



# Presbyterian Night Shelter

guiding the journey home for **40** years

## December 2024 E-Newsletter

### Presbyterian Night Shelter at 40

(click image to watch video)



On December 10, 2024, Presbyterian Night Shelter celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with an intimate gathering at True Worth Place. We were honored to have the current pastors of our three founding churches - First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, and Ridglea Presbyterian Church - here to tell the story of the Shelter's history and mission. Our CEO, Toby Owen, shared exciting plans for what is next for the agency, including growth of Journey Home Housing and UpSpire over the next ten years.

This month's video is a window into the history of Presbyterian Night Shelter, which was born as a result of the death of an unhoused man during the winter of 1983 - the coldest on record in Fort Worth. One year later, Presbyterian Night Shelter opened in the James E. Guinn Elementary School building on Rosedale Avenue. That first night in 1984, only 4 guests stayed at the simple "sit up" shelter; today, we shelter over 700 people each night!

With the help and hard work of our volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners, we are breaking the cycle of chronic homelessness in Tarrant County. Thank you for helping us serve our community for 40 years and counting!



**Speakers at the 40th Birthday celebration, from L-R:** Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Callender, *St. Stephen Presbyterian Church*; Toby Owen, CEO, *Presbyterian Night Shelter*; Rev. Roger Harwerth, *Ridglea Presbyterian Church*; Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter, *First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth*.

[Click to Support Presbyterian Night Shelter for our 40th Birthday](#)

## 30th Anniversary Home for the Holidays Gala a Hit!



**The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Home for the Holidays Gala presented by Luther King Capital Management** was the perfect kick-off to the holiday season, and set a fundraising record for the annual event.

Together, we raised over \$537,000 in funds that will go to supporting the many programs here at Presbyterian Night Shelter. A huge thank you to our sponsors for the evening, to everyone who donated goods and services for our silent auction, our Master of Ceremonies Marc Istook, and our wonderful committee. Thank you all for making such a wonderful event possible!



From top:

- Co-chairs Kaci Biggers and Courtney Tulbert share a magical moment of lighting trees honoring all those who have moved out of homelessness in the Shelter's history;
- Emcee for the evening, Marc Istook at the podium;
- Auctioneer Jeff Copeland and his crew;
- Bell Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth greeted guests with cheerful carols;
- Guests fill the dance floor, enjoying music by Time Machine Band;
- Gala co-chairs (L-R) Dr. Jason Biggers, Kaci Biggers, Toby Owen, Courtney Tulbert, Dr. Brian Tulbert.

## UpSpire Furniture in the News

**UpSpire Furniture** made news this month with a story highlighting this new venture. The recent launch of UpSpire Furniture is a significant milestone because it marks our first venture into a skills-based enterprise. Unlike our other programs focused on manual labor, such as landscaping and litter abatement, this initiative provides participants with specialized training in a valuable craft. Once fully trained, workers will have a marketable skill that can open doors to other career opportunities, including fields like furniture making, cabinetry, and construction.

Click the button below to watch the story. Contact [upspirefurniture@journeyhome.org](mailto:upspirefurniture@journeyhome.org) to learn more.

# Presbyterian Night Shelter's UpSpire program starts carpentry apprenticeship

Apprentices in UpSpire's new skilled carpentry program are learning valuable work and life skills.

By Noelle Walker • Published November 26, 2024 • Updated on November 26, 2024 at 6:49 pm



A new skilled apprentice program in Fort Worth is helping people who have experienced homelessness gain valuable work skills. They are learning to make furniture and much more. Noelle Walker has the story.

## Trending Stories

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
Two vehicle laws go into effect in Texas in 2025, here's what you need to know

**FORT WORTH**  
Fort Worth Councilman addresses leaked 2022 recording accusing mayor, council of racism

**LAPD**  
Hannah Kobayashi issues statement following missing person case

**RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**  
Ukraine's security service claims assassination of Russian general sanctioned for chemical weapons use

**MCDONALD'S**

[Click to Watch the NBC5 News Report on UpSpire Furniture](#)

## Remembering Judi Glover



It is with heavy hearts that we say farewell to our beloved **Judi Glover, Director of Volunteer Engagement**, who passed away after a short illness on Monday, December 2, 2024. Judi was a true light at Presbyterian Night Shelter, touching the lives of guests, volunteers, and colleagues alike. She made it her mission to ensure that volunteers had a meaningful experience and worked hard to thoughtfully place them somewhere they could flourish with their particular talents or interests.

Judi began working at True Worth Place when it first opened in 2017 and quickly became a valuable member of the Presbyterian Night Shelter staff. Her steady spirit, friendship, compassion, and keen sense of humor will be greatly missed by all of us. Please keep her family, including her husband, Jon, and her sister, Anne, in your thoughts and prayers. God bless you, Judi; we love and miss you.



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