

# Bishop Sullivan Center

## NEWS & REFLECTIONS

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### WISDOM SHARED FROM TESTED SOULS *HEAVY BURDENS FORGE THEIR FAITH*

We pay more attention to people who have experience. Professional football players are more likely to listen to a coach who played the game. We would heed more the advice of an older doctor than a pre-med student. People with experience know what they are talking about.

Many of the people who come to Bishop Sullivan Center carry tremendous burdens in their life. So, when they speak of how they cope, it comes from their own experience, not repeating a quote out of some book. Let me give you a few examples.

Last summer, Julie went into the hospital to have some gall stones removed. There were complications during the surgery. Consequently, the doctor had to amputate both of her feet to save her life. Julie, in her late 40s, didn't know this until she came out of the anesthesia. When I asked her how she was dealing with all this, she said, "It's really hard. I am trying to see this [the loss of her feet] through God's eyes. I believe that He has a plan for me."

Christina is married with four children. The kids' ages are four, three, two and one. She and her husband both worked. Last fall while driving to church, Christina's husband called her and said, "I think there's something wrong with my brain. I just don't feel right." He pulled over on the side of the road. Christina came and took him to the hospital. Though in his early 40s, he had suffered a severe stroke. He was in the hospital for months in rehab. Due to the loss of his income, Christina and their four children had to move into her mother-in-law's very small house. Last week, Christina was laid off of her job. I asked her how she was coping with all this and she said, "It's all good. God will open a door for us. Not to worry."



In spite of her trials in life, Christina confidently says that "God will provide."

Joe, a wheelchair bound 50 year old, rolled into our lobby one day in need of food. I asked him what happened. He said he had been in a car accident a couple of years ago that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Prior to the accident he worked full time. I asked him how he coped with the sudden change in his life. He said, "I pray a lot." Then, he smiled and said, "It [my faith] works for me."

It's one thing to hear words of spiritual comfort from friends or preachers who have never been tested; it's quite another thing to hear it from people who carry very heavy burdens. We pay more attention to people who have experience. People like Julie, Christina and Joe have experience in matters of life and faith. It's good to listen to them.



# WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE

## MAKING MEALS WITH FOOD FROM OUR FOOD PANTRY

We never know from week to week what kind of food will be in our pantries. Schools or churches that donate food to us are donating what was given to them. Most of the food we distribute we purchase from Harvesters. Harvesters does not know what will be donated to them.

When people come to us for food, we sack the food up in advance. We try to fill the sack with a variety of what we have in our pantry. The clients don't know what is in those sacks until they get home. So, we ask some folks how they make do with what we give them.

One week we had a donation of fresh cabbage. The cabbage heads were the size of basketballs. One client who took one home said, "I learned there are many different ways to cook cabbage. The kids had to learn how to like it."

Others said:

"Our family has learned to eat a lot of vegetables."

"We have learned to like powdered milk."

"My kids and I get so hungry, we eat everything that we get from the pantry - whether it's something we like the taste of or not."

"I have four kids. So, I will take various types of canned stew and just mix it altogether in a big pot for a family meal."



Volunteer Tony Ross and Mellissa Ball, staff, load up the van with groceries to be delivered to homebound elderly.

## Bishop Sullivan Center Auction, Raffle & Trivia Night! Saturday, April 10, 2010

Town Pavilion, 1111 Main Street, 32nd floor – Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

### 1. Seven Day Alaskan Cruise for Two

(includes airfare) \$4,000 value

### 2. Trip for Two to the Rose Bowl & Rose Parade

(includes tickets to the game, parade, airfare  
& 3 nights hotel) \$3500 value

### 3. Trip to Hawaii for Two

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

### 4. Trip to Disney World

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

### 5. \$3,000.00 CASH!!!

\$25 a ticket or 5 for \$100.00 • Winner chooses ONE of these five prizes • Need not be present to win • Drawing at the auction on April 10

Buy raffle tickets online at: [www.bishopsullivan.org](http://www.bishopsullivan.org)

Only 60 tables (ten at a table) will be available. Reserve tables NOW (you can pay us later) by emailing Jane McQueen at [jmcqueen@bishopsullivan.org](mailto:jmcqueen@bishopsullivan.org) or call 816-231-0984

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Invitations coming soon!

NEW LOCATION  
Incredible Downtown View!