

# THE OPEN DOOR

*guiding the journey from homeless to home*

Presbyterian Night Shelter | Holiday Newsletter 2024



Kaitlynn, Charles, Aurora and Bloom appreciate your support!

## YOU HELP KAITLYNN AND CHARLES' FAMILY THRIVE

**A**urora, 3, is getting ready to begin HeadStart this year. She's a great role model to her little sister Bloom, 2, who will follow in her footsteps next year.

Mom, Kaitlynn, and dad, Charles, couldn't be prouder of the two girls. A stable home and a bright future is their dream for the family — and friends like you are helping to make it happen this holiday season.

Both Charles and Kaitlynn worked full-time at Samsung to support their daughters and Charles' mom, who lived with the family. But with the cost of

living so high, even essentials were tough to balance in the budget.

The family was in a situation that's all too common — earning too much to qualify for any assistance, but not enough to plan ahead. So when Kaitlynn suddenly lost her job, the family faced compounding hardship.

Unable to catch up with the growing bills, they were forced to leave their home and made other sacrifices too.

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“We were...basically having to choose between eating or getting the hotel room,” Charles explains. “If we had the room, then we didn’t have enough to eat.”

For over a year, the family tried everything to stabilize their living situation, which became even harder when Charles fell ill.

Then, a visit to True Worth Place brought hope. Right away, our caring staff got to work placing the family in our Morris Foundation Family Services Center.

In Kaitlynn’s words, “Walking into True Worth Place and seeing how quickly everything changed was amazing. Within two weeks, we went from sleeping in our car to having a place to call home.”

Presbyterian Night Shelter’s swift, compassionate response brought Kaitlynn and Charles immediate relief. At the Morris Foundation Family Services Center, the children soon found joy, playing on the playground and growing quickly in a safe, stable environment.

With caring friends like you behind them, Kaitlynn and Charles have begun to rebuild their lives, including getting new jobs, improving their credit, and gaining housing support, all in time for a special holiday season.

The support is truly appreciated, Charles says. “We’re determined to make the most of this opportunity and create a stable future for our family.”

“We’re excited about moving into our new place,” Kaitlynn adds happily. “The first thing I’m going to do is lay on the carpet and just enjoy it. It’s been a while since we’ve had a space to truly call our own!”

*“Within two weeks, we went from sleeping in our car to having a place to call home.”*

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS GALA

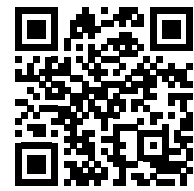


The 30th Anniversary Home for the Holidays Gala is right around the corner, and we’re excited for a great event! We will gather on Friday, December 6, 2024, for this

evening of dining, auctions, and dancing. The main event is already sold out, however, there are ways you can still participate!

First, if you’d like to participate in the silent auction, it’s easy to register. Then, follow along and place your bids in real time!

For the first time, we will be hosting an “After Party” this year from 9:00pm – midnight. Dinner and the Live Auction will be over, but the night will still be young! Hop out on the dance floor with Time Machine Band and enjoy the open bar. Tickets for this portion are only \$150.



Use the QR Code to purchase your After Party ticket and/or to register for the silent auction! We look forward to having you celebrate with us!

## CARLOS’ FUTURE IS BRIGHT, THANKS TO YOU



Carlos’ smile shows his resilience and gratitude.

Carlos has never shied away from hard work. A veteran and a father, he served in the army with the same dedication he commits to everything in his life.

Following his service, Carlos returned to civilian life to focus on his wife and growing children. Sadly, it became clear over time that the best thing for the family was for Carlos and his wife to separate. So, he moved to Fort Worth, to be closer to his youngest daughter.

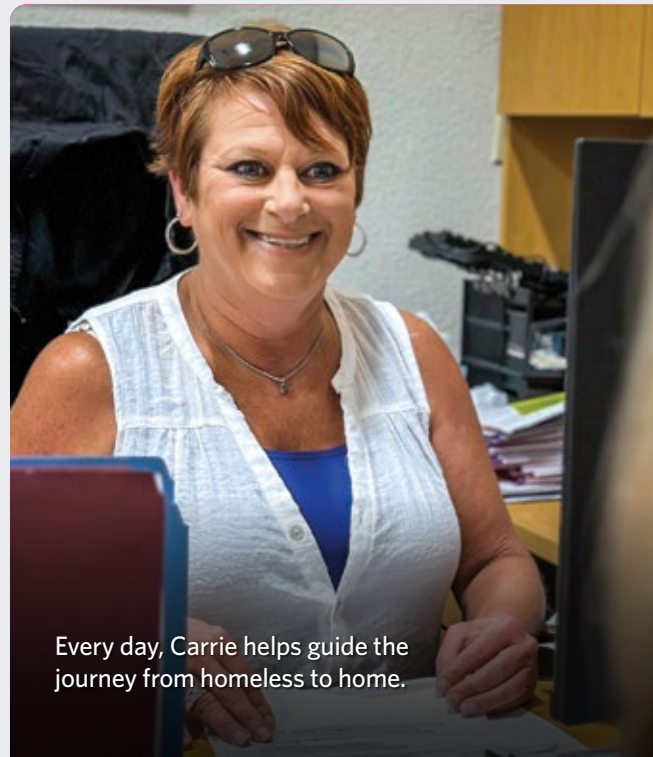
The separation severely strained Carlos’s financial and emotional well-being, making it difficult to adjust to a new city. Carlos needed help to land on his feet.

Without a place to stay, he faced waitlists of two months or more before he could receive assistance.

Thankfully, friends like you stepped in to ensure that Carlos could stay at our Karl Travis Men’s Center. Soon after, he moved to Patriot House, our transitional housing program meant specifically for veterans.

With the support he needed, Carlos was able to focus on finding a stable job and securing a home.

*“It worked for me,”* Carlos says of the program that YOU so generously support. He adds, “I’m doing good at saving money and managing my money.” At such a special time of year, we are so grateful for your partnership in our mission! Thank you.



Every day, Carrie helps guide the journey from homeless to home.

## CARRIE’S 18 YEARS OF IMPACT

As Vice President of Human Resources, Carrie Taylor has been an agent of good at Presbyterian Night Shelter since she joined our team in 2006.

As one of our longest-serving staff members, Carrie has helped to shape the expansion of our many services, especially UpSpire, our social enterprise dedicated to providing opportunity and lowering barriers to employment.

Carrie oversees the hiring and talent management agency wide. Through her work, countless people have received the fair pay, benefits, and opportunity for change which help provide stability and end the cycle of homelessness.

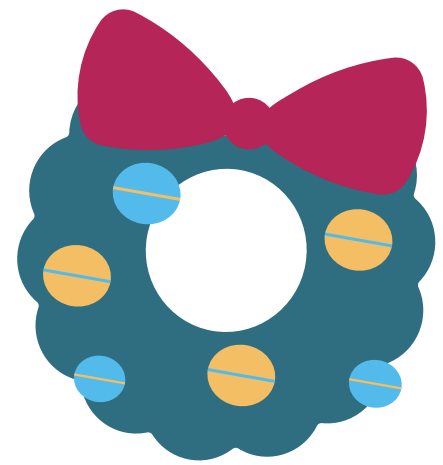
“[This job is about] caring and wanting to try and help make a difference in people’s lives. So, it’s rewarding every day,” Carrie shares with a smile.

When Carrie hires a guest at Presbyterian Night Shelter, she’s always excited to see how bright the future becomes. “We have multiple employees on staff who started in janitorial and worked their way up to administrative and case management positions over the years,” she explains, adding “I’m grateful we’re able to provide these opportunities.”

As a word of gratitude for your generous partnership, Carrie says “Everybody’s support is extremely appreciated.” Thank you, Carrie! We could not have reached 40 years of service without the dedication and passion of staff like you.



Toby Owen  
Chief Executive Officer



## DEAR FRIEND,

**M**y wish is that you are enjoying a holiday season full of cheer, and sharing this special time with your loved ones.

I am especially glad for this season of celebration, as Presbyterian Night Shelter will be recognizing a big anniversary this December — 40 years of service!

As I reflect on our humble beginning as a “sit up” shelter in an old elementary school, I am grateful for the support of friends like you. Your generosity has helped make the Shelter what it is today — a safe space to house roughly 725 guests every night.

In 40 years of service, we’ve added many resources and programs in response to the growing need in our community, like employment opportunities through UpSpire, specialized shelter for veterans and individuals experiencing mental health challenges, and critical services like laundry, meals, case management, and more.

In this issue of *The Open Door*, you’ll learn more about how these programs are changing lives — like Carlos’, p. 3, who found stability and a fresh start at Patriot House, our dedicated veteran housing.

Thanks to the caring support of our community, we were proud to launch Journey Home Housing last year, meeting the need for permanent supportive housing faced by many families and individuals.

I am looking forward to many more years of impact made together! Thank you, and happy holidays.

Warmest Wishes,

**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.