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Arson and altruism

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It doesn't take a thousand good deeds to nullify a single wrong, but even if it did, Mission Arlington would come out on the positive side of the golden rule.

Investigators have ruled that a pair of weekend fires in the Mission Arlington warehouse, the first taking place on Christmas Eve, were arson inexplicably hostile actions, considering the organization's long and tireless history of service to thousands of less fortunate individuals.

The damage to the building was judged to be relatively minor, and volunteer workers are already busily repairing the building. Not as much could be said for the state of the building's contents, much of which were ruined.

Mission Arlington provides a day shelter, food, clothing, job assistance, dental and medical clinics, and transportation services for the poor (and, of course, a religious ministry) among its many services.

Fortunately, most of the warehouse had been emptied as part of Mission Arlington's Christmas programs to help the needy, which include everything from baskets of food for shut-ins or needy families to rebuilt or new bicycles for children.

Even so, residents from Arlington and the region began a long caravan to Mission Arlington early this week, dropping off donations of food, clothing, toys, furniture and appliances. Many wrote checks as well.

If the as-yet-unknown arsonist's intent was to injure Mission Arlington, the outpouring of support must have come as something of a shock. The reverse a blessing of community support took place.

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