



## **Bethel Neighborhood Center** **2020 Annual Report**

Our Mission is to empower individuals to achieve a renewed sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency.

### **2020 Board of Directors**

Board President – Rev. Richard Copeland

Vice President - Hidy Aguilar

Secretaries- Dr. Bob Southard & Mary Etta Copeland

Treasurer - Robert Lightner

Members:

Josue Aguilar

Rev. Dr. Victor Clay

Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen

Binod Gurung

Janice Jones

Dr. Carlos Monzon

Rev. Kevin Nelson

Sandra Olivas

John Pauls

John “JD” Rios

### **Youth After School and Summer Enrichment Programs**

Children/Youth – Grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>



**Description:** Our program impacts the lives of more than 100 children/youth in grades 1-12. We provided educational and recreational programs in a safe and nurturing online environment and include reading, homework help, leadership training, health education related to Covid-19, social skills, and cultural awareness. Our high school program emphasizes on college readiness, career options, community service, and job training.

**Outcomes:** In 2020 - 97% of our elementary students completed their homework and were ready for school the next day, 95% of our middle school students self-reported improving their eating habits because of their participation in our program. We visited 1 college campus with our high school students. Our students participated in one intown community service project and enjoyed 4 virtual fun-filled and educational field trips to a vegetable garden, the Heard Museum, a recycling center, and a nature walk through their neighborhood. Students also completed 21 different art & crafts projects.



## Senior Program

Senior adults 60 years and better



**Description:** Our seniors attend lunch Monday-Friday accompanied by programs allowing them to socialize, participate in Bingo, games, music, arts and crafts, Healthy Lifestyle classes, community service and field trips. We have a nurse teaching healthy lifestyles and a visiting nurse who monitors blood pressure/glucose and weight on a monthly basis.

**Outcomes:** In 2020, out of the 31 seniors enrolled, 17 of them attended regularly prior to COVID restrictions beginning in March. Although we were not able to hold in person programming for the remainder of 2020 we continued to stay in contact with each senior with a weekly call, crafts, recipes, a letter from the nurse and bag of produce. We provided 24 seniors with a bag of produce every Tuesday, even providing home delivery for 15 seniors who could not pickup up.

## Food Pantry

Residents of Wyandotte County

**Description:** Our pantry offers a variety of culturally appropriate foods, baby diapers, wipes, and formula to neighborhood residents. We provided hygiene products and clothing when available. Our pantry is stocked with donations from KCK public schools, US Postal Carriers, churches, and individuals and in partnership with the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson County. Weekly food drops from First Baptist Church of Stilwell, KS helps us distribute more fresh produce and bread to our community.

**Outcomes:** In 2020, we had to adapt to COVID restrictions by changing to contactless pick up outside the building and adding weekly food orders to help keep our shelves stocked as KCK public school and the post office were not able to have their food drives this year. We saw an increase of 145% in those accessing our pantry as many were affected by COVID. We helped more than **23,087** adults, senior citizens and children and handed out more than **157,284** pounds of fresh produce, bread, dry goods, and non-perishable foods. We also provided baby diapers, baby food, and baby wipes to 658 infants/toddlers: giving out 8,554 baby diapers throughout the year.



## **Assistance with Language Translation and Notary**

Refugees, Immigrants, Economically Disadvantaged

**Description:** Bethel staff members speak more than 10 languages helping us to provide culturally appropriate programs and services to our community. They help in advocacy, filling forms for schools, jobs, and clinics, translation of documents like birth certificates, legal matters, proof of income, authorization forms and much more. A staff notarizes important documents for low-income families.



**Outcome:** Bethel was able to assist 63 individuals in 2020. The assistance we provided

ranges from translation of forms, notarized court documents, income letters, permission to travel letters, daycare forms, deeds, and helped in reading/interpreting and replying important mails and providing current COVID information to various languages.

## **Sewing Class**

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

**Description:** In partnership with Once We Were Refugees to offer 9-week sewing classes to touch on the basics. At the end of the program students receive a Certificate of Accomplishment, the machine they learned on, a new pair of scissors, iron, ironing board, thread and 10 yards of fabric.

**Outcome:** Bethel had 12 students graduate and 1 who had job placement. 4 graduating students continue to return weekly to add to their skills by learning new patterns outside of the class curriculum.



## **ESL/Citizenship Classes**

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

**Description:** Adult ESL/Citizenship classes meet weekly for two hours on Fridays. They work on conversational English, learn new vocabulary, and listen to, read, and learn pronunciation. For immigrants who have lived in the US for five years or more, we have been preparing them to become citizens by teaching the 100 civic questions and answers they have to know to pass the citizenship interview. We had 27 registered adult students from the Burmese and Nepali community attend in the first 8 weeks of 2020 before COVID restrictions began on large gatherings.

## **Bethel Christmas Shop**

Bethel Families & Program Participants

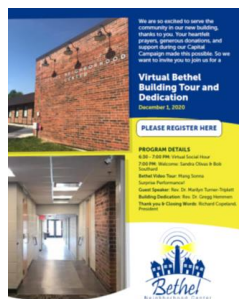
**Description:** Bethel offers a Christmas Shop in partnership with Prairie Baptist Church since 1968 and other churches and individuals, providing gifts and much needed items for low-income families year after year. Families submit their needs list which included request for food, basic needs, and other household items. Families receiving Christmas baskets are asked to attend financial literacy training to help their family.



**Outcomes:** In December, Bethel helped 66 families, 28 seniors and more than 85 Bethel youth. 13 different churches, Sunday school groups, businesses, families, individuals, KCK Fire Department and 30 KU hospital departments assisted us in providing items for Christmas. Bethel seniors were adopted by members of Grace Baptist Church and 5 KU hospital departments. Elementary youth received shoebox gifts from Woodlawn Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church, City Life Church, Delta Dental of Kansas, Vonda Brecheisen, Judy Woods and Elita Fry.

## **Capital Campaign: Magnifying the Light & Hope**

**Description:** Over 3.1 million dollars had been raised at the end of 2020 for our capital campaign to renovate and expand our existing building and programs since we began in May 2015. Renovations include a safer drop off entry way, updated outdoor recreation areas, updated existing building with an addition of a garage and a large multipurpose room that will allow us to double our capacity for students.



Groundbreaking held on April 8, 2017 after reaching initial goal. Temporarily moved to two locations in July 2017 to continue running our programs. Construction began much later than anticipated in winter of 2017 and was expected to be complete by mid-April 2019. During construction we were faced with over \$200,000 in unexpected cost. We received our temporary certificate of occupancy on April 05, 2019 and began to prepare rooms to resume our programs. We received our certificate of occupancy on January 06, 2020 completing all inspections. In 2020 the Bethel Board decided to begin phase 2 as a silent phase to raise funds to add the new multi-purpose room as planned.

## Service Breakdown Statistics

### Youth Program Participants

Total Youth	103
Hispanic	72 participants
Asian	30 participants
Black	01 participants
White	00 participants
Other	00 participants



### Summer Program Theme: I CAN...

- be creative
- make health choices
- be a helper

### Senior Program Participants

Total seniors: 31  
60 years and better

Hispanic	20 participants
Black	03 participants
White	08 participants



### Food Pantry Users

Total: 23,087 individuals served

Hispanic	43%
Asian	18%
Black	15%
White	19%
Other/Unknown	05%

### ESL/Citizenship Class

Asian	100%
-------	------





## Bethel Personal Impacts

"Doing the program online was a different experience for our kids but they really seemed to enjoy all the games and activities." – Esther, Bethel parent



"Having art projects was a lot of fun and helped take my mind off of schoolwork."  
- Kelly, Bethel elementary youth

"Even though we didn't get to spend much time with the kids in person, it was great to see them smiling and enjoying the online program."  
-Jackie, Bethel staff



"Bethel is one of the places which brings happiness in the families all year round."  
-Raj, Bethel community member

"Thanks Bethel for all that you do. Miss you all."  
- Betty, Bethel senior adult



## **2020 Snap Shot**

**January 06, 2020**

Bethel receives certificate of occupancy.



**February 04, 2020**

Bethel staff celebrate KC Chiefs' Super Bowl Championship with the youth.

**March 2020**

Bethel staff plan for virtual youth program, weekly senior adult food bags & contactless pantry pick up to continue programs.

**April 15, 2020**

Bethel begins to prepare raised gardens to plant for the spring and summer.



**May 20, 2020**

Bethel connects with C&C Produce for 15 weekly distribution of 5,000 pounds of fresh produce.

**June 01, 2020**

Bethel staff begin first ever virtual summer program for youth with a weekly home delivery of supplies & snacks.

**July 2020**

Bethel middle school youth take a virtual tour of Heard Museum.

**August 26, 2020**

Bethel has drive-thru Birthday Celebration for turning 109 years old on April 1, 2020.



**September 28, 2020**

Bethel sewing class quilts blessed at Judson Baptist Church before being sent to refugee camps.

**October 06, 2020**

KU Health Systems brings in another generous food donation to help keep our food pantry stocked.

**November 2020**

Bethel helped 10 families affected by COVID with assistance paying mortgage/utilities.

**December 1, 2020**

Bethel holds virtual building tour and dedication of renovated campus.

**December 7 – 11, 2020**

Bethel Christmas Shop helps 66 families and 28 senior adults.

**Bethel Neighborhood Center**  
**14 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, KS 66101**  
**P.O. Box 171637, Kansas City, KS 66117**  
**Telephone: 913-371-8218      Fax: 913-371-5206**  
**[www.bethelcenter.org](http://www.bethelcenter.org)**



**2020 Bethel Staff**

Rev. Mang Sonna  
Executive Director

Rosa Macias  
Administrative Officer & Community Support Coordinator

Elizabeth Vile  
Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator

London Dillard  
Assistant Program Director

Vernita McMurtrey  
Development Director

Judith LeMaster  
Bethel Nurse

Nem Sonna  
Sewing Class Instructor

Nico Garcia  
Program Staff

Jackie Arambula  
Program Staff

Keith Kaduce  
Program Staff

Julio Macias  
Program Staff

Frances Her  
Program Staff

Kristy Pacheco  
Program Staff