

CITIZEN COMMUNITY AWARD

Is there anyone who has not heard of Mission Arlington? They have served the citizens of Arlington for more than 34 years, providing assistance to those in need. What began as a small mission on South Street has grown and evolved into a living breathing entity. The Mission includes a food pantry, a clothing store, a housewares and furniture store, a pharmacy, a counseling center, a dentist and doctor's office and a business office where days are started with a guitar, a song and a prayer. If you have heard of Mission Arlington, then you have heard of Mrs. Tillie Burgin. It would take a multi-volume book to try to document the breadth of her work within our community, but Mrs. Tillie would be quick to tell you that none of what she does is "her work. She strongly believes that she is a humble, able bodied servant of God who has been led to do His work. It would be completely futile to try to tell Mrs. Tillie's story without assigning every breath she takes to the Lord, because her work is a testimony to her belief, her faith and her obedience. When she is at peace, she brings peace to others and when she is driven, she infects others with drive.

If you have not taken a tour of Mission Arlington, be prepared to be amazed by the sheer magnitude and scope and captivated by the passion that fills the complex. Be sure to have on your walking shoes and good luck keeping up with Mrs. Tillie's breathless pace. The services provided to our community are incredibly vast and no matter what the need is, Mission Arlington is likely going to be able to provide it. She will tell you how fast those tons of groceries are turned over and take your through a parking lot where dozens of people are unloading trucks of furniture and putting them on their trucks to be taken so a child will have a bed to sleep in that very same night. After you catch your breath, the tour will continue, and you will be off to a multi-story building where you will see a school supply store with every imaginable thing a student might need and then upstairs you'll go to where magic happens – the Christmas Store. The only thing you won't see here – a cash register. When the tour ends, Mrs. Tillie will thank the Lord for all he has provided and then she is off to continue the work you interrupted her from.

The help provided by Mission Arlington, Mrs. Tillie and the crew of volunteers is not only comprehensive, but it's done out of kindness and love. Mrs. Tillie Burgin is truly a gift of love to our community . . . a humble, selfless and tireless servant and the Arlington Police Department is exceptionally proud to present her the *Citizen Community Award*.