

An Arlington food pantry sees demand skyrocket by 364% — and calls for volunteers

Mission Arlington is also accepting donations of food and other supplies as families struggle during the coronavirus pandemic.



Volunteers help unload and pack food supplies for families during a drive through food drive hosted by Harvest Project Food Rescue and the North Texas Dream Team in Dallas in July. Food pantries across North Texas are seeing increased demand during the coronavirus pandemic. Ben Torres/Special Contributor (Ben Torres / Special Contributor)

By [Brayden Garcia](#)

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The Mission Arlington food pantry is seeing higher demand than it's experienced in 34 years of operation, feeding 48,000 families more than 171,000 meals just through June.

Jim Burgin, a spokesperson for the nonprofit, said that marks a 364% increase in Mission Arlington's food distribution when compared to last year.

With so many families in need during the coronavirus pandemic, the community has stepped up to provide plenty of food and other supplies, Burgin said.



“Our community and the city of Arlington and all kinds of churches and folks have come together to try to help people that are in a moment of need,” he said. “It feels good to be a part of what everyone’s doing to help.”

However, while food distribution has increased, volunteering has slowed down, perhaps because people are wary of leaving their homes during the pandemic, Burgin said. But any help is welcome.

Anyone who needs food or other help can visit Mission Arlington during [its emergency assistance hours](#), although the organization will also deliver groceries.

Mission Arlington is seeking donations of basic food items like peanut butter, cereal and soups. Burgin said the nonprofit hopes to help as many people as it can.

“That’s why we’re here,” he said.