

# The HEART of TEXAS

A newsletter of Dallas LIFE



**DALLAS LIFE**  
HOMELESS RECOVERY CENTER

SUMMER 2023

**THANK YOU  
FOR LOVING  
YOUR  
NEIGHBORS,  
BRANDON  
AND  
BRITTNEY,**

and giving  
them hope  
for their  
future!



**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Your love will transform lives this summer!

**3** "I realized I have worth."

**4** You're helping care for bodies and minds

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

“I HAVE  
WORTH.”



When Brandon and Brittney met in high school and started dating, neither knew what a healthy relationship looked like. Trauma, neglect and addiction had been part of their childhoods. They hadn't learned healthy ways to resolve conflict, so they fought a lot during their early years together. However, their greatest test came later, after they'd had a daughter together.

**“I had a good job, but I was struggling,”** Brandon explains. “My mental health had tanked. I nearly committed suicide, and I lost my job because of it. We weren't able to bounce back and were evicted from our apartment.”

**It was clear that Brandon, Brittney and their daughter needed**



**help – which they found at Dallas LIFE.** Their daughter got access to childcare, and Brandon and Brittney enrolled in counseling and classes in life skills like anger management, relationships and financial planning. They also learned about God's love for them.

“We both made a lot of spiritual and emotional breakthroughs in the first few months,” Brandon says. “Now I'm comfortable with myself; I'm a happier person.”

“I was really unhealthy and very angry before,” Brittney adds. “But as I'm healing, growing and learning at the center, I'm finding peace and calm.”

**“The walls we'd put up about religion broke down, and we developed a relationship with Christ,”** Brandon says.

Brandon and Brittney are both passionate about serving at the center however they can; Brandon helps with security and the front desk, and Brittney helps with housekeeping. **They're grateful to Dallas LIFE for welcoming their family without**

**judgment – and for how we're helping them get back on their feet.**

“Never did I think my child would



be homeless,” Brittney says. “But Dallas LIFE has been great for her. She's the light of our lives. She's the reason why we keep pushing forward.”

**Brandon and Brittney are thankful for the way you have answered God's calling to love your neighbor as yourself – and have helped them learn how to love themselves.** “Before coming to Dallas LIFE, I didn't think I was worth anything,” Brandon says. “But it showed me how to be an advocate for myself. I realized I have worth. I feel like I have something to live for.”

“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14

A Message from  
REV. BOB SWEENEY

**Thank you for  
loving your neighbors  
as yourself**

Summer is such a freeing time! Some look forward to it because vacationing on the beach is a yearly tradition we never tire of. Others have family reunions where catching up with loved ones means more to them than anything, and watching kids grow speaks to the joys of future generations. For many others the longer evenings bring about a slow-down, enabling family cook-outs and game times to bring that staycation joy.

For the homeless, quite the opposite happens in the summer. The intense heat wears hard on them and the busy street traffic that lasts long into the night due to longer lit days brings about arguments and crime many of them try to avoid. Past wrongs or favors come due, and quiet places to sleep outside during the cooler weather are in high demand and come at a much higher cost. Without adequate shower facilities many cannot look and smell as good as needed to get an interview, making many jobs simply out of the question.

Dallas LIFE knows this, and with your help we are able to reach out in many ways. Our 10 month Homeless No More Program is our first line of defense, with its structure, classes and chapel times which see hundreds come to Christ each year. Residents who come broken and discarded find Christ and their burden falls right off of them as they embrace an entirely new way of living. That's what it means to partner with us. Your gifts offer a real hand up, not with spare change for a burger or a drink, but REAL CHANGE which offers a brand new life in Christ. Thank you for your support, generosity and love for those God sends our way.



Rev. Bob Sweeney  
Executive Director

# A meal for \$2.50 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**

## **YOUR LOVE will transform lives this summer!**

Your gift today provides:



98,000 meals



34,300 beds



hundreds of  
hygiene items



countless hours of  
counseling & education



life-transforming decisions  
for Christ

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS  
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE  
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**  
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

**Give now!**  
[dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org)



*Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild lives!*

## We need you as a **CIRCLE OF HOPE PARTNER!**

The guests in our long-term recovery program work hard day-in and day-out to rebuild their lives. It takes extraordinary support each month to make this and our other services possible.

**That's why we're asking you to join a special group of Circle of Hope monthly partners.**

By setting up a recurring gift each month, you'll be there every step of the way for people struggling with homelessness, addiction and poverty – from the day they step through our doors and enjoy their first meal... until they achieve long-term recovery through our classes, counseling and God's love.

Every monthly gift matters. Consider becoming a Circle of Hope partner today by visiting [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org) or calling **(214) 421-1380**. Thank you for your support!



# Help your neighbors **BEAT THE HEAT** this summer!

You know how hot it can get in Dallas in summertime... now imagine being out on the streets in this heat. **Our neighbors experiencing homelessness are at risk of heat stroke, dehydration or even death – especially those who are most vulnerable**, like seniors, those who are disabled or families with children.

But this summer, YOU can help! You can show our hurting neighbors they haven't been forgotten by providing them with essentials such as:



**Cool water to drink & nourishing meals**



**Refreshing showers & safe shelter**



**Clean clothes & socks – our most requested item!**



**Sunscreen & hygiene items**

In addition to these basics, you'll welcome them to Dallas LIFE where they can overcome homelessness and rebuild their lives. You provide medical care to treat any health challenges. Faith-based counseling to heal from past trauma. Classes and job training to promote independence. Everything they need for healthier, more stable lives!

To see how you can help meet our neighbors' most urgent summer needs, visit [dallaslife.org/needslist!](http://dallaslife.org/needslist)



## You're helping care for bodies and minds

Men and women come to Dallas LIFE with a variety of challenges, and we're committed to addressing their unique needs. For some, that means a warm meal and safe place to rest. Others struggle with addiction. Some are desperate for medical care.

But many arrive with mental illness and trauma from their past.

That's why – in addition to helping clients heal physically – we also help them heal psychologically. **We offer Christ-centered counseling, referrals to community partners and other resources for long-term recovery through our Homeless No More program, which has a 90% success rate (one of the highest in the nation!) in helping men and women transition from the streets to long-lasting transformation.**

It's just another way your gifts and prayers help address the complex issues of poverty and homelessness in Dallas. Thank you for your support!

Want to learn about other life-changing services you help provide? Read about our programs at [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org) today!

## Congratulations, graduates!

Thanks to the support of friends like you, 6 men and women graduated from our recovery programs in February. They're grateful for your gifts and prayers that supported them along their road to healing!



## SHARE HOPE TODAY!

Please send back the enclosed reply form, along with your gift, to provide meals and life-changing care to families, seniors and veterans who have nowhere else to turn. Your generosity will show them that someone cares and help them discover the hope of new life in Christ. Thank you!

**GIVE NOW TO SHOW YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**

Bob, I want to offer life-saving care and compassion this summer through my gift of:

\$25       \$50       \$75       \$100       \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible  
 Make my gift monthly! (see back of form)

Thank you!

CHECK ENCLOSED       BILL MY CREDIT CARD  
 VISA       M/C       AMEX       DISC

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CIV/SEC # \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online now! [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org)

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