

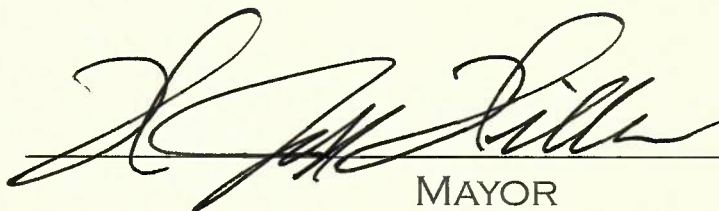
# Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** on a very cold night in 1987, volunteers opened the doors of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, welcoming those with no place to call home and, for the next three years, that shelter was operated entirely by volunteers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Arlington Life Shelter moved to its current location in 1988 and then renovated in 1993, increasing the capacity for clients from 43 to 87; and
- WHEREAS,** in summer 2019, construction began on a shelter expansion which, when opened in June 2020, increased bed capacity to 120; and
- WHEREAS,** over the past 34 years, more than 25,000 homeless men, women and children have sought refuge at the Arlington Life Shelter; and
- WHEREAS,** the Arlington Life Shelter is committed to allowing families to stay together, providing 7 family bedroom units, a family lounge, a dining hall with a full commercial kitchen, a large laundry facility, expanded spacing for children, and access to the Carol Zimmer Branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Tarrant County and the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation Playground, and a health center for non-emergent medical needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Arlington Life Shelter also helps prepare clients to return to self-sufficiency, offering a computer lab and classroom to explore employment opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arlington Life Shelter moved to a 24/7 shelter; created a safe shelter space by expanding to a larger facility at the North Davis Church of Christ and implementing CDC recommendations for social distancing, cleaning, and wearing a mask; connected clients with testing and medical resources; and connected clients with schools for virtual learning; and
- WHEREAS,** during the winter weather of 2021, the Arlington Life Shelter increased the number of beds available; provided day shelter and meals for those in need, and partnered with other community resources to ensure all in need could access safe shelter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Jeff Williams, Mayor of the City of Arlington, Texas, and on behalf of the Arlington City Council, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2021 as**

## **ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER DAY**

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.*

  
MAYOR

