



## May Update



Dear Bethel friends and well-wishers,



Thank you for your recent financial donation to Bethel Neighborhood Center. Your donation enables us to provide a much needed face masks and emergency food assistance to many families, individuals, senior citizens, and to continue our youth program via Zoom with our students and their parents. As we now entered into a new unknown world due to the Covid-19, we are in the process of figuring out what is the safest and best way to do ministry in this challenging time. Our community and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your financial support and prayers as we go through this difficult time. Thank you once again for your partnership with us in offering hope.

Although we suspended all in person meetings and classes, we continue to meet needs in our community. Our Program Director, Elizabeth is working hard to connect with our students and their parents, and she is encouraged by the new opportunities she found in working with our students and their family members. Elizabeth writes, "During the time of the "stay at home" order, we are navigating what the new "normal" will look like. Over the last few weeks, we have been in contact with our students over Zoom. During the calls we get to see how they are doing and just simply talk to them about their week.



Many of the kids have a lot of energy and want to talk to us for a long time. One of our middle school students, talked with us for an hour and a half. She had a lot she wanted to tell us about. It was great to talk with her and be someone that she felt comfortable with to be able to share so much. The students are showing off their new skills and the different things they have in their house that they want us to see. Alejandro, a first grader, was so excited to show us that he could do 20 push-ups! He also played a couple fun songs on the piano, such as "Baby shark", and "Happy Birthday." Cheering him on encouraged him to play the songs many times and his smile grew larger every time he played.



Ivan, one of our second graders, was excited to show us that he learned how to solve a Rubik's cube! He also showed off his Pokémon card collection. ***Another thing we can do over the zoom calls is help our students with their homework and answer any questions that they may not have asked their teachers. I was able to help a middle school student go through her math assignments and answer questions she had about each problem.*** After working through a couple of the problems she told me that this was helpful for her. Jackie, one of our staff members, has been working with the first graders on phonics. The kids have enjoyed those activities and some of them have read books to us. Being able to see the students continue to grow and learn is exciting! We miss them and they miss us but, getting to see their smiling faces and hear their laughter brings hope in this uncertain time."

Please keep us in your prayer as we work closely with our community to meet needs and provide hope at this uncertain time. May God bless you as you partner with us in working with the poor in our community.

*Mang Sonna*

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna, Bethel Neighborhood Center