



DRC

Community Solutions to End Homelessness

The Homecomer



This neighbor cares
about their neighbors.
Pretty cool.

NOTES FROM SUMMER CAMP

The kids are ready to make a
change.

WORKING HEROES

How our teams conquer
anything and everything.

YOUR GUIDE TO ACTION & IMPACT



WITH A NEW LOOK, ONCE A YEAR
SUMMER/FALL 2025

Fort What It's Worth

2025 HAS BEEN A BIG YEAR SO FAR

We knew 2025 would be a big year for the DRC, but we never thought it would be THIS big. We started off with appointing a new Executive Director, then recorded the biggest Breakfast with the Mayor in its 16-year history (more on page 10), and have since expanded our staff to help even more of our unsheltered neighbors in Tarrant County.

This year has also brought some unprecedeted changes, too. With mounting challenges and ever-changing regulations, the need to be even more supportive is crucial to our home.

AND THE PRESSURE IS ON!

Partnership Home reported that there were more than 2,500 people experiencing homelessness in Tarrant County as of Q2 2025, with unsheltered homelessness making up 43% of that population.

Federal support for human services has been cut drastically, averaging 30-40% decreases for most service agencies.

Harmful bills like HB1925 (banning public camping) and new attacks on housing-focused programs have criminalized unsheltered homelessness, while also passing the responsibility of enforcement and costs to local resources and taxpayers, with no increase in federal support.

2,551



Unfortunately, DRC Solutions is not immune to these tough times. Tony Wilson knows our team is tougher, smarter, and will always persevere for our most vulnerable neighbors.

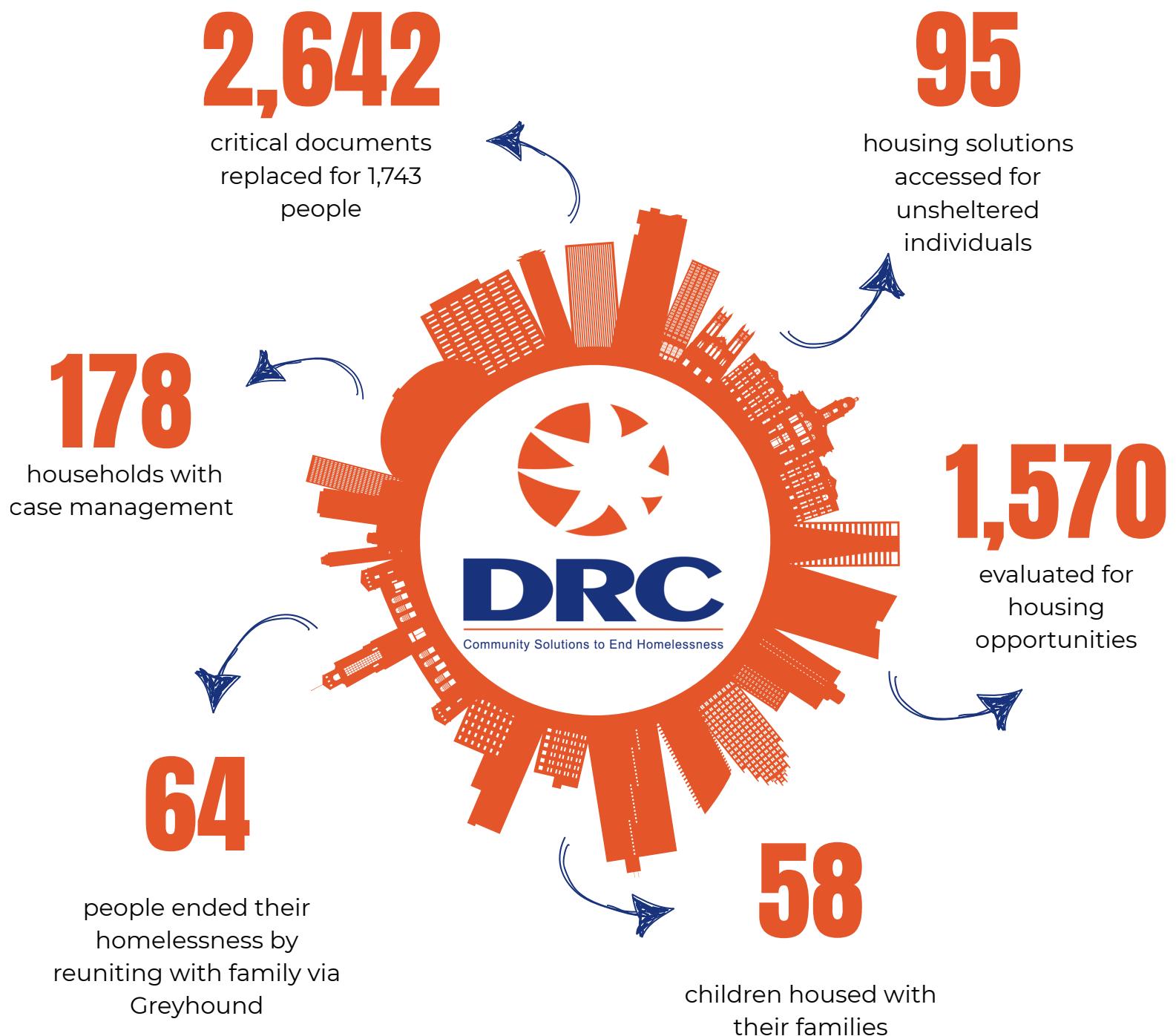


IT TAKES ALL OF US-
NEIGHBORS, PARTNERS,
DONORS, AND ADVOCATES-
TO CREATE A COMMUNITY WHERE NO ONE IS
LEFT BEHIND. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THAT VISION,
I INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

TONY WILSON, LMSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BUT WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING!

The DRC Solutions team tries to bring hope to the bleakest of situations in our shared neighborhoods. So even when the light seems to flicker, Team DRC (and yes, that includes you) will always choose to focus on the bright side. The following numbers represent real people whose lives have been changed for the better thanks to you. Together, your generosity, your time, and your belief in a better Tarrant County have made this impact possible. Just check out what we've accomplished from January to August 2025!



With your help, we can help so many more people. Scan the QR code on the back cover or go to www.drc-solutions.org/donate to give what you can.

HOLDING ON TO LOVE & HOPE

Marion is 65 years old and has the typical routines any typical woman has. She waters her plants. She loves her cat, Baby. She even argues with her husband. But as Marion sits across from Cindy Wright, Housing Program Manager at the DRC, she is telling her story with tears in her eyes. "I've been so nervous, like, what am I gonna do? What am I gonna do? What am I gonna do? What am I gonna do?"

Marion has been told her apartment building will be condemned in only a few months and will need to find somewhere else to live. Currently housed at The Springs apartment complex in west Fort Worth, she was happy to look at the sky she could see through a hole in her ceiling. She was happy to bring the plants inside when crime and theft got worse in the area. Marion even loved talking to her neighbors and building a community out of such despair, encouraging others to keep going despite any obstacles that came their way. So, why couldn't she motivate herself in the same way now? Why did it seem like there was no hope?

Marion was 14 years old when she fled her abusive stepfather. She was 15 by the time she was forced into sex trafficking. Things started to look up when she was able to escape and move back to her hometown where she met her husband at 20 years old. He was funny, supportive, and loving. They spent 26 loving years together until he passed away quickly after a sudden illness. With her support system gone amid the chaos of survival, Marion suffered from a mental health crisis that has continued to this day. Unable to maintain employment or afford life as a single person, Marion fell into homelessness for the second time in her life.

Often staying in abandoned houses, Marion tried to keep herself focused on getting out of her situation, but it was hard without her cheerleader. She couldn't accept that he was truly gone, so she didn't. She started having conversations with him, and he encouraged her to look forward to the future and work hard. Around 2015, Marion was able to find help through First Street Mission where she met grief counselor Charme Robarts.

After qualifying for senior housing, Marion was grateful to have a roof over her head and a safe place to lay her head at night. She was able to start seeing a psychiatrist. For ten years, she worked a steady job and swore to herself, and her husband, she would embrace this newfound peace. But then she received a notice of condemnation. She couldn't find affordable housing, let alone one that would take her housing voucher or the only family she had left- Baby. Little did Marion know, Ms. Robarts is a former DRC Solutions Board of Directors member and knew that if anyone could help in this helpless situation, the DRC always can. And here, Marion was about to receive the best news she'd received in over a decade.

Cindy hands Marion a tissue with a smile. It's like the assured look of an Olympic-level athlete who is ready to run a race she knows she'll win, because the DRC always does. With all the directness that Cindy adopted with her time in the U.S. Air Force, she lets Marion know that her situation is about to change. She knows exactly what to do. Cindy will be moving her housing voucher to a new, senior-designated apartment complex. Cindy and Team DRC will help move her in. Cindy will work with Marion's psychiatrist to register Baby as an emotional support pet, so she never has to worry if she'll be suddenly separated from her family. And finally, Cindy will be connecting Marion with the DRC's new Benefits Specialist, Justin Quick, who will aid her in stabilizing her Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid benefits in order to ultimately increase her income, building more of the self-sufficiency Marion craves.

Marion continues to glance over her shoulder, making sure her husband hears this correctly, too. She is dumbfounded. She is in shock. She can finally breathe. Ultimately, she is ready to face her brighter future with a lot more support behind her than she could have ever hoped for herself. She smiles because she knows her husband and counselor told her to hold on, and they were right. "I can relax?" Marion asks earnestly.

Yes, because the DRC always knows what do.



Marion's story is just one example of the hundreds of lives changed every year through DRC Solutions. But with government funding for homelessness programs in Tarrant County cut by nearly 40%, more of our neighbors are at risk of losing stability and safety. For every Marion we help, there are thousands more waiting for hope, housing, and a second chance. Donate and/or help support our community however you can- more info on page 11.

Let them lead the way!



With human services facing insecurity, DRC Solutions is taking a stronger stance on education to ensure we all understand our shared community responsibility. Although now more than ever, it will take all of us to understand what role we can specifically take to support our neighbors. *But here's the thing-* we've been getting an education and exciting motivation from some pretty inspiring people: kids from all around the country!

This summer, DRC Solutions had the opportunity to meet with two youth groups. In June, University Christian Church's Summer Youth Camp visited the DRC offices, and they came prepared! The group delivered more than 300 hygiene kits for our Street Outreach team to deliver to those living unsheltered on our streets. DRC Team members, Brit, Nubia, and Harriet facilitated an extremely thorough and thoughtful 30-minute Q&A session about our work, our clients, and the different methods and nuances that come with evidence-based housing-focused programs. The most powerful moment came when the group toured our Housing Department and saw that success stories can easily turn to tragedy when there's not enough support to sustain programs and funding is low. A student was shocked to find out a certain group of housed clients would find themselves suffering through homelessness again through no fault of their own, but because their HUD program was being defunded. There was also relief and hope when they were informed that the incredible DRC Permanent-Supportive Housing Case Management team had already rehoused more than 2/3 of the clients that would be affected before the December 2025 deadline.



During July and August, teenagers from all over the country visited Fort Worth with Be The Neighbor, a service-focused collective of church youth groups that help teens find purpose and action in and outside of their home communities. DRC Team members Nubia, Fatimah, Brit, Jonathan, Tony, and Elizabeth helped the students understand the specifics of unsheltered homelessness in Fort Worth, how it compares to their experiences in their communities, and what talents they have that can aid those in need where they live.

It was very exciting to see these students empathize with the experiences and needs of others. One student from Colorado had an idea to help those facing homelessness in his community by offering free haircuts, while another from New York wanted to immediately consider her family's amount of food waste upon returning to the city. A group from Arkansas visited the DRC office to prepare more hygiene kits to help clients fight the dangerous Texas summer heat.

These groups are just two of the amazing organizations we've been able to partner with this year. And *what a way for the kids to show up!* These interactions, conversations, and actions were extremely moving and special to our team. We initially set out to connect, listen, learn, encourage, and teach, but what is really happening is that we're all recognizing our roles as community members across the nation that are demanding and actionably ushering in real change.

The DRC Solutions team was honored to meet such young, caring people, wondering and working on how to make the present and future brighter for all of us. If this is a new trend that America's kids are into, we truly hope it's here to stay!

MEET THE INTERNS

FALL 2025- SPRING 2026



Ja'Nyla Douglas

University of Texas at Arlington
Social Work, Class of 2026

I think more people should know...

"that the dominant narratives we hear [about unsheltered homelessness] are shaped by systemic institutions, not by the lived experiences of those unhoused."

PG. 6

Kennedy Green

Texas Christian University
Social Work, Class of 2026

My favorite part about being on Team DRC...

"is Outreach because I have the opportunity to hear clients' experiences and see how much the Outreach team cares for each client."

Danaria Hawkins

University of Texas at Arlington
Social Work, Class of 2026

I chose this major because I believe...

"I want to be part of changing our society's outlook and systems. I want to show how effective and informed help shapes our communities for the better."

TRANSFORMATION & TRIUMPH

by Ja'Nyla Douglas

HOW ONE MOTHER'S SPIRIT LED HER AND HER CHILDREN TO SAFETY, SUCCESS, AND HEALING

In 2018, a knock at the door changed everything for Cassandra after she and her children suddenly found themselves living with family. Cautiously, she opened the door and was met by the Arlington Police Department, her daughter's school counselor, and Child Protective Services. They were fleeing her abusive husband, but never did she think her kids were also affected. In that moment, Cassandra felt her heart sink. She was suddenly confronted with a choice she never imagined she would have to make. Cassandra had to decide whether to leave with her children or risk losing them.

The life she knew was unraveling in front of her, and there was no time to prepare for what was coming. A million thoughts raced through her mind, yet all she could think about was protecting her children and herself. With trembling hands but a determined spirit, she gathered her children and stepped into the unknown. Fear clung to her every move, but the love she carried for her children gave her the strength to act.

Cassandra remained in survival mode, carrying the weight of her trauma while trying to stay strong for her children. In the days that followed, Cassandra faced another heartbreak decision. With limited resources and an uncertain future, she made the choice to send two of her children back home so she could focus on creating a stable foundation for herself and the rest of her children. It was a sacrifice that weighed heavily on her heart, but one she made in the hopes they would all be reunited in a safer, stronger future.

Cassandra and her daughters were safely transported to SafeHaven, a domestic violence shelter for women and children in Fort Worth. When they entered their assigned room, she admitted she felt relief- she and her children finally had beds to sleep in, warm meals, and a door she could lock at night, a small act that brought her a deep sense of safety she had not felt in years. After helping her file for divorce, SafeHaven also offered Cassandra access to therapy services where she could finally speak her truth in a safe and supportive space. Those sessions became the first step toward processing her trauma and taking control of her life again while continuing to stand strong for her children.

After her divorce, Cassandra's case was transferred to the DRC's Permanent-Supportive Housing Case Management program, where her family thrived in a safe place to call their own. She found a bartending job, and things seemed to be on the rise. Later though, Cassandra began to drink and party more often. They'd all been doing so well- she had a job, and the kids were doing well in school. She felt she deserved to finally have some fun until one night led to a DUI, a moment she would never forget.

She remembers it vividly. Her oldest son came and waited through the night until early morning, sitting by anxiously as the hours passed for their reunion. When he finally bailed her out, the car ride home was quiet, tense, and heavy with unspoken emotion. How could she let him down? How could she undo all the progress they've made? Cassandra felt the full weight of shame and guilt pressing down on her, but amid the distress, something shifted. Seeing her son there, she realized she could no longer let her struggles define her life. That moment became her turning point.

From then on, Cassandra poured herself into her future. She began working as a caregiver in a nursing home, learning quickly and rising to care coordinator, then manager. By 2020, she had reunited with her sons, gradually rebuilding the family she fought to protect. Now also grown and independent, her oldest son recently moved out on his own. Her youngest daughter, once just two years old when they first entered SafeHaven, is now nine.

In September, Cassandra—now financially stable and thriving—decided she was ready to graduate from the DRC program and open the opportunity to someone else in need. With DRC's support, she regained the ability to dream big and now hopes to become a homeowner. Reflecting on her journey, she shares: "So many times y'all helped deliver groceries, pay my light bill when needed, and so much more that I can never fully thank you enough. The work you do is so crucial to people like me. I am forever a community member of DRC."

Her story is a testament to resilience, transformation, and the power of community support.

— Interview WITH THE MAYOR

Earlier this year, Mayor Mattie Parker sat down with DRC Solutions to shoot an interview segment for an educational video that later debuted at our 2025 Breakfast with the Mayor in April. What ensued was a passionate conversation about the real efforts and organizations making a difference in Fort Worth and beyond, captured in this extended transcript of that interview.



DRC Solutions: How would you describe the current state of homelessness in Fort Worth?

Mayor Parker: Well, I think that while we have a significant homeless population across Fort Worth, I know for a fact that our nonprofits and our government systems are working well to serve these individuals who find themselves in the worst type of circumstances. I wouldn't put us against any other city in the country. I think our percentages and numbers really reflect that, but at the same time we need organizations like the DRC,



who are really focused on the problems and understand what a full system approach is in providing services to all individuals. It's not just about housing, but it's all about meeting them where they are and understanding what it takes to be successful.

What are the biggest challenges the city faces in alleviating homelessness?

Number one right now is population growth across the city. You've got increased development in the urban core, inside [route] 820, and externally. And with a growing city of almost 1,000,000 people now, there's external pressure. You hear people complain a lot more about it, and they're persistent in those complaints.

Oftentimes, when I'm meeting with individuals across the community or giving speaking events, I hear about homelessness, but I try to remind people about dignity first. And then I also try to remind them of the millions of dollars invested that focuses on those problems in different departments within the city of Fort Worth. And of course, partnerships with the DRC and how impactful those are! I'm probably most proud right now of the Street Outreach program, and I think that those things are really translating into real results and helping families across Fort Worth.

When you are driving home or out and about on the weekends, and you see homelessness, what goes through your mind?

Yeah, so you know what goes through my mind? I think, first of all, I am burdened more than most people because I know how many things we're working on across the city of Fort Worth. Panhandling, for instance. Let's make the assumption that they're homeless in the first place. It's heartbreak. Their life won't get any better in that position, asking for money on the street. And Fort Worth is incredibly fortunate. We're very rich in resources across our city. There are a number of nonprofits that serve individuals facing homelessness, they just have to be willing to seek out that help. The second thing I think about is the impact to businesses and families that live in that area. And I know that we're really a faithful community that wants to give back and provide any kind of help, but I worry again that the wrong resources are falling into the wrong hands. As I mentioned, \$10 to a homeless individual on the street is not

the same impact as \$10 to an organization like the DRC. And then lastly, maybe we do have gaps, or I question- are we not doing enough? Is our team aware that this area of our city [needs help]? I'm the first to use My Fort Worth app to say these are some things I'm seeing here, especially with homeless encampments. I'm always reporting those because in Fort Worth, we don't believe that homeless encampments are the way of the future. I think it's a public health hazard and you've seen other large cities fall victim to that. But our residents, almost 1,000,000 people, really are our eyes and our ears.

DRC Solutions: What would you say to someone who is considering donating or doing work with DRC Solutions?

Well, honestly, working with a nonprofit like the DRC is probably the most impactful way to give back. Let's take pan-handling, for instance. You see the signs across the city, on the East Side, and down on Camp Bowie, we're going to see those across Fort Worth, but there are multiple reasons why you shouldn't give money for panhandling. But if you are so inclined and you want to make a difference in homelessness (maybe that's why you're here at the breakfast this morning), then the DRC is a great way to plug in. You can rest assured that your money is going directly to services, and they're working alongside individuals like the City of Fort Worth and our departments. They work with our Police Department and our Fire Department to really help. We need additional services and expertise to serve our homeless population, and DRC Solutions does a great job, especially on the Street Outreach piece.

SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR WAY THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE ~~DAY~~ YEAR.

The 2025 Breakfast with the Mayor, held on April 17th, saw more than 325 community members come together to support those facing unsheltered homelessness in Tarrant County.

This year's event was the biggest in its 16-year history, raising more than \$153,000 to support DRC Solutions' mission of making homelessness brief and non-recurring.

Event Co-Chairs Bob and Elizabeth McCarthy welcomed new and old friends of the DRC bright and early. Reverend Allen Lutes of University Christian Church (bottom right) kicked off the meal with a call for reflection, community, and open hearts.

This year's keynote speaker, Reverend-Doctor Stephen Cady, President of Brite Divinity School, (top right) encouraged real action and inclusion by challenging us all to meet the call of our shared home and neighbors.

As always, we are so grateful to Mayor Mattie Parker and most especially every hero who stepped up (and woke up early) to make an impact for our shared community!



LET'S DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

Breakfast with the Mayor
March 25, 2026

SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR WAY

WAYS TO CONNECT 2025-2026

DRC Solutions invites donors, businesses, and community organizations to join us in ending homelessness through our 2025-2026 Corporate Giving Prospectus. With four unique ways to get involved, there's a partnership opportunity for every person to make a lasting impact.



HOME COURT HEROES: 3RD ANNUAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, November 7th, 2025

Join DRC Solutions for a day where competition meets community! Whether you're playing, sponsoring, or cheering from the sidelines, we're calling on Tarrant County's heroes to be part of the excitement at our newly rebranded tournament, at its new home of The Picklr!



17TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH THE MAYOR

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

Start your day with purpose at DRC Solutions' annual signature fundraiser, co-hosted by Mayor Mattie Parker. This powerful morning brings together community leaders and neighbors to celebrate progress and unite around the mission to end homelessness in Tarrant County. **SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE, TICKETS OPEN JAN 1st**



SMALL-GROUP DRC OFFICE TOURS

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

If you're interested in seeing DRC's work first-hand, then consider bringing your small group to tour the DRC Solutions office. Learn about Street Outreach with a Q&A session and engage in a service project. **LIMIT 10-12 PER GROUP**



DONATIONS & ESSENTIAL ITEM DRIVES

ROLLING

Giving back, whether as a company or an individual, makes a huge difference and is always deeply appreciated at DRC Solutions. You can browse our Amazon Wishlists to see current client needs and host a donation drive, assemble hygiene kits- our clients truly appreciate it!

For all inquiries, please contact Brit Parker, Director of Marketing & Development at bparker@drc-solutions.org

GIRL POWER FUELS A NEW BATTERY

Earlier this year, while Street Outreach Team Lead Nubia Carrera and Mobile Assessor Elizabeth Peznell conducted check-ins with clients, they noticed a distraught woman in the next parking lot. The ladies never hesitate to offer help to someone in need, and learned that her car had broken down. The woman felt so helpless, but as a strong team, they refused to accept that there wasn't a solution. They popped the hood and found a simple reason- a dead battery. The ladies transported the neighbor to purchase a new battery, funded by Birdie's Helping Hands, a local nonprofit started by Elizabeth. When they returned, Nubia replaced the battery for their relieved, new friend. *Nubia and her team support our community daily by providing Street Outreach across Tarrant County, with (7) out of the current 9-person team being women. DRC Street Outreach is the only Outreach team that partners with the Cities of Fort Worth and Arlington, riding out daily with FWPD, FWFD, and Arlington PD to offer services to the unsheltered.*



DONATE & CONTACT



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BY SUPPORTING THE DRC**

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