

## FAQs about the St. James Place Food Pantry

### What is St. James Place?

We are a social service agency located at 3936 Troost in Kansas City. We are operated by the Bishop Sullivan Center, an independent non-profit organization located on Truman Road. The mission of the Bishop Sullivan Center is to provide emergency assistance to those in need, and to move those who are able to self sufficiency. At St. James Place we provide a food pantry, Community Kitchen, emergency assistance, medicine cabinet, no-interest car loans and a jobs program. In August, 54 people found work through our jobs program which targets low-income job seekers with barriers to employment. For more information about who we are and who we serve, please visit us at [www.bishopsullivan.org](http://www.bishopsullivan.org).

### When can people get free food?

The food pantry is open from 9:00am to 1:00pm, Monday thru Thursday.

### Who is qualified to get free food?

Our goal is to provide food assistance to those who are in need. We work very hard to verify each need. In fact, there are several hurdles to getting free food from our pantry.

- You must live in our service area (27<sup>th</sup> to 47<sup>th</sup>; Oak to Brooklyn), be in the jobs program, or have received emergency assistance from St. James Place.
- You must have a picture ID.
- You must produce a social security card for yourself and for every member of your household. We check to see that household members are not in multiple households.
- You, and all members of your household over 18 years old, must show a proof of income. Income for the household must not exceed federal guidelines.
- No-one in your household can have gone to any other food pantry in the past 30 days.

A Pantry Card is provided to each qualified household and is good for 6 months. Every six months, households must re-qualify with all the information shown above. With an ID and a current Pantry Card, we check to see that no other pantry has been visited in the past 30 days before providing free groceries to that household.

### How is client information verified?

All client information is verified in real time through MAAC, a United Way internet application that allows us to verify household members as well as the services provided by other agencies in the city. Before any food is distributed, we work hard to insure that we are only providing free food to those who have a need and are qualified.

### **How many people receive free food at the St. James Place pantry?**

An average of 33 households are served each day - about 621 different households each month. The average household size is 3.8 people. In December of 2010, 868 children (under 16) were included in the households that we served.

### **How much food is given?**

A household of one or two people would receive 3 pre-packed grocery bags of free food.

1. **USDA Commodities** - this bag contains can goods that we receive monthly from the government. We usually have juice, vegetables, fruit, powdered milk and peanut butter.
2. **Pantry Bag** - this bag contains donated food, food we purchase from Harvesters, and dry goods donated by grocery stores. We try to put a box of cereal and a loaf of sliced bread in each bag.
3. **Cold Bag** - The bag contain fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, pastry as well as milk and cheese when available.

Larger households get proportionally more food. In addition, we are usually able to offer fresh produce such as potatoes, apples, mushrooms or melons during "check-out". We give away about a ton of food each day that the pantry is open.

### **Where does the food come from?**

Most of the food we are able to give comes from Harvesters. We pay a service fee of \$0.10 per pound to get food from Harvesters. Other food comes from grocery stores like Whole Foods, Hy-Vee and Price Chopper. We also receive produce from several community gardens around the city. In addition, church and school food drives provide needed groceries that help feed a growing number of struggling households. In 2010 the Billy Butler Hit-It-A-Ton campaign raised 293 tons of food that we will get from Harvesters.

### **Who does all the work?**

We only have two employees who work with the food services (pantry and kitchen) at St. James Place. Most of the work is done by a dedicated group of volunteers who gather food from around the city, move it into the pantry, put it on shelves and into bags, qualify recipients, get the food back out the door, and keep the facility clean. In July of 2010 we had 57 volunteers who helped in the pantry.

### **How can I help?**

We could have 1000 volunteers ready to work, but without generous donations to the Bishop Sullivan Center, we couldn't open our doors. We need to buy food and supplies as well as pay for gas, electricity, water, trash pickup, internet, pest control and many other expenses. Please donate at [www.bishopsullivan.org](http://www.bishopsullivan.org) and help us feed the hungry in our city.