

Bishop Sullivan Center

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“Just a little Boost”

By Tom Turner, Director

“Just a little boost, that’s what I needed,” Bob told me.

Bob hit a rough patch in his life which left him totally broke. After filling out many job applications and getting turned down by all, he said he learned something, “An employer will not hire you unless you have a phone. No phone, no job. It’s almost as important as having an ID.”

When he came to our employment program, our job counselor asked him, “What is holding you back from getting a job?”

This was an easy question for Bob to answer, “A phone.” Bob had a phone but needed to pay a monthly bill to reactivate it. He needed \$32. Thanks to your donations, Bob’s bill was able to be paid.

Two days later, he landed a job.

Holding up his phone, he said to me, “I know it seems like a small thing, \$32, but to me it was a big thing. Just a little boost, that’s what I needed.”



“Now I feel confident”



Shannon came back to Bishop Sullivan Center to express her gratitude and to show off her smile.

Shannon used to have bad teeth. They were so bad, she feels it was a contributing factor to having trouble getting hired. She saved as much as she could to make a down payment on her dentures, but after paying her monthly bill she had trouble paying the rest. She said, “It felt like the dentist was holding them hostage.”

Thanks to your donations, the “ransom” on Shannon’s dentures was paid and she was able to land a better paying job. She said, “Now, I feel confident,” And then, she smiled.

Both Shannon and Bob (above) are examples of people who want to work but need some assistance to getting over an obstacle. Thanks to your donations we helped job seekers overcome these obstacles. In addition to these two examples, we also help job seekers with work shoes or clothes or bus passes. In 2019, thanks to your support, 368 people found work through our employment program.

“I was hungry”



Reba lives close to our Center and so she walked to our food pantry. She said she was sick and really did not want to leave her house. The day she came it was very cold. When asked why she came if she was so sick, Reba said, “I was hungry, so I had to.”

Each month over 1,000 households come to one of our two food pantries, at least 10% of those are senior citizens. Typically, seniors who come for food are living on the social security minimum which is around \$750. It’s difficult to make ends meet on that, hence, their need of food from our pantries.

Annette, another senior citizen, came to our pantry and spotted a yellow pepper. She held it up and said, “I can make something with this.” In addition to being on social security, Annette works part-time to help make ends meet.

Thanks to your support, both of these women went home with much needed food.



“God, find me a solution”

Chris had a problem he couldn’t resolve, so he did what many of us do when we are in the same boat, he prayed.

Chris came to our employment program over a year ago and we helped him land his dream job...working at the zoo. Chris likes his job on the zoo’s clean-up crew. His problem was getting to work. Like most of our job seekers, Chris could not afford a car, so he relied on rides from friends. If those rides were unavailable, the other option was a long, circuitous bus ride or walk.

Getting rides every day was becoming problematic and Chris did not want to lose his job. So, he said that he got on his knees and prayed, “God, find me a solution.”

Thanks to a friend of the Center who donated their car, instead of trading it in, Chris’ prayer was answered. When he saw it, he became teary-eyed and said, “It’s even my favorite color.”

If you are thinking of trading your car in, you might consider donating it. Most likely, it will be an answer to someone’s prayer.



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BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER • 6435 TRUMAN ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MO 64126

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