

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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“FREELOADERS” VS. “TRUE NEED” How Do You Tell the Difference?

When you see someone on a street corner holding a piece of cardboard with a magic marker message asking for help, how do you know if they really need the help? *I don't know the answer to that one.*

If you ask, “How do you know when someone comes for help from Bishop Sullivan Center that he or she really needs the help?” *I do know the answer to that one.*

Fortunately in Kansas City there is a computer network between most social service agencies that keeps track of every form of assistance given. So, if you called and needed help with an electric bill or food, for example, we can immediately check to see if you received help from any other agency in town.

The computer network is managed by the Mid America Assistance Coalition. One purpose of this network is to make sure no one takes advantage of the charity that is being offered. When people ask for help we also require a photo identification, proof of address and proof of income.

We try to help people who have experienced some emergency (an illness or job lay-off) that has compromised their ability to pay for a necessity, like a light or heat bill, or food. Once we have qualified a person, the assistance is always paid *directly to the vendor*, a utility company, for example. We never directly give people money.

The purpose of all this is to be as fair as possible to the many people in need around the city and to be good stewards of your contribution.



“CAN I DIRECT MY DONATION TO HELP A SPECIFIC PERSON OR FAMILY?”

Do you want to help an elderly woman with her gas bill or a working single mother of three with her light bill? Through our website, you can decide where you want your donation to go.

If you click on “**Lift a Burden**” on the front page of our website, it will take you to a page where very specific needs

are spelled out for individuals right here in our community. Read their brief stories and see if you want to help one out. Each one of these people have been qualified by the process described in the article above. Each of these people are the “real deal” and in need of help.

www.bishopsullivan.org



DUE TO YOUR DONATIONS TO PROJECT ELDERCOOL OVER 200 AIR-CONDITIONERS INSTALLED THIS SUMMER – SO FAR

Here are some words of thanks from “Thank You” cards sent to us by people for whom you bought air-conditioners:

- “I am a senior with diabetes and many other health issues. I’m struggling with possible foreclosure and repairs on my house. With an income that’s not substantial to meet my needs, thank you for keeping me cool.”

- “Thank you for the window air-conditioner! It saved our lives with the temperature is above 90. I’m a senior citizen and had really begun to feel the heat. The young men that installed the unit were kind, efficient and very courteous. May God bless you.” [This woman enclosed a five dollar bill as a donation – a “widow’s mite.”]

- “I just wanted to thank you for the generous gift. You don’t know how much it means to me and my husband to be cool again. You are in our prayers.”

- “Now I can be comfortable this year with a new air-conditioner. I was really surprised to find out that I was eligible to receive one. God works in mysterious ways. Thank the whole group for the gift.”



Vince Whitley wearing his “Air Conditioning Guy” shirt poses with one of many elderly who received an air-conditioner this summer thanks to you.

“IS BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER A UNITED WAY AGENCY?” YES AND NO

I am frequently asked by donors, “Is Bishop Sullivan Center a United Way Agency?” The answer I give is, “Yes and No.” We are not formerly a United Way agency, that is, we do not receive money directly from the United Way. However ... anyone who gives through United Way can designate Bishop Sullivan Center to be the recipient of your generosity.

If you do give through United Way and do decide to designate us as your charity you have to fill out one additional form, which has been enclosed in this mailing, or can be found on our website, www.bishopsullivan.org;

click on “Give Through United Way” on our home page.

When you do give to us through United Way we receive 87% of what you donate, the remainder is kept by United Way for administrative purposes.



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

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