn things around for themselves?”

And so, Carrie's Closet was born. Loaded with clothing donations from all over the world, the fledgling nonprofit hosted its premiere pop-up at Morris Foundation Family Services Center this past November, followed by another again in February, and a third scheduled for May. The guests are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with a personal stylist and select complete outfits for job interviews, a parent-teacher conference, or even just an evening out.

“I have three job interviews this week,” said one guest, beaming as she descends in the elevator, shopping bags filled with new outfits, “these clothes are a real blessing! I feel so confident and I'm ready to get that job!”

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## From Homeless to Home!



**Each Monday morning**, we ring our chapel bell - one time for each person who exits homelessness that week and moves into a home of their own. That bell has been ringing a lot more lately, thanks to our *Journey Home Housing*. The first Monday of March, the bell rang 47 times, it's bright sound of hope echoing across our campus. What made that number even more exciting was knowing that 18 of those bell rings represented children - 18 children who moved out of the Shelter and are now sleeping in their own beds. Cheers to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond,

take our mission of "guiding the journey from homeless to home" to heart!

As our guests move into their new homes, we provide them with a Move-Out Basket which includes cleaning products, sheets and towels, laundry products, and more. We are always in need of the items that make up these Move-Out Baskets. If you would like to help welcome someone into their new home, click the button below and place an order off of our [Amazon Wishlist](#)!

[I Want to Help with a Move-Out Basket!](#)

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## Announcing our New Chief Philanthropy Officer

We're thrilled to share that Presbyterian Night Shelter has appointed **Brenda Rios, CFRE**, as our new Chief Philanthropy Officer, tasked with driving strategic revenue growth.

Join us in congratulating Brenda as she steps into this new, expanded role. We look forward to her continued success and dedication to fulfilling our mission of guiding the journey from homeless to home.





**Brenda Rios, CFRE**

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## **30th Annual Home for the Holidays Gala Planning Underway**

Spring has sprung, with trees budding, flowers blooming, and bird songs filling the air! And although we may be experiencing a slight case of spring fever, planning is already underway for the *30th Annual Home for the Holidays Gala*, to be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, once again at the historic Fort Worth Club.

This unofficial kick-off to the holiday season in Fort Worth is sure to be another terrific party, raising vital funds to support our work of providing emergency shelter and services, low barrier employment, and permanent affordable housing with wraparound services.

"We are eagerly anticipating the *30th Annual Home for the Holidays Gala*, where we will celebrate 40 years of Presbyterian Night Shelter history and giving back to the community," co-chairs Kaci Biggers and Courtney Tulbert said in a joint statement.

"Having been actively engaged with both the gala and the Shelter for several years, we have witnessed the remarkable growth during this time. It's thrilling to see how the Shelter not only addresses the immediate needs of the individuals and families they support, but also demonstrates a commitment to planning for and meeting future needs through various programs, training, housing, and beyond!"

Sponsorship opportunities are now open! If you would like to support the mission of Presbyterian Night Shelter by sponsoring a table at one of Fort Worth's hottest holiday events, contact Curtis Rhodes at [crhodes@journeyhome.org](mailto:crhodes@journeyhome.org).



**Kaci Biggers (L) and Courtney Tulbert (R) are co-chairs for the 30th Annual Home for the Holidays Gala to be held December 6, 2024.**

**Yes! I want to help our neighbors in need  
with my financial support**

**Guiding the journey home with your help!**

The support we receive from our community, be it financial, donated items or time and talent from volunteers, makes a tremendous impact on our organization and guests. We'll never ask our guests to collect donations on our behalf. Learn how you can play an active role in helping ensure everyone in our community has a place to call home.

## Learn and Share

One of the easiest ways to support Presbyterian Night Shelter is just a click away! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn to stay up to date on what is happening at Presbyterian Night Shelter and share the incredible stories and life-changing work with your friends and family.



Presbyterian Night Shelter | P.O. Box 2645, Fort Worth, TX 76113

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