



THE BETHEL BEACON

MARCH 2025

FROM SHERI HARDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COORDINATOR

Last August, Mang Sonna offered me the position of *Refugee Resettlement Coordinator* at Bethel. I had already fallen in love with the mission and ministry of Bethel, so it was an easy decision.

He explained the Refugee Resettlement Program and Bethel's part in it. What a blessing it would be to help individuals who had fled their home country to find sanctuary in refugee camps worldwide and are now on the path to freedom and opportunity in the United States. I jumped at the chance to be a part of something so wonderful!

The Bethel Resettlement Team went through rigorous training for several months, and we began to plan and prepare for the work ahead. We contacted churches and businesses to build strong relationships to secure much-needed resources and services for our clients.

Last December we received our first long-awaited notice that a family was assigned to the Bethel Team and that they would be arriving in Kansas City in late January. The energy and excitement around the office were accompanied by tears of joy. By early January, we had 7 families (33 people) who would begin their journey in the USA through Bethel!

Sadly, on January 20th, with the stroke of a pen, everything came to a screeching halt. The Refugee Program was suspended. The people who had great expectations of coming to America were told that they would not be coming. We had to share the news with the families who were already here in the US and longingly waiting for their families to arrive. We all shed many tears.

Friday, February 28th, we learned that the Refugee Program has been terminated altogether. Now, all hope of coming seems lost!

We don't know what the future holds, but we will prayerfully wait for a new opportunity to open up and hope to be restored. What a time of rejoicing that will be when families are finally reunited...

You are invited!



~ Bethel 114th Birthday Gala! ~

As we prepare for the Gala and Silent Auction, we are ever so grateful for the amazing response we've received from our community partners. Donations are pouring in for the Silent Auction.

These are just a few of the items we've received:
Tiffany Greens Golf Club - 4 Rounds of Golf & Cart
Main Event - Ultimate Experience Valued at \$300
Crowne Plaza Hotel KC - 2 Night Stay & Parking
Kansas City Chiefs - Autographed Football

~ Branson Package ~
Sight & Sound Theatre - 2 Tickets to 'David'
Aquarium on the Boardwalk - 2 Admission Tickets
Grand Country Resort - 2 Show Admission Tickets

**Be sure to secure your seat by
March 21st**

We look forward to seeing you there!

HIGHLIGHTING BETHEL VOLUNTEERS



Bob & Debbie Page

Bob and Debbie Page have a love and passion for Bethel and the community we serve. They have been picking up food for our senior citizens and community since November, 2021. Bob has volunteered with us at our Annual Golf Tournaments Fundraiser for many years. Together, they have been adopting Bethel families for the Christmas Shop too.

We appreciate their faithfulness and dedication to Bethel.

EXPERIENCING COLLEGE WITH BETHEL STUDENTS

On February 15th, five from Bethel, led by Hau Leivang, our Program Director, joined 49 other students on a college visit to Judson University in Elgin, IL. The trip, coordinated by Dr. Jerry Cain and sponsored by local churches in Kansas City, offered students a true college experience. They explored various departments, including Architecture, Nursing, and Education, ate in the student dining hall, stayed in the dorms, and attended classes with current students. The group also enjoyed recreational time in the university's gym, participating in basketball, volleyball, and other activities. The experience was both fun and educational, allowing students to bond with peers and gain valuable insights into college life.

A special thanks to Bethel's supporters and patrons for making this opportunity possible. Their generosity helped provide an enriching experience for our students, inspiring them to pursue higher education with a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

To Donate or learn more about us...

Bethel Neighborhood Center



14 S 7th St
Kansas City, KS 66101
www.bethelcenter.org
913-371-8218



FEBRUARY PANTRY UPDATE

Despite the severe cold and shorter month, our food pantry remains a vital resource for families facing food insecurity. In February, we served 175 households, providing food to 256 adults, 107 seniors, and 274 children, including 29 babies who received diapers and babywipes. The need in our community remains high, and we are proud to be a beacon of hope during these challenging times.

Thank you to our donors, volunteers, and partners for enabling us to serve with dignity and compassion. Join us in making a difference—through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word. Together, we can help those working toward self-sufficiency in our community.

BE IN THE KNOW!

March 22

Student Fundraiser Car Wash

March 17-21

Student Programs Closed for Spring Break

Wednesdays at 6 PM

Community Meal & Fellowship/Worship

April 18

Good Friday - Bethel Closed

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for helping us to overcome the challenges at work and in life - big and small.
- Praise God for the opportunity to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community.
- Praise God for those who volunteer to help with our seniors, sewing class, food pantry, and after-school programs.
- Pray for God's favor on America; wisdom and guidance from above for our new president and his administration.
- Pray for our Bethel board, staff, and volunteers, that they may serve with a renewed commitment and clear sense of purpose.
- Pray for the health and safety of all those whom we serve, as well as for continued community support and engagement to continue the work of Bethel Neighborhood Center.
- Pray for health, safety, and reunification of the refugees around the world and for their families and friends waiting for them in the United States.