

Bishop Sullivan Center

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YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE HELPING PEOPLE GET TO WORK

By Tom Turner, Director

Here's a riddle for you. You live near 27th and Paseo. You need a job. There's a perfect job for you at a warehouse working the night shift in Lenexa. How do you get there? Answer: You don't.

It was a trick question because what was left out of the riddle was that you don't own a car and because the buses don't run at night, you have no way to accept the job.

According to the Brookings Institute, if you live in Kansas City and do not have a car, you have access to only 18% of the available jobs. It's frustrating enough trying to get a job, even more so when over 80% of the jobs you qualify for you can't get to. You can't get there from here.

Last year through our Employment Program we helped 362 people find work. Of those who come to our Employment Program, 80% do not have a car. So, it makes it all the more challenging to help them find work.

To address this problem we are starting a program called "Drive KC to Work." The purpose of the program is to help low-income job-seekers or workers buy a used, reliable car for \$1,000 or less. Phil Smith, former owner



Amy, a home health nurse, requires a car in order to work.

of Dick Smith Ford, is helping to put this program together. With Phil's knowledge of cars and his relationship with car dealers we are hoping to help many serious job seekers and workers, literally, get to work.

One of the first to participate in our program was a woman named Amy. Amy had been working as a home health nurse. Her 20 year old car had finally died. Amy had to quit the job she really liked and excelled at and had applied for a job sacking groceries as she could get to that job without a car. Through "Drive KC to Work" Amy has wheels again and is back working at a job that she enjoys and makes a living wage.

This is a unique program in Kansas City and thanks to the support of many we are able to help others obtain or maintain employment.



Phil Smith (r), former owner of Dick Smith Ford and now on staff at Bishop Sullivan Center, meets with Aaron, a "Drive KC to Work" applicant.

PROJECT ELDERCOOL GETS TWO THUMBS-UP!

Michael and Mac were struggling in the heat until we showed up to install a window air-conditioner. Michael lives in a small apartment on the third floor, so his apartment gets especially hot.

Mac has lived in the same old house for years, with minimal insulation to keep out the heat. As the summer heat increases so too will the calls for help.



Go2Bat4Others

We invite parents to engage their kids to participate in our Go2Bat4Others project. Get a group of kids to conduct a small food drive. Then sign up, through our website, to have the kids bring the food to our pantry.

We'll give them a quick tour and show them how their efforts are helping others. Kids that participate get a Go2Bat4 Others t-shirt and a ticket to a Royal's game where they can meet a player or two before the game.

For details go to our website (www.bishopsullivan.org) and click on Go2Bat4Others.



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