

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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DEMAND FOR SERVICES INCREASE CHURCH DONATES MORE SPACE TO HELP

Every Thursday morning at Bishop Sullivan Center we offer an "Employment Orientation" class. The class lasts two and a half hours and teaches skills on how to find a job and how to hold down a job. Most of the people who come to our class have limited educations, high school or less. A year ago, about 10 people would show up on Thursdays; now it is typically over 20.

Last year our food pantry averaged 716 families a month; this year we are averaging 843 families a month. It is a similar story at our food pantry and soup kitchen located at 39th and Troost. The dismal economy is taking its toll.

The food pantry and soup kitchen, which we have operated for years at 39th and Troost, has been in partnership with St. James Parish. The parish owns the buildings for these services and has never charged us any rent. Acknowledging the growing needs of people, the parish has graciously donated more space - a lot more space.

The additional space will allow us to expand the dining room for the soup kitchen. The current dining room seats about 50 people. Over 200 people a night come for a hot meal. The meal is served from 4:30 to 6:00. So, doing the math, the dining room turns over four times an evening.

“It is a myth that people who come to food pantries or soup kitchens don't want to work. They do. It's just hard to find a job.”

The food pantry we currently operate out of on Troost is small; there is only room for seven people at a time in its lobby. Consequently, it is a common sight to see people waiting outside for their turn to come in. Obviously, this

is a tough wait when the weather is inclement. The additional space will allow for a much larger lobby.

We will now be able to offer our Employment Services at this Troost location. It is a myth that people who come



Our Employment Services orientation class fills up every week these days at our Truman Road location. We will soon duplicate this service at 39th and Troost to help more people find work.

to soup kitchens or food pantries do not want to work. They do. It's just hard to find a job. Our Employment Service at our Truman Road location has been quite successful, placing about 25 people a month into jobs. We hope to duplicate that success on Troost.

It is a blessing to have this partnership with St. James Parish so that many more people in need can be served. The parish is to be commended for donating such a gift of space.



Bishop Sullivan Center operates two of the largest food pantries in Kansas City.

HIT-IT-A-TON CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TAKE A SWING AT HUNGER YOURSELF

Billy and Katie Butler want to do more to help people who come to our Center's food pantries. Last year they donated a ton of food for every home run that he hit. A ton of food costs \$200 at Harvesters; Billy hit 11 home runs last year. This year Billy said he hopes to hit more, and again the Butlers promise to donate a ton of food for each one.

Billy has also invited his friend and teammate, Mike Aviles, to help. Last year Billy autographed bats, balls and photos in appreciation for people who made donations to the Hit-It-A-Ton campaign. He thought people might want to add to their Hit-It-A-Ton baseball memorabilia, so this year Mike Aviles will also sign bats, balls and photos.

Straub Construction will donate a ton of food for every home run that Billy hits. And Mail Print Inc. will donate a ton of food for every home run that Mike Aviles hits.

You too can participate in the Hit-It-A-Ton Campaign. Here's how:

- Donate just one ton of food, that is, \$200, and you will receive a **bat autographed by Billy or Mike (your choice)** plus two tickets to Hit-it-a-Ton day at the K on Saturday, August 8th.
- Donate half a ton, \$100, and you will receive an **autographed ball by Billy or Mike (your choice)** and get a ticket to Hit-It-A-Ton day at the K.
- Donate a tenth of a ton, \$20, you will receive an **autographed picture of Billy or Mike (your choice)** and receive a discount on a ticket to the game.



Billy Butler (r) and Mike Aviles will co-chair this year's Hit-It-A-Ton campaign.

All donors to the Hit-It-A-Ton campaign will be invited to a Bar-B-Que tailgate party with Billy Butler and Mike Aviles before the Royal's game on Saturday, August 8th against the Oakland A's.

Go to www.hititaton.org to feed the hungry in our town.



MOTHER AND HER DAUGHTERS FLEE ABUSIVE HOME SNAPSHOT OF A FAMILY YOUR DONATIONS HELPED

Awoman came to the pantry for the first time. She had just moved into a small apartment with her twin girls. Even though the young woman worked, there was no food and no furniture in her home. When I visited, there was a blanket on the floor where they ate their meals. We were able to give them food, personal items and two mattresses for the young girls. We will also give them a table and chairs for the dining room.

The story is that she left her home suddenly after some sort of abuse and stayed for several days in a shelter. When she got a restraining order for her husband she returned home to find that everything was gone - furniture, clothes, dishes - everything. She is trying to start over and is struggling to make ends meet. She has had to find a place to live, get her children back into a new school and generally begin her life anew.

Thanks to you, we can help families like this.



Joe Quinn loads up a new bed to deliver to this single mother and her kids.

BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER AND FOOD

Average number of families served each month from our Truman Road Pantry. . .	843
Average number of families served each month from our St. James Pantry	644
Average number of meals served nightly at our St. James Kitchen	221
Average number of pounds purchased from Harvesters each month	49,375
Average food bill each month from Harvesters!	\$7,900
Average amount of food given to each family in pounds	33
Length of time it takes us to dispense one ton of food.	less than a day



Bishop Sullivan Center

Auction, Raffle & Trivia Night Saturday, April 18, 2009

The Kansas City Conference Center
(NE Corner of 13th & Broadway)

- Doors open and silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m.
- Silent auction tables begin closing at 7:30 p.m.
- Live auction at 8:15 p.m.
- Trivia game to follow
- Raffle
- Hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a cash bar will be available
- Casual attire
- Tickets – \$40 per person or a table of 10 for \$350
- RSVP by April 1, 2009
- **Check out some of our auction items on our web site**

Sponsored by: The Neenan Company, Franke Schultz & Mullen and Andrew J. Gelbach, PC

**Trip to Hawaii
for Two**
(six days, five nights)
valued at \$3,500

**52" Sony Flat
Screen TV**
valued at \$3,500

Trip to Disney World
(Two adults, four children,
airfare, hotel, 3-park passes,
4 day, 3 night)
valued at \$3,800

**\$3,000.00
CASH!!!**

- \$25 a ticket or 5 for \$100.00
- Winner chooses ONE of these four prizes
- Need not be present to win
- Drawing at the auction on April 18

Buy raffle tickets or auction tickets online at: www.bishopsullivan.org

Questions? Email Joe Quinn at jquinn@bishopsullivan.org

or call **816-231-0984**



For those who donate to United Way, please consider designating Bishop Sullivan Center as the recipient.

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