

Annual Report

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 (FY2017)

This annual report describes pertinent information about each of Bishop Sullivan Center's services, as well as developments for the future.

Food Pantry: The food pantry has been the one service that has been part of Bishop Sullivan Center from the very beginning in 1972. Not only does it provide food to low-income families but it serves as a symbol for what Bishop Sullivan Center is all about: feeding the various types of human hunger.

In July 2002, we took over the management and operation of a food pantry at 39th and Troost, previously operated by St. James Catholic Church. When we took that food pantry over, they were serving about 153 families a month. Since then, the demand has increased significantly. The numbers of those coming for food at Bishop Sullivan Center on Truman Road have stayed steady. Between the two food pantries, nearly 1,200 families were fed each month during FY2017. Three months we served over 1,300 families and never served less than 1,000 families. Compared to other pantries around town, that is considered very high volume.

Household Assistance: The typical form of household assistance that Bishop Sullivan Center provides for low-income families is help with a utility bill or rent payment. During FY2017 1,546 households received assistance with rent or utilities for nearly just over \$339,000. Mid-America Assistance Coalition says that Bishop Sullivan Center is one of the largest providers of household assistance in the city. Many of the families that we help are on the brink of homelessness. Paying off a utility bill or a rent payment keeps families in their homes and relieves some of the stress associated with living one paycheck at a time.

Employment Services: Bishop Sullivan Center has provided this service for the past 16 years. Many unemployed people come to us to help them in their job search. We meet face-to-face with job seekers, conduct a pre-employment screening and discuss behaviors needed to be successful in the workplace. We assist job seekers in connecting with employers who have job openings for which they are qualified. We provide a 3-month follow-up to verify employment status. We opened a 3rd location in Kansas City, KS to offer employment services in the Wyandotte County area. During FY2017, 402 people successfully found work with the help of our program.

Project ElderCool: In the summer of 2000, we began a program to provide a window air-conditioner to indigent elderly and handicapped people in our city. The purpose was to reduce the number of heat-related deaths. The number of those who died due to heat in Kansas City in the summer of 1999 was 23. In the summers of 2000 and 2001 the numbers of those who died due to heat was 10. In 2002 there were only two heat-related deaths reported. During FY2017, we installed 232 air-conditioners.

Kansas City's Medicine Cabinet: Kansas City's Medicine Cabinet provides short-term emergency medical assistance for those without other medical funding available to them. We saw over 470 people and provided more than \$118,000 in funding in FY2017 through this program.

Christmas Adoptions: Each year prior to Christmas we assist families who cannot provide gifts for their children. We also have Santa visit our community kitchen to provide gifts to children. In FY2017 we assisted over 800 adults and children at Christmas time.

Community Kitchen: In July 2002 we took over the management and operation of a community kitchen at 39th and Troost that had previously been managed by St. James Catholic Church. During FY2017 we served an average of 255 people a night, Monday through Friday. One month we served an average of 272 a night.

Funding: Our funding has remained about the same from the previous year.

Overall, FY2017 was a good year for Bishop Sullivan Center and its stakeholders and we look forward to 2018.

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas Turner
Executive Director
August 15, 2017