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Parents weather cold for free gifts

Fort Worth Star-Telegram-December 15, 1992

Author: Star-Telegram

Nearly 2,000 people visited Mission Arlington's free Christmas store yesterday, the first day for the general public to pick out presents for children and parents. More than 1,200 people lined up outside 210 W. South St. before noon. Mission Arlington director Tillie Burgin said the mission put some people in vans to keep them warm and handed out blankets to others, such as Dianna Meadows, left, Carolyn Malone, center, and Jeannie DeNeale in the photo above. Once inside, Arlington resident Melissa Ashley, below, looks for toys for her three children.

Last year, the nonprofit agency for the poor, which is affiliated with First Baptist Church, served 9,000 people in 10 days at its Christmas store. People who can't afford to buy presents can pick them out at the store. Parents can get one present for each child, and children can select one present for each parent.

PHOTOS

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