

# The HEART of TEXAS

A newsletter of Dallas LIFE



**DALLAS LIFE**  
HOMELESS RECOVERY CENTER

FALL 2022

## DUSTIN IS GRATEFUL & BLESSED THIS THANKSGIVING

*because of your support*

You've given him hope and  
new life this holiday!



**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Our Thanksgiving  
Campaign has begun!

**3** "I felt like the bottom  
had fallen out."

**4** Help Us Get  
Ready!

For more information: (214) 421-1380 [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org)



“I felt like  
**THE BOTTOM  
HAD FALLEN  
OUT.**”



**A** domestic dispute ended with jail time for Dustin and the pain of a broken relationship. He moved in with a friend and began drinking heavily to soothe his frustration and heartbreak.

Instead, he fell into depression... and tried to take his own life. “I’d gotten to the point of what’s the point of it all.” Yet by the grace of God, he survived.

Denying his own vulnerability, he took to the streets, sleeping in the park or the backyards of friends until he finally reached rock bottom. Then he asked his mother for help to find a safe place to stay and a long-term solution to his challenges.

“Instead of trying to do it all by myself, I was looking for people who are educated in the ways of helping somebody like me,” he says. And he found the compassion and guidance he was seeking here at Dallas LIFE.

“I wanted to reconnect with my spiritual life,” Dustin says, “and they’re teaching me how to pray and meditate on the Lord.” Through our Homeless No More program and classes on problem solving, anger management and job readiness, he’s rebuilding

his stability and independence. And his counselors are helping him heal emotionally and overcome his debilitating depression.

Most importantly, he’s learning to give his burdens to the Lord. “It’s freeing me up to live a life that’s more free of worry and guilt,” he says.

“**I needed more than the life I was living.**”

When he leaves our care he hopes to get a good job, a home of his own and return to playing music – he’s proficient with several instruments. “It calms me down and brings me peace and I enjoy playing for others too.”

**Dustin’s heart is overflowing with gratitude this Thanksgiving because YOUR loving support gave him the confidence and support to rebuild his life.** “I’m a much more competent individual than the person I was when I came here.”



# Celebrating Thanksgiving Every Day of the Year



## A Message from REV. BOB SWEENEY

Here's a wonderful Bible verse for this season of Thanksgiving: *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24) During

Thanksgiving, we gather to thank the Lord for blessings of family, food and health.

*But what if we kept that same, abundant spirit of the holiday in giving thanks every day of the year?*

Each day at Dallas LIFE, I see people who are thankful for the gift of new life that YOU helped make possible! You wrap them in God's loving embrace. Teach them skills to build brighter futures. Lift up our ministry and guests in prayer. And rejoice over every heart restored and life rebuilt!

Life is challenging right now. With continuing inflation, costs for necessities like housing, gas and groceries are

higher than ever. It's even harder for our struggling neighbors to make ends meet... and for our ministry to meet our community's pressing needs.

Through it all, I remain faithful to God's calling and grateful that I can rely on friends like you. My prayer this Thanksgiving is that you will do the same.

I hope you will take comfort in the love of friends and family, and the joy of knowing hearts are changed thanks to you. God bless you!

Rev. Bob Sweeney  
Executive Director

## 2022 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

**YOU can give our hurting neighbors reason to celebrate!**

# 94,500

**Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season**



**Our 7th Annual Turkey Fry is right around the corner!** Once again this year we will fry turkeys and prepare Thanksgiving food for our guests and neighbors. This event takes place in the parking lot at Dallas LIFE on November 23, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. – and volunteers are still needed!

Turkeys and Food Boxes will also be handed out to the community on November 21.

**Your gift today will give our neighbors reason to celebrate!**



\$2.50 provides a Thanksgiving meal for 1 person



\$50 provides a Food Basket for 1 local family

We need your help to serve thousands of meals this holiday season!

**Please rush your 2022 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply form and envelope OR online at [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org).**



# Volunteers Needed

Do you have a heart to serve individuals, families, seniors and veterans here at Dallas LIFE? **We would love for you to join us as a volunteer!**



Contact us today to see how you can help...

Call: **Pamela Culbertson, Director of Volunteers**, at (214) 421-1380, ext. 1030

Email: [pculbertson@dallaslife.org](mailto:pculbertson@dallaslife.org)

Or visit [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org) to find out more or sign up now!

# Help Us Get Ready!



You wouldn't believe how much we still have to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season... **you can help!** Host a food drive or shop for these critically needed items, then drop them off at **1100 Cadiz St. in Dallas, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Don't have time to shop? Send a gift in the envelope provided to help us purchase what's needed on our food list.

## Food baskets to hand out at our Turkey Fry:

- 1 can of green beans
- 1 can of corn
- 1 can of sweet potatoes
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 2 packets of gravy mix
- 2 packets of mashed potatoes
- 1 bag of stuffing
- 1 bag of marshmallows

## Food needed to prepare our Thanksgiving meal:

- Turkeys
- Pies
- Butter
- Whipped cream
- Rolls



*Thank you for making these meals extra special!*

## Are you connected yet? Be the first to know what's going on!

Want the inside scoop on what's happening at Dallas LIFE? It's easy...

**Follow us on social media!** Every post shows you how your partnership is transforming lives and healing our community.

**Sign up for our emails!** You'll hear about urgent needs, special events and more.

And when you tell your friends about us, they can join the celebration this Thanksgiving, too!

[dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org)

