

IT TAKES **A VILLAGE**

In 84-year-old Carina's* neighborhood, the village is thriving.

Carina has known many of her neighbors, most of whom are also seniors, for more than thirty years. From mowing her lawn, to stopping by for a visit, to climbing in the window when she's accidentally locked herself out, she's been blessed with neighbors she knows she can rely on.

It was her neighbors who reached out to us when Carina's central air went out last July and her fans weren't cutting it, leaving her home unlivable. They were there by her side when we installed her new bedroom window unit.

Our programs are all about neighbors helping neighbors, and we were honored to support Carina's community in doing just that.



Carina smiles alongside her new AC unit.*

"**A CRITICAL GAP**"

In 1999, there were 21 heat-related deaths in the Kansas City metro. In response, Project ElderCool was born.

Since 2000, **Bishop Sullivan Center has been providing AC units free of charge**, along with free repairs and energy bill support, for elderly and medically-compromised neighbors in need.

As the program enters its 27th summer, Programs Assistant Kayla McAbee argues that it's more relevant than ever.

"For the community, ElderCool represents more than just air conditioners," Kayla shared.

"It's a form of stability, dignity, and prevention—helping people remain safely housed, avoid medical emergencies, and maintain independence."

"Safe cooling remains a critical gap for many in our community. Rising temperatures, increasing utility costs, and fixed incomes have only made it harder for vulnerable seniors to stay safe in their homes."

And while our team is thrilled to share the positive outcomes, **we've also seen firsthand how narrow the window can be between discomfort and a medical emergency** for this population.

"In one case," shared Kayla, "we had to delay an installation by just one day, and the woman later shared that she was already becoming disoriented in her home as temperatures reached the 90s. She tried to cool herself with a fan and even took a cold bath, but it wasn't enough."

"Options like relocating, accessing cooling centers, or even safely managing fans and hydration aren't always realistic. That's why this work matters so much. It's not just about comfort—it's about **preventing serious health crises and ensuring people can safely remain in their homes.**"

**Name changed for privacy*

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COOL TOMORROW

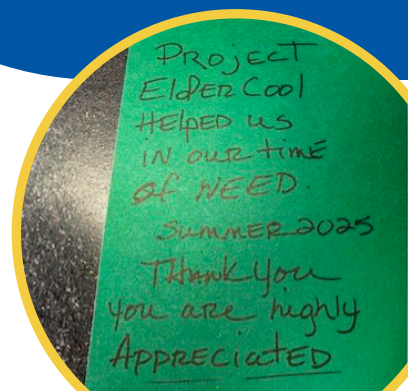
Mel and Robert* know what it means to put skin in the game.

When their central air went out, they reached out for help. While Project ElderCool was able to help with partial costs of the repair, the couple couldn't cover the remainder. **So they buckled down and started saving.**

When they reached back out, they were proud to share what they had pulled together. **Our friends at A.B. May helped them put together a payment plan and quickly got the couple's central air repaired** - just in time for Mel's 70th birthday.

The two are now able to rest comfortably and safely together in their home.

Project
ElderCool 
Bishop Sullivan Center
BISHOPSULLIVAN.ORG
PROJECT ELDERCOOL 2026



Christmas card Mel & Robert sent this past holiday season



Cydney, who interned with BSC last summer, celebrates cool air with a program participant.

YOU CAN HELP!

Be the boots on the ground for Project ElderCool this summer!

We're looking for volunteers to help deliver & install new units. No experience required!

Interested in learning more? Contact Director of Operations & Outreach Hannah Brockway today at hannah.brockway@bishopsullivan.org.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

*I Thank you
with my heart and soul
the air in my home
may God bless you
and keep you.*

*Thank you so much
for helping people in
need during hot summer
days... We need more
people like you!*

*Thank you for saving my life
with this a/c window unit.
I was suffering with 85+
heat in my home. The cold air
feels wonderful!*

Your gift towards Project ElderCool can **save a life this summer.**
Thank you for your support!

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*Name changed for privacy