

# Bishop Sullivan Center

Advent 2022

## A Life of Service

Lessons in giving, gratitude, and community from an expert in all three



90-year-old vet Elizabeth dedicated her life to service. When her furnace needed the same, your support made it possible.

At ninety years old, **Elizabeth has contributed more to our country and our Kansas City community than many of us could hope to.** The Army veteran spent her working life dedicated to local nonprofit organizations, from DeLaSalle Center to MOCSA, and when health problems forced her to retire, she donated her car and volunteered the time she had to continue to help low-income members of our community.

"It was while I was working in service of the community that I first learned about Bishop Sullivan Center," said Elizabeth. So when her furnace went out during the first big cold snap of the season this fall, she reached out.

"When all you have is your social security and something major like that goes out, it can be hard not to fall into despair," she said.

"But I kept thinking at least I have a roof over my head. A lot of people - many of my fellow servicemen and women - don't even have that." **In partnership with AB May, your support allowed us to replace Elizabeth's furnace just in time for winter.**

"It's wonderful," she said. "I don't have words to express how it felt when they got my furnace going. I told the repairman, 'I could hug you!'"

Elizabeth expressed that it felt odd to be on the receiving end of help, but that she's very grateful. **"I love Bishop Sullivan Center, and I appreciate it so much. It's such a blessing to know that I'll have heat to make it through the winter."**

## Notes from the Community

*Thank you for everything. I can't tell you how much this helps. Not just financially but mentally as well. When I get back on my feet, I would love to give back.*

Jesse was out of work for awhile due to chronic illness secondary to COVID. Thanks to your support, we were able to help when he fell behind on the electric bill.

I really do appreciate your help and the organization through this hardship. May god bless you and thank you again. 🙏

Kiesha is a single mom of two whose husband passed away two years ago. When she lost her job this summer, your support helped us keep their utilities up and running.

*I would like to say Thanks for all the help I received here at Bishop Sullivan Center. It was good help on getting my Resume Built and getting help on filling out Applications online and also getting me the uniform for work. Thank you for every thing you. I would recommend you all to anyone that is serious about getting employment.*

Thanks to your support, our employment counselors were able to help Marvin build his resume and land the job he'd dreamed of - one that paid much better than his last.

# October Celebration Brings Big Wins for our Community

Thank you for your support of our Auction & Trivia Night!



A big thank you to everyone who supported our mission through the our October Auction & Trivia Night! Whether you joined us for the celebration, participated in the online auction or raffle from home, or simply kept us in your prayers, your impact is already being felt by those we serve. **Altogether, the celebration raised more than \$230,000 in support of our programs.**

Congratulations to our raffle winner Amy Connealy who is generously donating half of her winnings back to BSC, and our trivia winners, the hilariously-named “Third Place” team who instead took first!

Thank you for making 50 years of servanthood possible. Here's to 50 more!

## Inflation & the Dinner Table

As food costs climb, Bishop Sullivan Center's pantries and kitchen are getting creative

Did Thanksgiving dinner take a bigger toll on your budget this year? You're not alone. While inflation is hitting Americans from every angle as the cost of everyday necessities climbs, food costs have outpaced the rest. **According to the USDA, grocery store food prices rose 13% between September '21 and September '22.**

“Everyone's budget has gotten tighter,” said Bishop Sullivan Center Operations Manager Nathan Crispin, “but **if your resources are already limited, your choices are, ‘keep the lights on, feed my kids, buy my medication, fix the car to go to work.’** These people are having to make really hard decisions to get by.” That's where Bishop Sullivan Center's food programs come in.

“Our food pantries are meant to be supplemental,” said Crispin. “They help families stretch their resources to the next paycheck when things are tight. Meanwhile, One City Café helps people who are hungry right now - people who are facing an immediate need for food.” While the need in our community grows, the same food shortages have forced our team to get creative to meet it.

“We're the last stop on the food supply chain,” said Crispin. “When national suppliers have to tighten their belts, it leads to less variety for pantries and kitchens like ours who rely on the extras - especially when it comes to healthy, nutrient-dense options.”

Crispin has worked to diversify BSC's suppliers, partnering with local organizations like After the Harvest, Kanbe's Markets, and Pete's Garden to keep produce and other fresh options on our shelves.

“We've been so blessed by food drives and monetary support,” said Crispin. **“As we head into the winter months, that support will continue to make all the difference on the plates of those we serve.”**

**Hear about our food programs from those who know them best.** Scan the code to watch the video!



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6435 Truman Rd • KC, MO 64126 • [www.bishopsullivan.org](http://www.bishopsullivan.org) • 816-231-0984

