

Bishop Sullivan Center

FOOD JOBS AID

FALL 2024

THE OTHER 80%

Partnering with Saint Luke's to bring healthcare home

When we think of healthcare, many of us think of the medical system. But in reality, supporting the health of those in need across the metro goes far beyond the doctor's office.

"Only about 20% of health outcomes are based on what happens within the walls of our hospitals and clinics," said Meredith Cantrell, population health strategy consultant at Saint Luke's.

"The other 80% are heavily impacted by where a person lives, works, and spends time."

Meredith explained that when working to create realistic care plans for patients with limited access to stable housing, food, or income, partnerships with organizations like Bishop Sullivan

Center are crucial. Mindy Meadows, a community health worker at Saint Luke's, shared the story of a patient with diabetes who was living without access to water or refrigeration, leaving him unable to store insulin.

"BSC was able to provide him with a mini-fridge to store his medication and some fresh foods," said Mindy. She noted that while this is just a temporary fix that might seem small, it likely prevented an ER visit.

"I appreciate our collaboration with BSC. **We are able to work together to find creative solutions and better facilitate access to resources for our patients.**"

BSC's Programs Director Shilo Foster agreed, sharing that this partnership helps BSC meet neighbors' needs from a holistic, dignified perspective.



A few Saint Lukes Community Health Workers who match patients with resources like BSC. From left: Catherine Kaifes, Mindy Meadows, My Ly, and Amanda Van Tuyl.

"When someone is facing health challenges and we can get creative to remove some of the obstacles they're facing, it's a win for our community as a whole."

Thank you, Saint Luke's, for working with us to meet the big-picture needs of individuals across the metro!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Thank you to all who participated in our annual supporter survey! We are so grateful for all of the valuable feedback you provided, and for your ongoing support. Our team is already hard at work bringing your insights into the future of BSC programs.

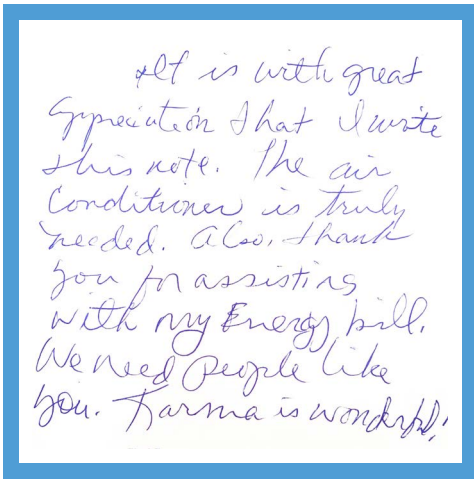
Didn't get a chance to share your thoughts? **We want to hear from you!** Reach out to Executive Director Michelle Carlstedt today at michelle.carlstedt@bishopsullivan.org.

A COOL QUARTER-CENTURY

Closing out another life-saving summer of Project ElderCool

Earlier this month, we wrapped up another hot summer of Project ElderCool, marking a **quarter of a century of free AC unit installations, repairs, and utility assistance** for elderly neighbors across the metro.

As of mid-August, the program had installed nearly 100 units free



of charge and helped with electric bills for more than 70 households. Thanks to our volunteers, our friends at Everygy, and Gio, our full-time summer intern, **the team was able to respond to all applications the day they were made or the day following.**

And with the National Weather Service reporting **heat as the deadliest climate-driven disaster in the US in 2023**, a quick turnaround can make all the difference.

“This summer, **we met more people who had suffered from heat-related stroke** in the past from going without AC,” said Kayla McAbee, Programs Assistant at BSC. She noted that many of those served by the program faced multiple issues in their homes beyond the AC and



One of this year's recipients with her AC unit, grateful for a cool home as she cares for her granddaughters after her daughter's passing. "We appreciate all you do," she said in a thank you note.

felt too overwhelmed by the cost of repairs to seek assistance.

“It was great to offer resources, because most people weren't aware they had options,” she said. **“We were glad to take some of that burden off their shoulders.”**

Thank you to all who made another summer of relief from the heat possible. As one of this year's beneficiaries put it in a thank you note, **you have “made this life livable.”**

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

The temperatures may still be soaring, but preparations for our annual Christmas Drive have already begun. **Contact us today to see how you can help a family in need of Christmas assistance this year** and make the holidays shine for kids in our community!



Scan the code, or reach out to Director of Volunteers and Outreach Hannah Brockway at 816-442-7272 or hannah.brockway@bishopsullivan.org to learn more.



PS: SAVE THE DATE!

BSC's Annual Fundraising Event will be held on **Friday, April 4, 2025** at The Rumely Historic Event Space in the West Bottoms. *Details coming soon!*

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