

# Bishop Sullivan Center

## NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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### “IF \$200 FELL OUT OF THE SKY AND INTO YOUR LAP – WHAT WOULD YOU DO?”

**W**e interviewed over 100 people who come to us for food. The purpose of the survey was to assess the depth of their needs. One of the questions we asked was, “What would you do if \$200 fell out of the sky and into your lap?” For the majority of respondents their answer was “Food.”

One woman upon hearing the question started to cry and said, “Oh, please let it fall.”

The second most common answer was “Pay utility bills.” One respondent said, “If someone gave me an extra \$200, first I would buy food and second I would pay my bills.” He then said, “Let me answer that again, first I would thank God, then I would buy food and pay bills.”

Many interviewed reported that there are times that they are flat out of food and, consequently, have missed meals. When you are hungry, buying food with extra money is the first thing that comes to your mind.



“I would buy food.”

### “WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THERE WERE NO FOOD PANTRIES?” SURVEY SHOWS PANTRIES PREVENT HUNGER



“I guess I would starve.”

Another question on the survey was, “What would you do if there were no food pantries?” When many heard this question, their immediate response was, “I’d be in trouble.” A couple said, “I guess I would starve.” Others said, “Go to a soup kitchen.” One said, “I’d knock on doors for food.” Many said that they would have to turn to their friends and family, though they were in the same boat.

People expressed gratitude for the food pantry here at Bishop Sullivan Center. In addition to the food, they said it saves them from \$30 to \$70 they would have spent at the grocery store. This money can then go to their other basic necessities.

Between our three food pantries we help an average of 100 families a day.



# STATE OF MISSOURI GIVES TAX CREDITS FOR DONATIONS TO FOOD PANTRIES

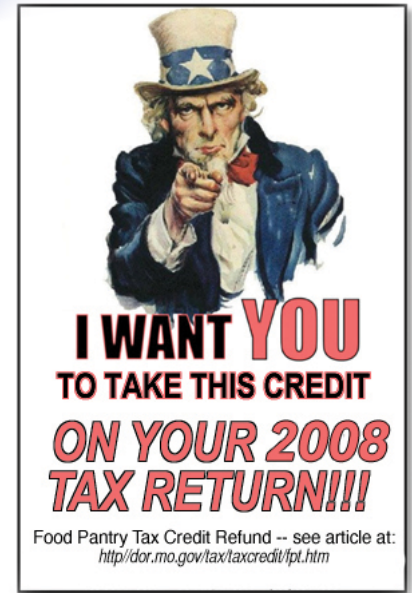
*CREDITS UP TO 50% OF YOUR DONATION*

As an incentive to encourage people to make donations to food pantries, the State of Missouri passed a bill a year 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](http://www.bishopsullivan.org).



## OVER 200 COME EACH NIGHT TO OUR SOUP KITCHEN

*SPONSOR A NIGHT TO HONOR SOMEONE*



Five nights a week we serve a hot meal to an average of 200 people a night. Some of that food is donated, some we have to buy, and we pay a cook to fix the meal. It costs about \$150 a night to put on the meal and feed so many.

We have been asking people if they would be willing to sponsor a night at the soup kitchen with a donation of \$150. Many have. They have sponsored them in their own name, the names of their children, or as a gift for someone’s birthday or anniversary.

You can go to our website, [www.bishopsullivan.org](http://www.bishopsullivan.org) and see the names of the sponsors. The day after “your” night, our soup kitchen manager, Mike Mathews, will send a note to let you know how many you fed and what was served. Additionally, the name of the sponsor is proudly displayed in the dining room on the wall that night.

If you would like to sponsor a night for yourself, or as a gift, either go to the website, click on “Feed The Hungry” and then follow the prompts, or call Jane, at 816-231-0894.

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

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