

# Bishop Sullivan Center

FOOD

JOBS

AID

SUMMER 2023

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### Wrapping around the need with IMPACT

“Right place, right time.” It’s the start of so many success stories - the stars aligning to provide a golden opportunity. But according to Tracy Johnson, Family Advocate for Head Start, relying on luck won’t cut it for struggling families in our community.

“So many families have no idea how to find assistance,” said Johnson.

“They’re not sure where to turn and worried that if they seek help, they’ll be turned away.”

Thanks to our partnership with IMPACT, Bishop Sullivan Center has joined a coalition of local nonprofits and other organizations in providing a one-stop shop of wraparound services for families in need.



### Providing a golden opportunity

**IMPACT brings 37 groups together in a single location once a week, creating the “right place” and the “right time” for overwhelmed families to make connections, find resources, and take the next steps in creating solutions for their families.**

And with IMPACT, the help is personal from the start. When Family Advocates like Tracy refer a family to IMPACT, they’re able to pass along details about the family’s situation, helping teams like BSC’s meet families right where they are with dignity and understanding.

said Shilo Foster, Programs Manager for BSC. And Johnson says for these families, partnership makes all the difference. “They really know that we’re working together with action plans to empower them.”

“Many of these families are trying to navigate everyday occurrences with small children while facing the added barrier of being homeless,”

Foster agreed. “In essence, **IMPACT is just many people wrapping their arms around each family and making sure they don’t fall through the cracks.**”

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**Through the coalition, Bishop Sullivan Center has met with 63 families this year and been able to provide financial or employment assistance for nearly 50% of them.**

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### BSC GEAR IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Thanks to our partnership with Show Me KC Schools, you can now rep our mission in brand new BSC and One City Café apparel. *Scan the code to shop today!* ▶▶▶



# REMEMBERING RUDI

## A tribute to One City Café cook Rudi Floyd

For nearly 30 years, Ruth "Rudi" Floyd lent her listening ear and heart-filled cooking to guests at what is now One City Café community kitchen (formerly St. James). With a heavy heart, the Bishop Sullivan Center team and the greater community said goodbye to our friend Rudi earlier this year.

"She always could tell a good story," said Doug Langner, former manager of BSC's Troost office. "Yet she was ready to listen to someone in need."

Former BSC Programs Manager Kathleen Kennedy remembers the love Rudi put into her work. "She

never complained once in the entire time I knew her," said Kennedy, noting that even as her health deteriorated, she worked with heart.

"She role modeled that for all of us. It was quite remarkable."

While Rudi's presence around the community kitchen has been deeply missed, her legacy lives on.

**This spring, the artist behind the murals that adorn the walls of One City Café helped our team honor Rudi's memory by adding her to one of the paintings.** Her son Anthony joined us for a meal at One City Café to see the new mural, which he said she would have loved.

"**She belongs here,**" said BSC's Executive Director Michelle Carlstedt. Anthony agreed.

Anthony shared that his mother's presence and

dedication were felt well beyond the Café's walls. As a single mom, she often worked two jobs to make ends meet for her family, including nieces and nephews she took in and helped raise.

"**She was a rock,**" said Anthony, recalling a time that she literally gave the shirt off her back to someone in need. "She knew how to take donated food and turn it into a great meal, and **she would work all day Thanksgiving and Christmas to feed those in need.**"

"**You took care of so many,**" said Langner in a speech at Rudi's funeral. "Now enjoy your rest in the company of heaven...until we can all gather around a kitchen again in the embrace of love, conversation, and good food. **Rest in Peace, Friend.**"



Rudi (right) with former BSC volunteer Rosa (left) and former Chiefs linebacker Derrick Johnson.



Rudi's son Anthony joins Executive Director Michelle Carlstedt (left) and volunteer Jackie O'Brien in front of the mural honoring his mother.

## CELEBRATE WITH US NEXT SPRING!

We're reimagining our annual fundraiser. **We will not be hosting an auction or trivia night this fall,** but stay tuned for details on **a new way to celebrate coming next April.** Share your thoughts and ideas by sending us an email at [info@bishopsullivan.org](mailto:info@bishopsullivan.org). **Thank you for your support!**



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