

=====
Van service needs another \$10,000

Fort Worth Star-Telegram-April 26, 1994
Author: JAN JARVIS, Star-Telegram Writer

ARLINGTON - Mission Arlington, which said last month that it cannot afford to repair or replace its four aging vans, remains short of the money needed to continue providing transportation to the city's needy.

Although the nonprofit agency has received two donations of \$5,000 each, about \$10,000 more is needed to buy a \$20,000 no-frills van to replace the four unreliable vehicles that Mission Arlington volunteers have been driving.

If more people don't contribute, Arlington is in danger of losing a valuable service to those who cannot afford transportation, said Allan Saxe, an associate professor of political science at the University of Texas at Arlington, and one of those who donated \$5,000.

"I hate for them to lose this program," Saxe said. "If they could just get another \$10,000, it would alleviate a lot of their problems."

An anonymous donor matched Saxe's donation and has said that she would consider contributing more if others joined the effort, Mission Arlington officials said.

"If somebody matched that \$10,000, then we'd be headed for business," said Tillie Burgin, executive director for Mission Arlington.

Mission Arlington's woes came to the public's attention after Burgin told the City Council that it would be forced to end its transportation program in May, when a \$40,000 federal grant runs out.

The 1980s-model vans log 5,000 to 6,000 miles a month, Burgin said. The non-profit organization is supported entirely by area churches and contributions from the community.

The city awarded Mission Arlington the \$40,000 Community Development Block Grant last year to pay the salaries of three part-time drivers and one coordinator. Burgin did not apply for the grant this year because she did not believe that \$40,000 would cover the cost of the transportation program.

"We didn't feel like we could apply for more money, and we couldn't do the program with \$40,000," Burgin said.

The vans are unreliable and are in need of repair, but volunteers will continue to provide transportation as long as the vans are running, Burgin said.

The Tarrant County Human Services Department has offered to provide emergency cab vouchers to those who need transportation to medical appointments and social-service agencies.

How to help

For information on how to help, call Mission Arlington at 277-6620.

Edition: ARLINGTON AMSection: ARLINGTONPage: 12

Record Number: FWST228598Copyright 1994 STAR-TELEGRAM INC.

http://docs.newsbank.com/s/InfoWeb/aggdocs/NewsBank/0EAF8F79E8BD385F/0DCE74CA83DC3680?p_multi=FWTB&s_lang=en-US