Beating the Heat Then & Now
Project ElderCool Kicks Off for the Summer

By Thomas Turner, Director

Project ElderCool has been helping low-income seniors since 2000. This program provides a window air conditioner to any low-income senior in the entire metro area. Last year, we provided 232 air conditioners to seniors. We also credited $100 to their electric account so they did not hesitate to run their air conditioner for fear of inability to pay a higher bill.

Thanks to your generosity, hundreds of seniors will sleep in cool comfort this summer.

Gratitude from last summer:

“I want to thank you so very much for the air conditioner. The house heat has gone down from 92º to 72º.”

“I thought I could tough the heat out, but I realized I’m not a spring chicken anymore. It’s tougher than it used to be.”

“I’ve always been at the “giving” line. Never would have imaged that I would have been at the “receiving” line. Thank you all so much for responding to my “crisis mode.”

“Thank you very much about AC. You Are the Best People in the World You Save my life.”

“Thank you thank you thank you kindly. It got cold in here and I said, God is good!”

The faces on each of these women express their gratitude for receiving an air conditioner.
Defend Against Hunger with Sporting KC’s Matt Besler
Program Teaches Children about Food Insecurity

Matt Besler, captain of Sporting KC, is a defender on the field and in our community. One in five people in Jackson County are experiencing food insecurity, and Besler is determined to help make a difference through his program with Bishop Sullivan Center called Defend Against Hunger.

Besler frequently serves at our Community Kitchen, and last summer, he invited families across the metro area to join him in the fight against food insecurity. Parents, grandparents, and children partook in a Family Hunger Experience: an interactive simulation to gain a glimpse at why our neighbors are hungry, what barriers they face, and what we can do about it. After learning about issues with transportation, food deserts, SNAP assistance, wages, and more that affect the lives of food-insecure families, they jumped into action by leading food drives in their own communities.

Keep an eye on bishopsullivan.org/defend-against-hunger for opportunities for you and your family to get involved this summer!

Low-Income Elderly Juggle Medicine and Utility Bills
A Struggle to Pay Both

Look closely at Joyce’s hands in this picture. In one hand, she holds just a few of her prescription bottles; in her other, her light bill. She lives on a fixed income and some months, it is a challenge to pay both.

Joyce has diabetes and has a hard time getting around; notice her canes by her side ever at the ready. She lives in a very small, sparsely furnished apartment. The apartment she lives in is kept warm in the winter with electric, not gas or heat. The higher cost of heating her apartment with electricity, coupled with a very cold winter this year, drove Joyce’s bill up much higher than she had been accustomed. She was unable to pay for both her medicine and light bill.

Bishop Sullivan Center is going to pay her excess bill to get it back down to where she can afford it again. She said that in the summer she is very careful about when she runs her air conditioner lest she get another high bill.

Health on the one hand, lights on the other.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? (Jeremiah 8:22)