

# Bishop Sullivan Center

FOOD JOBS AID

SUMMER 2024

## A SAFETY NET FOR THE UNEXPECTED

### Setting up stability for a family with special needs



BSC team members Chris and Alexis assemble furniture for the family.

Parenting is challenging. But for parents of children with special needs, especially those with limited means, the unexpected challenges can lead to serious financial hardship.

**Sylvia\***, the single parent of two severely autistic children, was recently forced to move from her apartment complex when neighbors complained of disruptive noises her kids were making. Sylvia was able to find a house that would work for the family, but the sudden nature of their move left her unable to prepare financially for both the deposit and first month's rent. **With no support systems in place and her children requiring around-**

**the-clock care, Sylvia wasn't sure where to turn.** Our partners at Flourish Furnishings connected Sylvia with Bishop Sullivan Center.

**Our team was able to visit the family's new home and assist them with the funds to help with their first month's rent, and to purchase a few basics** — a couch, some towels, and some pots and pans.

"It felt good to relieve some pressure for Sylvia," said BSC Programs Director Shilo Foster.

**"She puts everything into her children. It was nice to do something for her."**



We were thrilled to host this year's celebration at One City Café, welcoming about 400 people for a meal as one team in our traditional blue tee shirts. **Special thanks to our sponsors, Sysco, Cosentino's, Zarda, and the Order of Malta.**

"It's a beautiful tradition," said Volunteer & Outreach Director Hannah Brockway, "and a great way to kick off summer with our community!"

Thank you to all who made this year's celebration possible!

*Thank you all so much for the things brought, it's very appreciated.  
Thanks again and enjoy this beautiful weather!*

Thank you note sent in by Sylvia.

### THE TRADITION LIVES ON

Last month, we celebrated the Blue Tee Tailgate, our annual tradition bringing together guests & volunteers for an evening of food, community, and family-friendly fun.



# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: IMPACT MO

## Another semester of support in the KC metro

When you're facing financial hardship, figuring out the next best step can be overwhelming. From searching for resources, to taking time off work for appointments, to handling paperwork and follow up, finding help can be a full time job.

**That's where Impact MO comes in, bringing together service providers from across the metro, to create a once-a-month one stop shop for families in need of support.**

Team members at local schools, head start programs, and other social service agencies refer families in their communities to the monthly events and walk them through the resources available.

**Impact MO wrapped up the '23-'24 school year this month having served 328 Jackson County families.**

"Bishop Sullivan Center has been a pillar for Impact MO," said Savannah Poolman, Impact MO Coordinator.

**"Our coaches rely on BSC because they know if there's a way for them to give families a 'yes', they will."**

"We're so grateful for the opportunity to meet with families who may not have otherwise known we're here to help, many of whom were either at high risk for homelessness or were presently unhoused," said Shilo Foster, BSC Programs Director.



"In January, we designated a special fund specifically for these families, and through this, we've already been able to provide more than \$5,000 in assistance."

"Our goal is for families to come in knowing they will be taken care of, and to leave feeling accomplished," said Savannah. BSC is proud to be a part of that equation.



## HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY, MARIA!

**Over the past two decades, Maria has served as the welcoming smile at the Truman office's front desk, the friendly "hello" on the phone, and the first point of contact for thousands of neighbors in need. Her kindness, patience, and faith are an inspiration to the whole community.**

**"It truly has been a blessing in my life to be able to help those in need these past 20 years," she said. "I believe God placed me here for a reason."**

**Happy 20th anniversary, Maria!** You have touched the lives of so many.

## DRIVE FOR DIGNITY

### BISHOP SULLIVAN CENTER'S ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, September 23rd | Loch Lloyd Country Club

To register or inquire about sponsorships, contact Michelle Carlstedt at [michelle.carlstedt@bishopsullivan.org](mailto:michelle.carlstedt@bishopsullivan.org).



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