

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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PANTRY DEMAND SOARS NEARLY 1,000 MORE FAMILIES ASK FOR FOOD

Imagine if your local food store ran a full page ad in the newspaper that read: **“FREE FOOD: This Saturday we will give out food at no charge.*”**

But note there is an asterisk. At the bottom of the page, in small print, it says: “You may have to wait in line for two hours and you will not know ahead of time what kind of food we will give you.”

If such an ad appeared in your paper, would you go and stand in that line? If you really needed the food, you probably would. If you were not that desperate, probably you would not.

So many people have been coming to our food pantry lately that their wait can last two hours. Furthermore, they do not know what kind of food they will be getting, as we do not know from week to week what kind of food we can purchase from Harvesters, as they do not know what kind of food will be donated to them.

During the last four months of 2008, nearly 1000 more families came to our food pantry on Truman Road compared to the last four months of 2007.

FREE FOOD:

**This Saturday we
will give out food
at no charge.***



*You may have to wait in line for two hours and we don't know what kind of food we will give you.

Your Local Food Store

DONORS MET HOLIDAY ON-LINE MATCH ...AND THEN SOME

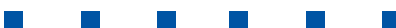
This past Christmas holiday season, Country Club Bank, Miller Law Firm, R/S Electric and Chamberlin Contracting Inc. agreed that they would collectively match up to \$25,000 of donations made on our website. Good news: donors met the match! It was a slow start, but as Christmas approached, more donations came in. The match was met and actually exceeded. Over the holidays about \$50,000 was donated through our website.

Thank you to all who donated this way and to the companies for their generous offer.

WHOLE FOODS DONATES FOOD AND MONEY

On Thursday, March 5th, Whole Foods, located at 91st and Metcalf (6401 W. 91st Street in Overland Park), will donate 5% of the store's revenue to the Bishop Sullivan Center. On that day, you can have a wonderful shopping experience while supporting our food pantries.

Whole Foods has been a great partner to St. James Place and the Bishop Sullivan Center. In 2008 they had a Christmas season “Grab and Give” program that provided over 3800 pre-packaged meals to our pantries. They also have an on-going seasonal clothing drive and plan to help us in the summer.



SOUP KITCHEN FILLS MORE THAN BELLIES

HUNGER FOR FOOD AND COMPANIONSHIP

Over the past few weeks the numbers at the St. James Community Kitchen are up. People come to the kitchen for a variety of reasons.

- Recently a young man asked if he could have a second plate. We normally don't serve seconds till after 5:30. He said that he had been laid off, that his car had been repossessed, that this was his only meal that day, that he had no food in his house and that he was still hungry. He got the second plate.
- On Inauguration Day an elderly man came for a meal and he was clearly excited and lonely. He talked to anyone who would listen about his joy and his hopes. Lots of people listened with delight. He sat with some other older people and they drank coffee and talked until we closed.
- A woman brought her young son to the kitchen for a meal. She told a volunteer that she had no food in her apartment and that the food served at St. James was really good. We had milk, extra cookies and a breakfast bag for the child.
- A veteran from the first invasion of Iraq came to the kitchen for a hot meal. He said that he was homeless, that the food was "fine" and that he felt warm for the first time in three days. He came early and stayed till we closed.



A hearty meal is served at the soup kitchen.

Over the past month, the Community Kitchen has served an average of 232 hot meals each weekday evening. The numbers are actually down a bit due to the cold weather when many homeless try to find shelters in the early afternoon. A good meal can satisfy the hunger for food, the hunger for company and the hunger for hope in a harsh world.



Bishop Sullivan Center Auction, Raffle & Trivia Night! Saturday, April 18, 2009

Kansas City Convention Center (14th & Central) – Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

1. Trip to Hawaii for Two

(six days, five nights), valued at \$3,500

2. 52" Sony Flat Screen TV

valued at \$3,500

3. Trip to Disney World

(Two adults, four children, airfare, hotel, 3-park passes, 4 day, 3 night), valued at \$3,800

4. \$3,000.00 CASH!!!

\$25 a ticket or 5 for \$100.00 • Winner chooses ONE of these four prizes • Need not be present to win • Drawing at the auction on April 18

Buy raffle tickets online at: www.bishopsullivan.org

Questions? Email Jane McQueen at jmcqueen@bishopsullivan.org or call 816-231-0984

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

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