

Bishop Sullivan Center

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Watching & Waiting For a Vaccine In the Meantime...People Are Hurting

By Thomas Turner, Director

The pandemic has been hard on us all. Loved ones have died. People who catch it have suffered painful side-effects. It has caused many to lose their jobs or have their hours cut. Children can't go to school and struggle with online learning (as do their parents). Families can't gather for celebrations. Simple pleasures like eating out are skipped. It has really taken a toll.

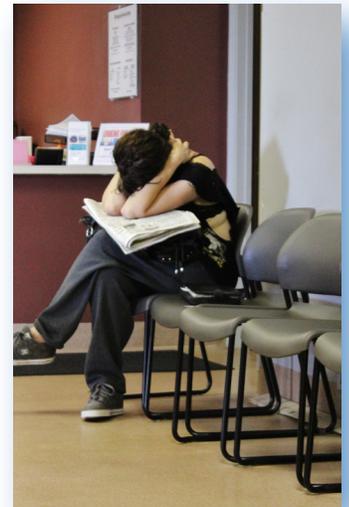
We watch the news awaiting updates on a vaccine that is safe, effective and can be distributed soon. Advent is the season of waiting for a Savior; this year Advent with its message of waiting feels more real. We are all waiting to be saved.

While we wait, people are suffering more than before. Jeremy lost his job due to COVID. His wife has cancer, and his kids are learning from home. He can't afford to pay his light bill. Miranda's oldest daughter has severe symptoms from COVID and had to be on a ventilator for a while. Miranda took time off work to tend to her. Her time off literally cost her and now she can't pay her rent. Paul's nine year old

daughter is disabled and is at high risk to catch COVID, so every time someone at Paul's work tests positive he has to stay away from work to protect his daughter. Every time he does, he loses money and can't pay all his bills.

Unlike other natural disasters that we watch on TV in some other part of the country or world, this is a disaster in which we are all participants. This one binds us all together.

I am grateful to those who have generously shared. Many are hurting now and need help.



As this woman awaits for help in our lobby, her body posture communicates the stress she feels.

Low-Income Seniors' Needs Are Many



Many seniors are helped through the summer months with an air-conditioner through Project ElderCool. Thanks to you, some of their needs are met as well.

The woman on the right needed a furnace repair. She used her stove to stay warm. The woman on the left needed a new bed as bed bugs got her old one.



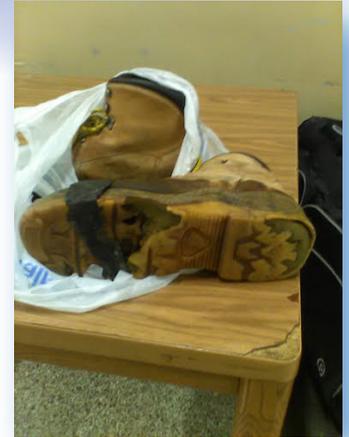
These Boots are Made For Working... and That's Just What They'll Do



John came to our Employment Program eager to find work. With guidance from one of our job counselors he found work at a railroad company. There was one problem. His boots had holes in them and were held together by tape. The day he came was the day it snowed in October. So, his feet were cold and wet. He needed a good pair of shoes to start this job. Thanks to your donations, we could provide that for him.

His story is typical of people for whom we help find work. There is often something relatively minor they need to start a new job: pair of shoes, pair of paints, clothes appropriate for work, gas card for their car.

Thanks to your donations people receive a boost to get them on their feet. So far in 2020 we have helped 164 people find work!



Unique Christmas Gift: Sponsor a lunch or dinner at our community kitchen in the name of a loved one. Go to our website to sign up.

Tax Credits Available for Food Pantry Donations



Many of those who come to our pantry are on foot or ride the bus.

Did you know? The State of Missouri offers a tax credit – better than a tax deduction – for donations to Missouri food pantries. Most donations to Bishop Sullivan Center qualify for this credit.

For a donation of up to \$5,000 per individual or corporation, you receive up to 50% back. You do not need to itemize deductions in order to receive this credit.

For those of you considering a year-end donation, this can be a tremendous benefit, both for our food pantry and you. The Missouri Department of Revenue offers information on their website, or consult your tax advisor.

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To donate, make your check payable to Bishop Sullivan Center and mail to the address below or donate online.

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