

Arlington nonprofits continue serving the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic

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Mission Arlington sits covered in snow Feb. 23, 2015. Mission Arlington is one of many nonprofits continuing to serve the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
The Shorthorn file photo / Kayla Stigall

In a city under strict social distancing guidelines and regulations, many businesses have shut down. From closed tattoo shops and hair salons to book stores and gyms, life in Arlington has mostly halted.

However, there's some establishments that simply can't shut down because of the large communities they serve throughout the city. Nonprofit shelters and services have had to adjust to meet the demands and regulations of the COVID-19 pandemic while still meeting the needs of those they serve.

Here's a few Arlington nonprofits and a quick breakdown of how they're coping with COVID-19.

Mission Arlington

Jim Burgin, Mission Arlington pastor and communications person, said the organization has created a drive-thru to pass out food to those in need.

He said the drive-thru, along with limiting people in the building's front room, has helped with social distancing. Burgin also said that when people come by to drop off items for the organization, they're met with volunteers wearing gloves and masks who unload their car for them.

“It’s working real beautifully,” he said.

Burgin said the organization has seen an increase in people stopping by for services and expects that number to increase in the weeks ahead. He said with businesses and schools closing down, the need will increase.

With the increase in services, he said the organization’s volunteers have been lighter than usual. He said people are taking the virus seriously and following the guidelines well, but the need for volunteers is always there.

However, the community has responded well to the organization’s needs and have been providing them with plenty of food and other supplies, Burgin said.

“We feel like we’ve got the world’s greatest job because we get blessed when people give to us, and then all we do is turn around and give it away,” he said. “So we really are a reflection of our community.”