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A day in the life of Mission Metroplex

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The Arlington charity celebrates the spirit of giving
-
year-round

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Author: Star-Telegram

More than 18,000 people browsed the Christmas store of Mission Metroplex this year and found enough free gifts to brighten their families' holidays.

Since 1989, the Christmas store has helped families in need provide gifts for their children, director Tillie Burgin said. The gifts are donated to the store by area businesses and individuals. Families "shop" for the gifts from Dec. 8 to Dec. 24. Most select a major gift and several smaller ones.

The store is operated by Mission Metroplex of Arlington, which served 243,000 people last year. The faith-based organization provides food, clothing, dental services and medical care. It also provides rental assistance, provides transportation and delivers furniture.

This year, the charity is seeing more first-time clients, Burgin said.

"Family members are coming in for other family members who are too embarrassed to come in," she said. "Some have gone a couple months without a paycheck, and they need \$100 to hold them in an apartment or keep their utilities on until they get jobs."

PHOTO(S): Darrell Byers

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