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Mission Arlington  
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Mission Arlington has become so entrenched in the city's social services that its 10th anniversary almost comes as a surprise.

Ten years? Only 10? Since Tillie Burgin launched the program under the umbrella of First Baptist Church, the growth has been spectacular.

Food and clothes for the needy? Temporary shelter? Counseling? Day care for indigent mothers? Busing for the needy?

Get-back-on-your-feet job assistance? And, of course, wide-ranging spiritual assistance? Mission is the right word.

Burgin has multiple gifts: boundless energy, resolute determination and unshakeable faith. But Mission Arlington would not work without her ability to inspire volunteer and community support. And her other gift - the level of dedication and commitment by First Baptist - has been exceptional.

One concern is that so much of Mission Arlington's energy flows from Burgin and there's no successor in sight. But that's a worry for another day.

For now, happy 10th to Mission Arlington, and may there be many more.

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