

# Bishop Sullivan Center

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## “WHAT DID YOU LEARN?”

### UNIQUE SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

This past summer, Bishop Sullivan Center oversaw a unique internship program for 26 Catholic college students. Thanks to a generous grant from the Catherin V. Merrill Foundation, these students were able to earn money, learn about the experiences of those who are poor and deepen their faith.

These students worked at 11 non-profit organizations throughout the metro area, including Bishop Sullivan Center. They tutored children, installed air conditioners for the elderly, taught adults how to read, taught English to immigrants, worked side by side with inner city youth on an urban farm and provided services to the homeless.

Each week the students reflected on their experience, wrote about what they learned and connected it to a Bible verse.

Here is what they learned:

**“I learned that something as simple as clothing can provide dignity not only to children but also to their mother.”** Hannah Patterson after giving clothes to a family at a facility for the homeless.

**“I learned that knowledge and experience are powerful tools that can be used to destroy the hate that surrounds many of the common stereotypes in today’s culture. What we must realize is that we are all different, but when we try to understand each other, the world will become a much more peaceful place.”** Jack Hodes after teaching English as a second language to an immigrant from Africa and a woman who is Muslim.



Lis Schumacher, a student at Rockhurst University, worked with children at Operation Breakthrough.

**“I learned that there is no better feeling than helping someone in need. Seeing her reaction from receiving food was one I’ll never forget.”** Khardijah Burton after giving a woman food from one of our pantries.

**“I learned to see things from a different perspective. I work with African-American boys. To think that they are twice as likely to get stopped than I, have a higher chance to be arrested or harassed by police due to our difference in skin color is shocking and makes me want to help change those facts.”** Miller Bath after working side by side with African-American youths doing manual labor.

**“I learned how to persevere. This woman had three children, one of whom has special needs. Whenever I asked her if a certain bill was paid, she said, ‘not yet, but tomorrow I will try.’ She never quite said, ‘no,’ rather she kept her answers open. This shows me that she, as well as her husband never give up.”** Mayela Urizar after meeting with a low-income mother struggling to make ends meet.



Miller Bath (in green ball cap), a student at KU, interned with youth at Boys Grow.

# ELDERCOOL RECIPIENTS THANK US IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Thank you Lord and thank you all. I’m out of the heat and into God’s love with so much cool air. I had no money but you and God came my way.”

“Thank you so much for the air conditioner. It has been wonderful to get a good night’s sleep.”

“Thank you so so much for my AC. It is such a blessing. I was also thanking God the rest of the day. God used you to take care of me. My bedroom is on the second floor and the temperature was getting high. I didn’t know how I was going to live thru the summer. Since last winter I was diagnosed with blood clots in vessels of my lungs. Breathing is difficult. Thank you again. I appreciate it so much.”

“I would probably be sick from a heat stroke if this gracious donation was not provided. Thank you so very much for your assistance!”

“I am very elated about the services provided to me through Project ElderCool Bishop Sullivan Center. I called them one day and they provided the AC unit the SAME DAY. This was very important to my health to have an air-conditioned unit; to my disability of having a hemorrhagic stroke.”

“After 70 1/2 years of my life, it feels so good to send this note to you, without sweat dripping all over this card. I THANK YOU again!”

“Thank you very much for the Air Conditioner. Without it, I am not able to breathe very well. It helps me tremendously- I really do appreciate it.”



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