

Bishop Sullivan Center

NEWS & REFLECTIONS

July 2009 Vol. 15, No. 4

SOUP KITCHEN GETS AN EXIT *DINERS NO LONGER FEEL TRAPPED*

Jimmy was determined to get a job. Having just been released from prison, he was determined to do things the right way this time, and work his way back into the good graces of his family and community. He steeled himself against rejection. He had already sent out dozens of resumes without even the courtesy of getting a reply. Finally, an employer called him in for an interview and he got a warehouse job for a clothing manufacturer in Fairfax. He was ecstatic.

Jimmy matriculated through our Employment Services program which teaches skills for finding and keeping employment. We also cover small items they may need to help them get a job. In Jimmy's case, we helped him get a state ID, instead of having to face the stigma of showing his prison ID badge as his only form of ID. Jimmy is working to be a father to his young sons, and is feeling better and more confident than he has in a long, long time. Each month we successfully help about 25 people find work.

Thanks to the generosity of St. James Parish we now have ample space at our soup kitchen at 39th and Troost to offer this service. Unemployed people who have been coming for the evening meal can now enter our Employment Services under the same roof. They no longer have to feel hopeless or trapped while eating. Now they have an exit - assistance in finding work.



Volunteers and clients line up at our soup kitchen for our annual "Blue T-shirt & Steak Dinner" night. Folks who come to the soup kitchen now have an exit: assistance in finding a job. St. James Parish donated the use of the red brick building in the background to Bishop Sullivan Center to augment our services to the needy.

17 + 98 = 2 HAPPY CAMPERS *ELDERLY HELPED WITH MORE THAN AIR CONDITIONERS*



Christian Morales, age 17, cuts grass for Jim VanDierendoule, age 98. They have befriended each other in the process.

Christian, a 17-year-old Cristo Rey High School student, needed a summer job. Jim, 98 years old and virtually blind, needed someone to cut his grass. It was a match that was meant to be. Christian and a couple of his high school buddies cut grass for about 50 low-income seniors around the neighborhood.

A few summers ago Project ElderCool spawned Project ElderCut. As we put in air conditioners for low-income elderly throughout the city, we learned of other needs they had they could not afford - like paying to have their grass cut on a regular basis.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, these elderly people are having their lawns cut and some high school students from the neighborhood are earning money and making friends with their elderly neighbors.

150 AIR CONDITIONERS INSTALLED IN JUST FOUR DAYS

MEDIA EXPOSURE PLUS HEAT RESULTS IN HIGH DEMAND

When we entered Joe's home it was stifling hot. His living room fan was set on high but it was just blowing the hot air. Joe had suffered a stroke recently and so when greeting us, he used his left hand to shake our hands. His right hand had been rendered immobile by the stroke. Joe was one of 150 seniors who received an air conditioner all over Kansas City in a four day period in June.

Unfortunately, two elderly people died due to the heat. Consequently, the media went into action and spread the word about Project ElderCool. Our phone lines were swamped for days.

Usually our busiest month of installations is in August. So your support is greatly appreciated and needed to keep our seniors safe and cool.



Four seminarians are helping install air conditioners this summer. From left to right: Curt Vogel, Andy Mattingly, Alex Kreidler, and Josh Barlett. The "Air Conditioning Guy" t-shirt readily identifies them when they show up at an elderly person's door.

HIT-IT-A-TON DONORS TO EAT WITH ROYALS PLAYERS BEFORE GAME

NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN



Royals' first baseman, Billy Butler, signs autographs for kids at last year's tailgate bar-b-que before our Hit-It-A-Ton night at the K.

This is a last call for those who want to donate to our food pantry and join us for the Royals' game on Saturday, August 8th. We will have a tailgate bar-b-que before the game and joined by Royals' players Billy Butler and Willie Bloomquist and their wives. Billy and Willie will avail themselves especially to any kids at the bar-b-que for autographs and pictures.

Since we buy our food from Harvesters at just ten cents a pound, a donation of \$200 buys a ton of food for our pantry, plus an autographed bat by Billy or Willie and two tickets to this game. A donation of \$100 buys half a ton of food, plus an autographed ball by Billy or Willie and one ticket to this game. A donation of \$20 gets an autographed picture and lets you buy a ticket for only \$7.00 to this game. You can buy up to 3 extra tickets, at \$7.00 each, for this game.

You can purchase these on our website:

www.bishopsullivan.org

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

BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER • 6435 TRUMAN ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MO 64126
www.bishopsullivan.org • 816-231-0984