

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

2024

THE DIFFERENCE
YOU'VE MADE

A GROUP EFFORT

WAYS OUR
COMMUNITY HAS
CHANGED
FOR THE BETTER

A LOOK AHEAD

WHAT YOU CAN
DO IN 2025

INSIDE
NOTHING BUT
GOOD NEWS

CONTENTS



Photo Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram

03 A LETTER FROM THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tony Wilson introduces himself and thanks the amazing DRC Solutions community.

05 TAKING STOCK OF 2024

Our annual breakdown of the money- where it came from and where it went.

08 GOOOOALS!

The game plan for 2025 and beyond.

09 LEARNING AT THE DRC

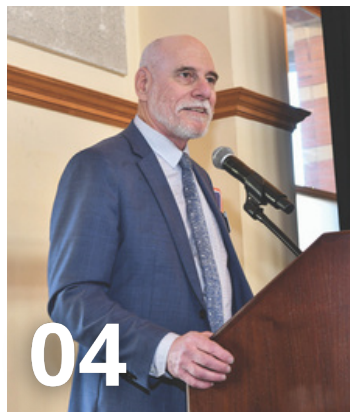
A TCU SOCIAL WORK INTERN SHARES EVERYTHING HE'S BEEN LEARNING OFF-CAMPUS.

13 WORDS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The 2025 Chair of the DRC Board of Directors with a special message for our community.

14 GREAT MINDS

A unique client need leads to a multi-partner collaboration and special delivery.



SCENES FROM THE STAFF

Most pictures in this publication, unless otherwise noted, were taken by our amazing staff members as they go about their unique days helping Tarrant County's most vulnerable.

A MESSAGE FROM BRUCE FRANKEL

Former Executive Director shares his final thanks and best wishes for the DRC after 18 years.



“THANKS, Y’ALL.”

A letter from DRC Solutions’ new Executive Director,
Tony Wilson, LMSW

Greetings from the East Side!

First and foremost, I cannot thank y’all enough for the attention, time, and overall support that you’ve given the DRC over this past year. As I step into the role of Executive Director after almost 8 years of working alongside this incredible team, I am grateful to be in this fight with you and am humbled by the compassion and value you put on service to the most vulnerable among us. **Thank you for rising to the occasion and helping us combat unsheltered homelessness in Tarrant County.**



With unsheltered homelessness on the rise, it is important, now more than ever before, that we face this community challenge head on. **Each of us has a role to play in ensuring our home city is a place of compassion, community, and pride.** As community advocates, we refuse to accept fellow community members sleeping on the street as “normal,” and strive every day to make these instances rare, and short-term.

There are a multitude of factors that lead our community members into experiencing homelessness, but one fact remains- **the impact of unsheltered homelessness impacts us all.** At DRC, we’re honored to be a part of the solution, and I’m grateful each of you have a seat at the table.

Thanks, again-

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "TONY".

[www. DRC-Solutions.org](http://www.DRC-Solutions.org)

HAPPY TRAILS, BRUCE!

BRUCE FRANKEL
SIGNS OFF AFTER A
SUCCESSFUL TENURE
OF LEADERSHIP



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM BRUCE FRANKEL

After 18 incredible years, it's time for me to hang up my hat and pass the torch.

Leading DRC Solutions has been the honor of a lifetime. To our extraordinary staff—you are the heart of this mission. To our generous donors—you've fueled real change. And to our clients, many of whom have become friends—you've inspired every step we've taken. Together, we've built more than programs; we've built a community grounded in dignity, compassion, and hope.

Thank you for walking this journey with me. The best days for DRC are still ahead.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Frankel".

Bruce Frankel, Executive Director (2006-2025)





TAKING STOCK

THE MONEY AND WHERE IT WENT IN 2024

REVENUE

Churches	\$ 43,000
Foundations	\$ 473,604
Corporations	\$ 98,304
Organizations	\$ 850
Individuals	\$ 135,649
Events	\$ 146,987
Federal Gov't Grants	\$ 420,338
Non-Federal Gov't Grants	\$ 1,422,799
TOTAL	\$ 2,741,531

EXPENDITURES

Program Personnel	\$ 1,367,626
Administrative Personnel	\$ 87,099
Development Personnel	\$ 144,275
Administrative	\$ 116,545
Program	\$ 768,278
Operating	\$ 151,895
Fundraising	\$ 55,548
TOTAL	\$ 2,691,267

We all do better when we all do better.

- Paul Wellstone

ALL EYES ON TARRANT COUNTY

DATA & INSIGHT
INTO OUR COMMUNITY'S FIGHT TO END HOMELESSNESS
SOURCE: PARTNERSHIP HOME & NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

2,769 PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS

40% PEOPLE
LIVING UNSHELTERED
IN FORT WORTH

\$6 BILLION
EXECUTED & PLANNED
CUTS TO CRUCIAL HUD
FUNDING FOR SERVICES

5% U.S. VETERANS
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS, WITH THE
AVERAGE AGE BEING 52

6 YEARS
OLD
THE AVERAGE AGE
OF KIDS
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS



2024 GOALS

STREET OUTREACH

- Assess **2,000** individuals
- House **100** Individuals

CRITICAL DOCS

- Help **1,700** individuals
- Replace **3,500** documents

PSH & NAVIGATION

- Work with **120** individuals to identify housing placement
- House **50** new households
- Maintain at least **200** households for case management



ACHIEVED STATS

DRC Street Outreach **assessed 1,856 individuals** for housing and **assisted 125 chronically homeless households** in accessing permanent housing opportunities.

DRC's Critical Documents Specialists **helped 2,632 people** experiencing homelessness **replace 4,140 identity documents**.

Housing Navigation **helped 373 households find stable housing**.

Our Arlington Mobile System Navigator **assisted 161 households**.

Housing programs **assisted 258 former chronically homeless households**.

DRC **added 96 new households** to its permanent supportive housing programs and **maintained support of 256 households** throughout the year.

THE GOALS

NO ATHLETICISM REQUIRED.
JUST COMMUNITY.
JUST HEART.
-2025-

CRITICAL DOCUMENTS

Assisting at least 1,800 individuals by replacing a minimum of 3,800 vital documents.

STREET OUTREACH

Assessing at least 1,600 individuals and securing housing for 120 individuals.

HOUSING NAVIGATION

Partnering with at least 50 households to facilitate housing placements. The reduction in expected outcomes for Housing Navigation is due to a reduction in public funding resulting in only one dedicated staff for that initiative.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

We will maintain stable housing for at least 200 households currently under this program. Since our programs are at capacity, we will work to incorporate new clients under these programs as vouchers and openings become available.

NEW INITIATIVE: COMMUNITY EDUCATION

By educating the community, we build stronger partnerships with new stakeholders and empower the public towards actionable change. DRC Solutions will engage with 10-20 new community groups, organizations, and/or businesses.

SCHOOLED IN THE STREETS :

HOW A TCU SOCIAL WORK INTERN OPENED UP HIS WORLD, IN HIS OWN WORDS

written by Will McNichols, TCU Class of 2025

During the past two semesters, I have been truly blessed with the opportunity to learn and grow alongside competent professionals as an aspiring social worker at DRC Solutions. From the moment I stepped into the building, I was welcomed with open arms and treated with dignity and respect, despite being the new guy around. As a new member of the team, I was quickly assigned to the Street Outreach Team, which is responsible for seeking out and aiding unsheltered individuals in the housing process by utilizing the Housing First Approach.

As an intern on the Street Outreach Team, I've had the privilege of shadowing my Team Leaders and fellow co-

workers to learn about the real issues that impact the homeless population of Fort Worth. With this knowledge and experience, I've been able to advocate for unsheltered individuals in more ways than I previously knew how. This is almost entirely because of the supportive learning environment that is provided to all who are willing to improve at the DRC. As a new member of the team, I focused on watching the other Street Outreach members for

several weeks so I could begin to become comfortable with completing assessments and new enrollments on my own. After several months of continued guidance, I can confidently state that I'm able to proficiently take on the many responsibilities that fall on a DRC Street Outreach

Team member. I can't even begin to thank some of my fellow team members (like Elizabeth Peznell, Nubia Carrera, and Diana Salazar) enough for their willingness to accept and teach me.

While working with the Street Outreach team over the past year, it's become very apparent to me that DRC Solutions is the preeminent homeless resource center in the community. It continually sets standards that the rest of the "CoC"¹ must attempt to live up to. In my opinion, this prominent non-profit organization is so well run and has such high functionality. I believe this also is a direct result of the strong leadership of the Executive Director, Tony Wilson, and the rest of his capable staff. I'm so thankful that I was placed with the DRC for my senior internship because I really do feel like I'm making a difference every day I come into work. The skills I've gained during my time at DRC Solutions are invaluable and they will guide and shape my social work practice for years to come.

¹ The Continuum of Care (CoC) for Tarrant County is a coordinated system of homeless services providers working together to prevent and end homelessness in the region. It is led by the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC).



TOP: Will (upper right corner) preparing for the annual Point In Time Count night.
LEFT: Will showing off his Christmas sweater during the staff holiday party.
RIGHT: Will manning the DRC front desk on a busy Friday afternoon.



A LIGHT IN THE DARK

How HOPE Found The Smith Family

On May 17, 2022, the Smith family faced one of the most difficult experiences of their lives. Scott, his wife Wendy, and their daughter Natalie suddenly found themselves homeless for the first time. With nowhere else to go, they sought refuge in a crowded shelter on East Lancaster Avenue, carrying all their belongings in their arms. “We were homeless for the first time in our lives. Accept it. So, we did,” Scott later recalled about that harrowing first night.

Their struggle was even more complicated by their youngest daughter, Natalie, who has special needs and relies on a wheelchair for mobility. Finding a safe, accessible shelter wasn’t just a priority, it was a necessity.

That evening, they were relieved to be greeted by a warm and understanding face at the front desk, offering them a glimmer of hope. But that hope was quickly overshadowed by the daunting reality ahead: securing a stable, wheelchair-accessible home for Natalie.

“We were homeless for the first time in our lives. Accept it. So, we did.”

-Scott Smith

The Smiths pinned their hopes on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, a federal initiative that helps low-income families afford safe housing by subsidizing rent. For months, they watched as other families were approved, anxiously waiting for their turn. Wendy made endless phone calls, tirelessly searching for a place that could accommodate their daughter’s needs. But each call ended in disappointment. As time passed, their hope faded, replaced by a numbing sense of helplessness.

What happened next would change everything.



LEFT: FWPD Officer Andrew Johns and Mike Kuzenka evaluate an abandoned building on E. Vickery St. (Photo Source: *Fort Worth Report*)

BELOW: FWPD & FWPD Officers make up the HOPE Team, pictured at their location on E. Lancaster Avenue.



“One beautiful day, my wife, daughter, and I were outside the facility, waiting in line for a bus loaded with clothing and necessities. Suddenly, we were approached by two kind women and a very sincere police officer,” Scott recounted.

That officer was Fort Worth Police Officer Andrew Johns, and the women were DRC Street Outreach Team Leads Diana Salazar and Judy Garza. They introduced the Smiths to resources they had believed were out of reach. They provided them with bus passes, ensuring Natalie had access to wheelchair-friendly transportation for important appointments. Most importantly, they saw how deeply these strangers cared. Overwhelmed with gratitude, Scott and Wendy asked who they were.

The Smiths had just met The HOPE Team.

The Homeless Outreach Programs and Enforcement (HOPE) Team is a collaborative initiative in Fort Worth, Texas, bringing together the city’s Police and Fire Departments, mental health

professionals from My Health My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County, and DRC’s Street Outreach team. Instead of simply moving people from place to place, the HOPE Team works proactively to connect unsheltered individuals with long-term solutions- including housing.

With the HOPE Team and DRC by their side, the Smiths' journey took a turn toward home. As months passed, DRC continued to advocate for them, ensuring their needs weren’t overlooked. But time was running out. An extreme freeze was set to hit North Texas in late December 2024, and the Smiths were still without permanent housing. The urgency was clear.

With the freeze set to hit within the next 24 hours, the call finally came. The Smiths had been approved for a wheelchair-accessible apartment, and they could move in immediately. Relief washed over Scott and Wendy. After nearly two years of uncertainty, they had a home. They had safety. They had stability. But for little Natalie, something was missing.

“She absolutely loves nightlights,” Scott shared. Officer Johns had once promised her a custom nightlight, and true to his word, he delivered—a personalized nightlight with her name on it. That small but meaningful gift became a powerful symbol of everything the Smiths had gained: not just a home, but a community that cared. Through the dedication of the HOPE Team and DRC Solutions, the Smith family had finally found their way home, their journey illuminated by the kindness of those who refused to give up on them.

THE BOARD

2025

DRC SOLUTIONS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Committee

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**You can't tell a good man by his
boots, but you can by his deeds.**
- *Western Proverb*



DECEMBER 2024:

DRC Board Member and FW Fire Lieutenant Sam Greif & Street Outreach Team Lead Diana Salazar win BIG at Partnership Home's Annual Awards Luncheon. Both were recognized for their unwavering dedication and incredible impact in the fight to end homelessness.

Brent Comstock, *community volunteer*

Michelle Green-Ford, *Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce*

Jason Hall, *Fannie Mae*

Lieutenant James (Sam) Greif, *Fort Worth Fire Department*

Jyme Sandberg, *Arlington Housing Authority*

We are one community.

2025 BOARD CHAIR
ROBERT MCCARTHY, SR.

As the 2025 Board Chair, I want to thank you all on behalf of DRC Solutions, the amazing staff, and the Board of Directors. We are deeply grateful for everyone who invests in this work and could not do it without you. Whether through time, resources, or advocacy-our community needs this crucial work. Each day, our incredible staff walks alongside individuals experiencing homelessness, helping them navigate barriers, secure housing, and rebuild their lives. Their compassion and dedication inspire change, while their actions and your support provide real growth for us all.

We are one community. Together, we are not just addressing homelessness- we are ending it.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Robert McCarthy, Sr.

2025 Chair
Board of Directors
DRC Solutions



A LESSON IN COLLABORATION

by Adriana Garcia, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Case Manager

Don had a motorized wheelchair for a few years, but he told me his insurance took it away. I'm not sure exactly how that happened but one month he had it, and by the next time I saw him, it was gone. That was over two years ago.

During that time, Gary Wilkerson of When We Love donated a manual wheelchair, but it's been difficult for Don to use because of the strain on his arms. Since then, he's been relying on a walker. He even walks to the store on his own, even though it takes him a long time to get there. This motorized wheelchair will make a huge difference for him!



Fun fact! Don volunteered for DRC for a little! He helped Denise shred papers, but he had to stop going because it got too hard for him to get there.

Another huge shout out to our partners at ShareFest-Texas and Reverend Allen Lutes of University Christian Church for sourcing Don's new wheels. He was so excited and grateful to receive them! He insisted on waiting eagerly for them outside.



TOP: John, Don, and Adriana proudly pose with Don's special gift.
ABOVE: Don insisting on meeting the ShareFest truck, pre-chair.
RIGHT: Don waits eagerly for his new wheels.

2024 FUNDERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FOUNDATION GRANTORS & CORPORATE FUNDERS

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- CareMore
- Center for Transforming Lives
- City of Fort Worth Directions Home
- City of Fort Worth Housing Finance Corporation
- City of Fort Worth Police Department
- City of Fort Worth Fire Department
- City of Arlington Police Department
- JPS Health Network
- MedStar Mobile Healthcare
- My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County
- Presbyterian Night Shelter
- Salvation Army Mabee Center
- Samaritan House
- ShareFest Texas
- Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Tarrant County
- Partnership Home (formerly TCHC)
- TCU Harris College of Nursing
- The University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work
- True Worth Place
- Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County
- UNT Health Science Center Department of Public Health
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
- WhenWeLove
- Project Home Furnishings DFW
- Dallas Furniture Bank
- Fort Worth Fire Department
- Arlington Police Department
- Tarrant County Community Development Corporation

**You all, along with our amazing donors, create real change.
THANK YOU!**



this
is where
it goes.



SOME OF THE FACES YOU'VE HELPED TO HOUSE THIS YEAR.
THEY'RE SAFE. THEY'RE HOME.
THEY'LL SUCCEED BECAUSE
HOUSING FIRST MAKES HOUSING LAST.