Community Kitchen to Be Remodeled
Healthier Meals & Bigger Dining Room

By Thomas Turner, Director

Each weekday night, we serve about 250 meals to people in our community. We serve a mix of people who are homeless, working poor, elderly and some families.

Our current kitchen is only able to reheat food. Plans are underway to expand our kitchen with additional equipment so we can prepare more nutritious meals.

Also, we plan to make the dining room bigger to give people more room to eat. Right now, when the dining room is full, it’s elbow-to-elbow; it’s like eating a meal in the middle seat of an airplane.

The renovation will start sometime in the summer and will be finished sometime in the fall. During that time, we will use the basement of nearby St. James Catholic Church to feed people.

Project ElderCool Brings Relief
Early Summer Heat Spikes Demand

Summer’s heat came early this year so we have already been busy installing air conditioners for low-income seniors.

Our good friends at A.B. May help repair central air units for the seniors as well as support the program financially. And our friends at KCP&L also give financial support as well as stand by, ready to volunteer with installations.

It is good to see the community come together to help our seniors find relief from the heat.
Finding a good summer job for a college student can be a challenge. Since they have at most 3 months off school, a temp job doing grunt work is what most can hope for.

The Catherin V. Merrill Foundation gives a generous donation to Bishop Sullivan Center to hire 24 students in the summer to work at various nonprofits. The students earn $12 an hour. More important than the money is the experience they are getting. They are feeding the hungry at community kitchens, teaching English to refugees, installing air conditioners for low-income seniors, teaching children, mentoring youth, and helping people recently released from prison to adjust to normal life.

We are happy to manage this program as it benefits both the students and the recipients of their work.

Blue T-shirt Dinner Sends a Message

Once a year, we have a steak cook-out at our community kitchen for both those in need of a meal and those who regularly volunteer there. We started this meal in 2005. That first year, Bill Waris, a long-time volunteer bought hundreds of blue t-shirts for everyone to wear. Bill said, “I think we should all look like we are one team, regardless of our income or race.” Though Bill passed away years ago, we continue to give out blue t-shirts to all who come to show that we are all on the same team.

We Have Helped 164 People Find Work This Year

Eric was looking for work. At age 52 and with no car, he knew there would be some challenges, but he was determined to work. We were able to help Eric find employment at Worlds of Fun working a concession stand. Though not a dream job, it was better than doing nothing.

Eric takes the bus back and forth to work; it takes over an hour each way. In spite of the long ride, Eric is all smiles just to have a job.

So far this year, 164 people have found work with the help of our Employment Services.