



## April Update



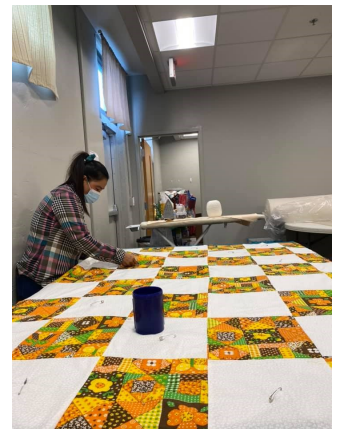
Dear Bethel friends,

An inspiring quote on our wall, **“Helping one person may not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person”** reminds us how important it is to provide help to our community, one person at a time. Words fail to express our thankfulness to you for your recent donation to meet emergency needs in our community. **Thank you for your partnership in changing someone’s world through your donation.** We have just celebrated our 110th anniversary of giving hope and help in our community, and we are very grateful to all of you for your continued prayer and financial support of our ministry.



Our application to become a recipient and distribution center of food boxes under the **USDA Farmers to Family Food Box Program** was approved recently, and we are now distributing 240-250 food boxes and a gallon of milk on Tuesdays to help our community members. The food boxes come from the Liberty Fruit Company. We saw many people driving by to pick up food boxes in the first week of our distribution. One of the ladies who picked up food said, **“I am so thankful for your food distribution. I have a big family to feed and we are really in need of food now. You have no idea what it means to me to receive these food boxes today.”**

We are very happy to see our sewing students working hard, learning new skills, and are ready to graduate soon. The last piece they have to make to graduate is a refugee quilt. The refugee quilts our students made will be donated to the Lutheran World Relief for refugees’ use. The quilts will be sent to refugee camps in different parts of the world. Since many of our students experienced living in refugee camps for several years before they were resettled in America, making a refugee quilt brings back many memories to them. While Jeremina was working on her refugee quilt, she said, **“I used to receive refugee blankets (we called them blankets, not quilts) every year in a refugee camp in Thailand for twelve years. My five children and I loved them and we used them all the time in the camp. When the blankets get old and were torn, we did not throw them but mend them. If they were too torn to be mended, we cut them into small pieces and still use them until the pieces were too small to use. I am so happy making a refugee blanket to help some families who are in a refugee camp.”** When it comes to the sewing class, Jeremina has fun learning new skills. But when it comes to making a refugee quilt, she is overjoyed and is filled with emotions. She added, **“Thank God, my family and I are no longer refugees but we live in a free country.”**



Our students are back in their schools but we are not ready yet to bring them back in the building. We will have them in person for our summer youth enrichment program starting on June 7, 2021.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our ministry! May God bless you richly!

*Mang Sonna*

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna, Bethel Neighborhood Center