Parents often call us and ask if they can bring their children to one of our locations to “do something.” I think what is behind the request is that parents are aware that their children are somewhat isolated from the reality of people living in poverty and their children would benefit if they learned that life is not a “rose garden” for all.

“Cocooning” refers to the phenomenon that everyone, not just kids, hunkers down more in their own homes, and so their world shrinks. The lure of our various screens, TV, tablets, computers, and smartphones makes just going outside more of a challenge, let alone to intentionally expose ourselves to people in need.

In response to these requests by parents, coupled with the involvement of Royals’ player Christian Colon and his wife, Kayla, we developed a program called, “Go2Bat4Others” (his jersey number is 24). The purpose of this program is to educate kids about needs in the community. It aims to get kids out of their “cocoon.”

During the summer about 200 kids conducted food drives in their neighborhoods and brought the food to our pantry. When kids and their parents came, we showed them, by way of pictures and videos, people in our community who need help. Many of them simply need food, hence the need for the kids’ food drive.

Every kid that collected food was given a “Go2Bat4Others” t-shirt, tickets to a Royals game and an invitation to breakfast with Christian Colon, where he signed autographs and played wiffle ball with the kids.

Besides having a good time playing with a major-leaguer, this program helped get more kids out of their cocoon—which benefits all.
THANK YOU NOTES

Here are a few handwritten thank you notes we have received from people that you helped.

To whom it may concern,

I would like you to know how much of an help you were to me. I am a single mother of 3 that lost her job and didn't know how I was going to pay my rent. That's when the Lord blessed me with a helping hand. I believe that that the Lord works wonders through others and your help is no exception for me. Thanks and God Bless.

[Signature]

Dear Donor,

I am a single mother of 2. I dropped out of school and have no high school diploma. I would just like to say THANK YOU for helping me and my kids and other families in need. It is people like you that really make a difference and I give my thanks when I get on my feet I will pay it forward.

[Signature]

It was all due to you.

I would like to thank you for your generosity. I am not sure what else in life would do. You have made it possible for me to continue to encourage my kids that there are more good people in this world.

[Signature]

Each month we deliver groceries to 25 home-bound seniors.

TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR DONATIONS TO BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER

The State of Missouri, in its effort to support people in need of food, offers a tax credit – better than a mere deduction – to any Missouri tax-filer who donates money to a food pantry in Missouri. Bishop Sullivan Center operates two large food pantries, and therefore, your donations here qualify.

The state has set aside a little more than a million dollars to give back to such donors. According to the Missouri Department of Revenue website, “Any taxpayer (individual, corporation, or trust) that makes a donation of cash or food supplies to a food pantry may receive a credit of up to $2,500 per taxpayer per year. The taxpayer may take a credit of 50 percent of their donations.” For more details go to our website, www.bishopsullivan.org and link to the State of Missouri’s website or consult your tax advisor.