

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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ELDERCOOL AND ELDERCUT BRING RELIEF *SENIORS APPRECIATE DONORS' SUPPORT*

A common problem facing many seniors in our city is finding people you trust to help you. If you are a senior and poor, then your problem is exacerbated. How do you afford the trusted help you need?

Bishop Sullivan Center has been reaching out to low-income seniors throughout the city with various services – and at no cost to them. Each month we bring groceries to about 90 seniors in their homes. We help with small home repairs, most often a plumbing problem or a furnace on the fritz. We've also replaced a fair share of hot water heaters.

For the past seven summers, we have provided a window air-conditioner to those who suffer from the heat. This summer we added Project ElderCut to our repertoire of services to the elderly; we will cut their grass for them if they cannot afford to have it done. We are cutting about 27 yards this summer.

We are grateful to all who so generously donate to these seniors. Thanks to you, they have adequate food, cool homes, hot water and attractive lawns.



Above, Mary, 77 years old, takes care of her 80-year-old invalid brother. Prior to that, she took care of her other brother until he passed at the age of 103. Mary's breathing is labored as she has a tracheostomy tube. Dustin Wright was happy to install an air-conditioner for her.



Left, Carrie, seated in her wheelchair, is appreciative of the free grass cutting the Center has provided her this summer. Vincent Whitley is one of our "cutters." Carrie said earlier this summer the city had cited her for overgrown grass and threatened to fine her. She said that she simply couldn't afford to keep it cut on a regular basis.



SOUP KITCHEN GUESTS AND VOLUNTEERS DINE ON STEAKS *LOCAL PRIESTS PICK UP THE TAB*



Guests at our soup kitchen were pleasantly surprised when they showed up for dinner one night in June. Instead of eating the usual fare in the small dining room, they were treated to bar-b-que steaks and dined alfresco.

This is third year we have held this event. Those who regularly volunteer at the soup kitchen were invited as well. There was a good mix of volunteers and guests. All are handed a blue t-shirt to foment an atmosphere of “one big happy family.” A live jazz band performed throughout dinner to make it a festive affair.

Once again, the diocesan and order priests in the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese made generous donations to foot the bill for the meal.

Frank Peak (l) and Mary Smith (r) assist Sheldon Townsend to his seat. “Shep” volunteered for many years at the soup kitchen and was delighted to come back to see old friends.

SENIORS GET MORE THAN FOOD... WHEN THESE TWO COME CALLING

Helen Lynn (on the left of the photo) and Lorene Mixon (r) deliver food from our pantry each month to seven seniors. Helen and Lorene do not see their role as simply delivery-gals, who drop off the food and go; rather, they enjoy visiting with the seniors and getting to know their special needs.

They learned that Onie likes puzzle books, so they’ll buy a few of those at the Dollar Store. They bring Mary sugar free candy. Thelma likes those thousand piece jigsaw puzzles, so that’s what they bring her. Most of them like popcorn, so they are treated to that.

These little gifts, no doubt, express to these seniors that some one is paying attention to them. Probably more important than the gifts is the time Helen and Lorene spend visiting with them.

Each month we bring food to 90 seniors.



the largest food pantries in Kansas City.

PAINTING REVEALS THE PRECARIOUS SITUATION OF THE POOR ***REACHING OUT CAN BE RISKY***

By Sheila McGee-Christiansen, Bishop Sullivan Center Staff

From the earliest days of the Church until now, the Good Shepherd has always been a favorite image of Jesus. We all can somehow identify with that lost sheep. This picture of the Shepherd and sheep brings home what it means to go after the lost and frightened. The poor sheep is hanging on for dear life. It can't move - neither up nor down - it just clings to the side of the mountain.

As I reflected on this picture, I tried to feel what it would be like to be clinging to the mountain in fear and then look up and see the kindness and love on the face of the Shepherd as he stretches out his hand to carry me to safety. Just to see his outstretched hand would allay all the fear - someone is here, someone cares, I am not alone.

Many times those in need who come here to Bishop Sullivan Center are like the sheep, they are holding on for dear life. The fears and frustrations of not being able to pay their bills, to provide for their families, of not being able to get to safety is all there on their faces. The abyss looks deeper and the fear is greater when you feel there is no one to help you. A young mother with four children who has to find a home and does not have the deposit. She is scared and frantic at the same time. She has done all she can do and now is hanging, waiting, hoping for an outstretched hand.

How does the shepherd feel? He is concerned, he has to climb the mountain and reach over the precipice to get to the sheep. It is not an easy task, but no matter, he knows what he has to do. One of his flock is lost and in danger.

We each have our time as sheep and shepherd. Each day at Bishop Sullivan Center we are reminded of both. The elderly, the single moms and dads, the disabled, those seeking employment come because they are in precarious



situations. Like the sheep, they need a loving hand to reach out to them.

There are many shepherds as well, people like you who donate here. Because of the kindness and caring of these "shepherds", we are able to reach out that hand, a sign of hope. Working together we can lift to safety those in need.

Jesus has given us the example. He went looking for the lost sheep. He walked off the normal path. He asks us to follow His example. Not all the sheep are fluffy and white, some are matted and muddy - but the mandate is the same for all: help the one in need.

In July, Bishop Sullivan Center assisted 1,366 families from its two food pantries and on average served 205 people a night at its soup kitchen.

Mark your calendar. Invitations will be sent later.
(This is in lieu of our annual breakfast.)

Broadway Hits the Heart

A Benefit Concert for Bishop Sullivan Center



Each song has a connection to the work of Bishop Sullivan Center, for example,

- “Food Glorious Food” from Oliver
 - “I’ve Got Plenty of Nuttin” from Porgy and Bess
 - “If I Were a Rich Man” from Fiddler on the Roof
- and plenty more.

Emcee: Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove

Pianist: Fr. Mike Mulhearn

Singers: Lorenzo, Anna Marie Mathenia,
Hanna Cosgrove

You’ll be entertained, touched and inspired.

Unity Temple on the Plaza

707 W. 47th
(just a few blocks “off Broadway”)

Saturday, October 13th, 7:00 pm

Tickets \$20



For tickets contact:

BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER • 6435 TRUMAN ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MO 64126
www.bishopsullivan.org • 816-231-0984