Royals’ player Christian Colon and his wife Kayla are encouraging kids to “go to bat for others,” that is, to help those in need. Christian’s uniform number “24” is a constant reminder to “Go2Bat4Others.”

Christian is well aware that kids typically see professional athletes as role models. He wants to try to live up to that challenge. He said that he and his wife recently recommitted their lives to Jesus and had been discussing how they might give to the community. Add all those elements together: athlete as role model + faith in Jesus + service to community and you get “Go2Bat4Others.”

Christian and Kayla have visited our agency and have seen firsthand that there are people in need in our city. So now, they are asking kids (ages 14 and under) to put on mini food drives. It’s as easy as reaching out to family members, friends and neighbors for food donations. Then, the kids could have a parent, grandparent or other adult bring them and the food they have collected to Bishop Sullivan Center. At Bishop Sullivan Center they will be given a tour, view a message Christian and Kayla videotaped just for them, and by way of video, they will “meet” some of the people whom their food donation will help.

To thank the kids for their food drive, each will receive a “Go2Bat4Others” t-shirt and a ticket to a breakfast this summer with Christian and Kayla Colon and other Royals ballplayers. Two adults per family will also receive tickets to this breakfast. (The breakfast offer is limited.)

For more details on how you can have your kids “Go2Bat4Others”, go to our website at www.bishop sullivan.org.
When MU and KU played each other in sports the game’s moniker was “Border War.” When it comes to sports it’s acceptable to take sides, but when it comes to helping people in need, then the artificial border that separates our two states needs to dissolve. Catholic Charities of NE Kansas understands that and invited our Missouri based agency into its headquarters to help people find work in Kansas. A Kansas agency and a Missouri agency are now working together to help people find work. “Border Cooperation” not “Border War” is the description here.

This past January, Catholic Charities offered free office space to our Employment Services program and we took it. It is a good complement to the services that Catholic Charities had already been offering, for example, a food pantry and emergency assistance. Working together we help people more completely and more efficiently.

One of the first people we helped find a job in Kansas City, Kansas is 51 year old Kevin, pictured here. Kevin said our employment program was “a blessing” because now he can pay bills and provide for his family. Kevin is the first of many we hope to help find work in Kansas.

Kevin's shift starts at 10:00. Kevin takes the bus to work, so he doesn't have the luxury of getting to work right before his shift. As you can see from the time behind him, he arrives over 45 minutes ahead of time.

Two occupations where people quite literally put their lives on the line for the sake of others are: military service and firefighter. John did both. He was in the Vietnam war and when he came out he became a firefighter. Now retired and blind in one eye, John needed help. He had a hard time keeping up with his water bill, so we helped pay it off.

John was most grateful for the help. It is good to help someone who spent most of his life helping others.