There is a curious line in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus tells his followers that if you give a cup of cold water to someone in need, you will be rewarded. That seems like such an easy thing to do to get a heavenly reward, but there’s got to be a catch.

I think the catch is, that for some, because the needs of the poor both here and abroad are so vast and overwhelming, they think, “What difference would my contribution make when the need is so great?” So, they end up doing nothing, not even giving a cup of cold water.

The other catch for this seemingly easy task given by Jesus is that it could be seen as a one-time deal. Give one cup of cold water to one person in need and you’re done. However, it is just a few chapters later in the same Gospel that Jesus says we are to forgive others, not just once, but 7 times 70, in other words, over and over again. It’s not a stretch to think that Jesus’ same mathematical equation could be applied to the giving of a cup of cold water. One time won’t be enough; it’s a lot of times.

Much of what we do here at Bishop Sullivan Center could be described as giving out cups of cold water to people in need. That “cup” could be a bus pass, a hot meal, payment of a utility bill, help with a resume, a few sacks of groceries, a bed, a coat, an air conditioner, a pair of winter gloves or a cup of ice cream (see picture below).

Your donation here is converted into a “cup of cold water,” that is, into some practical item that a person needs. In a given week, we give out at least 7 x 70 such “cups of water.” Thank you for your support.

Kansas City Royals pitcher, Nate Karns, and his wife, Jenny, serve ice cream at our Community Kitchen.
Chiefs Help Our Community Catch a Break

Chiefs, Chris Conley and Albert Wilson, helped our city Catch a Break last year by serving dinner at our Community Kitchen, sharing wisdom with inner-city high school football players, and raising over $24,000 to help individuals move past barriers. They’re back this season and ready to continue helping our community Catch a Break from hardships.

Each time they make a reception during a game, they will donate $100 to the Catch a Break Fund. These two know the power of teamwork and want you on their team. Join them by visiting bishopswilliam.org/catch-a-break.

For a donation of $150 or more, you will receive an autographed football as Chris and Albert’s thanks to you.

Tax Credits Available for Donations

The State of Missouri, in its effort to support people in need of food, offers a tax credit - better than a mere deduction - to any Missouri tax filer who donates money to a food pantry in Missouri. Bishop Sullivan Center operates two large food pantries, and therefore, donations here qualify.

The state has set aside a little more than a million dollars to give back to such donors. According to the Missouri Department of Revenue website, “Any taxpayer (individual, corporation, or trust) that makes a donation of cash or food supplies to a food pantry may receive a credit of up to $2,500 per taxpayer per year. The taxpayer may take a credit of 50 percent of their donations.” For more details, go to bishopswilliam.org/missouri-tax-credit or consult your tax advisor.

Save the Date:
Annual Auction and Trivia Night on March 10th, 2018!