I helped deliver mattresses today to two people. What struck me about this experience were two things: 1) how extremely grateful these people were for these mattresses and (2) the fact that these people had been sleeping on the cold hard floor for weeks.

Luckily for me, I have never in my life slept on the floor out of necessity. This fact is true by nothing that I have done. I have never purchased a mattress for myself, my parents have always taken care of me. These people, however, did not have that luxury and that is so heartbreaking to me. No one should have to sleep on the floor at night because of a freak accident like getting bed bugs and have absolutely no one help them. That is why I am so proud to have the opportunity to work for an organization like Bishop Sullivan Center, where I can truly help to make a difference in people’s lives by helping provide them basic necessities of living.

Delivering these mattresses was such a rewarding experience because of the immense amount of gratitude these people showed me. I have never had my hand shaken and heard the words, “Thank you, young man!” more in one minute than I did in the minute I was climbing into the truck leaving the apartment.

At the second stop, the client was just as grateful, asking to take a picture with me, and even breaking down into tears when describing to us how much this mattress means to her. Delivering these mattresses is definitely an experience this summer that I will not forget!

I think that God’s message for me was one of humility and gratitude. I think that it is humbling to know that these people are people just like me and have needs just like I do, and it is definitely important for me to humble myself and look up to them in many ways rather than looking down upon them for the incredible obstacles that they have had to face in life.

Finally, the message of gratitude can never be understated or underutilized. Each day I work at Bishop Sullivan Center is a constant reminder of how grateful I should be for everything I have, and this experience was no different.
Seeing Those Who Are Unseen

By Matthew Grimaldi, Project ElderCool Intern at Bishop Sullivan Center

This week, I was pretty busy taking phone calls for Project ElderCool, screening clients to make sure they fit our guidelines, and coordinating a time to install air conditioners. There was one phone call that really stood out to me. While interviewing an applicant on the phone I learned he was an 82 year old veteran, and he kept wanting to tell me stories of just about anything he could.

I began trying to prod him to answer the questions from the application, but I quickly learned it was of no use. He seemed like he just enjoyed being heard.

I was thinking after the 23-minute phone call about how sad his reality might be. I don't want to assume anything, but that phone call seemed like the highlight of his day. The elderly seem to be a demographic that is getting less and less attention, but they deserve to be heard and recognized like everyone else.

I think God's message to me this week was to care more for those who can't be seen or heard.

To the Amazing team @ Bishop Sullivan

My family and I would like to send our unmeasurable gratitude, appreciation, love and thanks during a summer in which it has reached the 100's—this AC unit is a blessing.

My husband has been in and out of the hospital and we have been struggling w/ our old unit.

Again, thank you very much. May the Lord bless each and everyone of you.

Thank you very much. I feel much better now. Cool air.

Thank you for the air conditioner. May everyone be blessed who is working with this project.

Grateful I am, for people like you. Thank you for the many lives you guys impact. You guys give a reason to love all.

A thank you for the air conditioner. I sure can sleep well now. You are such a given heart. Wishing many people were like you.