

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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"I'D BE UP A CREEK!" NO RAINY DAY FUND FOR MANY INDIGENT ELDERLY

“What would you do if your refrigerator broke and had to be replaced?” When we asked Mae this question she said, “Oh my, I guess I’d be up a creek.”

Mae’s husband died a few years ago. She lives in a small house on her modest social security income. Mae is in her mid-seventies and has trouble walking without some kind of assistance. Her working days are behind her. We bring her a few sacks of groceries each month to supplement her food supply.

Mae’s budget allows for no extras. She says that when she is in a grocery store she will see some food items she would really like, but knows she cannot afford, so “I just move on past it.”

Two things she would like, but views as treats, are hard-rock candy and yarn, the latter because she likes to knit. She cannot afford either.

We went back and visited some of the elderly for whom we put in air conditioners this past summer and asked them the “refrigerator question;” that is, “What would you do if your refrigerator broke and you had to replace it?” Like Mae, they didn’t know what they would do. They do not have discretionary money or a family member to turn to. Either there is no family left, or their family is equally strapped.

For the most part, these are people who worked their entire life, or their husband did, but at a job with no pension plan. The job they worked was sufficient to live

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One of our volunteers brought Mae a bag of yarn -- something not in her budget. It did not take her long to start knitting.

modestly. But now, unable to work, they live solely off social security, which for some is minimal.

Each month, due to your donations, we bring food to about 100 home-bound elderly, we installed over 300 air conditioners this summer, and we cut grass for 50 low-income elderly. We also help the elderly with small-home repairs; plumbing and furnace repairs top this list. And if their refrigerator broke, we would provide them with another one.

After visiting many of these folks it is clear that were it not for the generous contributions of someone like you who is reading this, they would be up that creek that Mae fears.



SOUP KITCHEN GUEST LACKS EVEN \$10 NEEDED TO HEAL WOUND

DEPRESSION-LIKE "BREAD LINES" STILL VISIBLE

Jim lost his construction job in December and has been unable to find any permanent work. In April he lost his apartment, in May he could no longer afford his phone, and last week, his car was repossessed. He is living in a shelter. Recently, he was hit by a car while riding his bicycle to a "day work" job. The skin on his left arm and his side was ripped off. He got out of Truman Hospital and was given a prescription for an antibiotic cream to reduce infection. He could not pay for the prescription even though it was only \$10.

He needed \$10.00 to try to ward off an infection. We took him back to Truman Hospital and filled his prescription. On the ride we encouraged him to enroll in the Jobs program and to join us for dinner. He did come back that evening and when we talked again he was in tears. It seems that this \$10.00 was the first time he had directly asked for help (outside of the shelter) and he was ashamed. He told us that it was the first time somebody seemed to care. Anyway he was grateful and has already made an appointment for our Jobs program.



Most of us have seen the grainy black and white photos from the Depression of men lining up for bread. Without a job and without any government support, people during the Depression relied on the generosity of others in order to eat. For many of the 200 plus people who come to our soup kitchen at night for a hot meal, the story is the same. Thank you for helping others to eat.

STATE OF MISSOURI GIVES TAX CREDITS FOR DONATIONS TO FOOD PANTRIES

CREDITS UP TO 50% OF YOUR DONATION

As an incentive to encourage people to make donations to food pantries, the State of Missouri passed a bill two years ago that would give a tax credit – not just a deduction – for contributions to a food pantry, such as Bishop Sullivan Center's.

Any taxpayer (individual, corporation or trust) that makes a donation of cash or food supplies to a food pantry may receive a credit of up to \$2,500 per taxpayer per year. The taxpayer may take a credit of 50% of their donations. The total amount available for the Food Pantry Tax Credit is \$2,000,000 in any one fiscal year. A fiscal year begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th.

All claims will be held until after April 15th to determine if the total claimed exceeds \$2,000,000. If claims exceed \$2,000,000, the department will apportion credits in an equal ratio among all valid returns filed.

For more information on this, go to <http://dor.mo.gov/tax/taxcredit/fpt.htm>. There is a link to this information on our website, www.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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