

MISSION ARLINGTON MISSION METROPLEX

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Christmas 2007

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A NOTE FROM TILLIE BURGIN:

I wish I had words to express the gratitude my heart feels. I am so grateful for our Lord, who makes all things possible, and for you. Together, with God's help, we have an opportunity to make this community a place that is

safe for all people.

We thank God for the opportunity He gives us to share the message of His love found in John 3:16. I often say I have never met a life that God did not create: so I cannot think of anyone we can throw away. When you see the reports that thousands of people are being helped, remember those are people you are helping to be okay with your gifts.

A man recently came to the Mission office to donate some food. He handed me a turkey through the window of his car. Of course I said "thank you so much." He quickly replied, "No, thank God because two years ago I was one of those Mission Arlington brought the turkey dinner to. My wife had left me with these two boys. We had nothing when you knocked at my door with a turkey. Today I have found a wonderful wife who is helping me raise my two boys and we are doing fine. On that day encouragement came because you brought me a turkey; now encourage someone else with mine."

I love that kind of heart and so do you. Thank you, dear friends, for your life's commitment to helping. We help those who find themselves in moments of crisis. It's such a blessing to see when they in turn can help another.

Mission Arlington's annual *Christmas Store* is here!



The Christmas Store shares free gifts and the Biblical story of Christmas. You can help make this year's Christmas Store a blessing to thousands of people:

★ Volunteer! You can wrap gifts, provide childcare, stock shelves, shop, deliver items, and help in other fun ways.

★ We also need new or "like new", unwrapped gifts for ages from newborn to teenagers. You can find a list of suggested items on our website at www.missionarlington.org/christmas2007.



Last year, Mission Arlington provided free gifts to 26,000 people at Christmas. We thank God for the way He provides.

Thanksgiving 2007: a huge success!

Through your generous donations and enthusiastic volunteering, Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex was able to feed 17,000 people on Thanksgiving day. With your help, we delivered 2,707 uncooked turkeys, 3,802 prepared hot meals, and served 225 people at community center dinners. To everyone who cooked, donated, and delivered: thank you for being a part!

Pictured below are just some of the ways volunteers helped: (from left) delivering prepared meals on Thanksgiving Day, fathers and children from the YMCA sorting food, and Burgin Elementary students with turkeys they collected for Mission Arlington.





Vandergriff Auto Group declared a special Mission Arlington Day in October, donating a portion of the proceeds from all cars sold to Mission Arlington.



General Motors employees collected Thanksgiving food for Mission Arlington.



Primrose Schools held a food drive, then brought the pre-schoolers to Mission Arlington to donate the food.

It takes this community working together to make the ministries of Mission Arlington/ Mission Metroplex possible. This holiday season, we want to issue a heartfelt thank you to the many, many people who are part of what God is doing here. Pictured above are just a few of the groups that have helped Mission Arlington recently. Please know we wish we could include all your pictures and thank each one of you in person. You are special to us.

**From all of us at
Mission Arlington:
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.**

Earning Your Trust

It is important to us that you know Mission Arlington/ Mission Metroplex continues its strong commitment to open accountability. We know that stories of a few non-profit organizations being irresponsible with funds are frequently in the news these days. We have worked hard for more than 21 years to earn and keep your trust. Here are some of the ways we guarantee that your gifts go to the people that need help:

By Providing Stable, Passionate Leadership

Tillie Burgin has been Mission Arlington's Executive Director from the very beginning. Many of the current staff have served for two decades. Working at Mission Arlington isn't a job, but a calling.

By Having an Independent Board of Governors

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex is supported and directed by more than 40 men and women from our community.

By Emphasizing Financial Accountability

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex is audited each year by a respected independent auditor. We are members in good standing with the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability, the Better Business Bureau, and Charity Navigator, where we hold the highest possible rating of four stars.

By Stretching the Dollars You Give

Volunteers work in Mission Arlington roles where other organizations would use paid staff. Needed supplies are mostly donated, not bought. Last year, the United Way showed our administrative overhead to be 2.9%. More than ninety-seven cents of every dollar you give goes straight into our programs.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . .



It's fun to watch the Mission Arlington Apartment churches "growing up". These ladies are decorating the Christmas Store for opening day. They are part of the first Mission Arlington congregation, which

began in an Arlington apartment 21 years ago and is still strong. Your gifts help churches like this one reach more and more people with the true story of Christmas.