

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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SOUP KITCHEN SEES RECORD NUMBERS *"SO MANY CAME THAT WE RAN OUT OF FOOD"*

Michael Oher, the NFL player whose life is depicted in the movie, *The Blind Side*, wrote a book about growing up in poverty. The opening line of the book is, "You're not poor if you know where your next meal is coming from." It is not an academic definition of poverty, but it makes a harsh point.

A year ago an average of 214 people came to our soup kitchen for a hot meal each night. Now, the average is up to 281. One night a record 365 people came. Mike Mathews, who manages our soup kitchen, said, "So many came that we ran out of food."

Some of our usual sources where we are able to acquire food at a very low cost or even free have

experienced cutbacks for various reasons, so it has become more of a challenge to find discounted food.

We are seeing an increase in demand as well at our two food pantries. As more people lose their jobs or have their hours cut, their need for supplemental food rises.

**Sorry, but on crowded nights...
We may not be able to offer "seconds"
or
allow take-outs.**

Sign posted in our soup kitchen dining room.

CENTER'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICES KEEPS BUSY *SINCE JANUARY WE HAVE HELPED 287 PEOPLE FIND WORK*



Rick Diaz, computer instructor, helps Melinda, who is in our Employment Program, fill out an on-line application for a job. Many people who come to us for help finding a job need assistance in using a computer. Most job postings and applications are now done on-line. For those who are not computer-savvy, Rick's assistance is invaluable.

The line for food is not the only line that forms at Bishop Sullivan Center. Tuesday and Wednesday we offer classes for people who are seeking work. We teach them how to look for a job, how to interview for a job, and how to hold down a job.

Most jobs openings today are listed on the Internet. Most of those we see do not own a computer or have ready access to one. We, therefore, have computers available for job seekers. We help them with resumes and filling out on-line applications. So far this year we have helped 287 people find work.



CENTER HELPS WOMAN GET HER HEAD ABOVE WATER FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HER OWN APARTMENT

Sarah was homeless with two children. She was on welfare and was facing going to a shelter, sleeping in her car or staying with friends. She ended up trying all three.

Sarah decided to enter our Employment Program. She worked really hard to find a job. She scoured the Internet in our computer resource room, networked with friends and hit the pavement on a day to day basis. She found work in just under a month.

The job she took was part time, driving a school bus. Sarah knew this would help, but it would not be the answer to all of her problems. She continued to look for a full time job. She frequently came in to our Center to check her email for follow ups on other leads. Her persistence paid off. She is now working full time, with a living wage that offers benefits and health insurance for her and her children.

Sarah was so grateful for the assistance that we gave her that she came in personally to thank us all for what we have done, most especially to "lift her spirits." Sarah is one of the 287 people so far this year that we helped find work.



A poor woman once said that living in poverty was like treading water, a lot of work and you don't get anywhere.

Dinner and Live Concert with Liverpool A Beatles Tribute Band To Benefit Bishop Sullivan Center



Saturday, November 12

Rockhurst High School Rose Theater

9301 State Line Road • Kansas City, MO 64114

**Buffet Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.
Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.**

\$50.00 per Ticket - includes buffet dinner and one drink ticket
\$400 Table of 10 - includes buffet dinner and one drink ticket per person
Cash bar available

Tickets may be purchased on our website at www.bishopsullivan.org

Please RSVP by October 28, 2011 to Kim Clough at 816-231-0984
or email: kim.clough@bishopsullivan.org

To donate make check payable to Bishop Sullivan Center and mail to the address below or you can donate online.

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