

Mission Arlington Welcomes Volunteers for Holiday Season

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ARLINGTON, Texas — Mission Arlington, Tillie Burgin; those two names are synonymous to anyone who knows them.

What You Need To Know

- Mission Arlington offers food pantry, clothing store, and more
 - In 2019, more than 24,000 people received food from the organization
 - The group caught HUD Secretary Ben Carson's attention
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Burgin is the woman behind the Mission and showing love is her mission and the aim of the ministry she her family started more than three decades ago. The faith-based organization offers Arlington's community services like a food pantry, clothing store, dentist and doctor offices, and a pharmacy just to name a few.

Mission Arlington's staff and volunteers do their best to serve those in need, and as they gear up for the holidays it's a busy place to be.

In 2019 more than 24,000 people (5,814 families) received food from the more than 6,000 people who volunteer on Thanksgiving Day.

Mission Arlington works all year long, getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"Everything's free, we don't charge for anything," said Burgin, executive director of Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex. "As people give, we can give and that touches lives because it's thought when you get up in the morning and there's no bed, there's nothing."

On Mission's Arlington's website, an invitation to get a tour is offered to anyone seeking services.

Burgin is used to guiding people around the campus, but recently she gave a special tour to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson. Carson's visit marks his effort to recognize faith-based programs across the county that have collaborated with their cities to help those in need. Since Mission Arlington is such a pillar of support in the community, it caught Carson's attention.



Tillie Burgin shows HUD Secretary Ben Carson Mission Arlington's Christmas Shop (Lupe Zapata/Spectrum News)

During his visit Burgin showed Secretary Carson one of her most cherished programs at the mission, The Christmas Store. Last year, 2,691 children received Christmas gifts from Mission Arlington.

“More than 5,000 children received bikes, and our community provided Christmas gifts with the help of more than 7,000 volunteers running the store,” said Burgin. “We shared the Christmas story from the gospel of Luke in six different languages, and 15-hundred people accepted Christ or rededicated their lives to the Lord.”

Secretary Carson says it’s outreaches like Mission Arlington that show the good in our country



Burgin, Carson, with Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams interview for a series on Carson's website. (Lupe Zapata/Spectrum News)

“Our mission at HUD and what we consider success is not how many people we get into government assistance programs, but how many people can get out of programs and become self-sufficient,” said Carson. “We believe that the best way to accomplish that is work with the private sector, work with the faith-based communities and nonprofits.”

As temperatures start to drop in North Texas, the mission is in need of donations.

“Hats and coats, and warm things right now for people, and it’s caught us a little short,” said Burgin. “So we need some of those things, like children’s clothes.”

When asked what she would like her legacy to be, what would she like to leave behind, Burgin said “I would like to know that everyone came to know Christ.”



Burgin, Carson, with Williams in prayer (Lupe Zapata/Spectrum News)

If you'd like to get connected, Mission Arlington is in need of volunteers to help this holiday season. Volunteer hours are between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Burgin says you don't need an appointment, just come in whenever you are available, and they'll get you to work.