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BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

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

2023 Annual Report



Bethel Neighborhood Center
14 S. 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101
P.O. Box 171637, Kansas City, KS 66117
Telephone: 913-371-8218
www.bethelcenter.org

Youth After School Program

Children/Youth – Grades 1st through 12th

In 2023, Bethel served 127 in the afterschool and summer programs. Our youth program focused on the following:

- Homework Help: 100% of Elementary students completed while at BNC.
- Conflict Management: 97% of our Middle School students reported using their new skills while in a conflict situation.
- Healthy Eating & Active Living: 95% of our students reported eating healthier and exercising more.
- Social Skills: 99% of our students practiced new skills learned and had positive interactions.
- Creative Problem Solving: 97% of our students demonstrated an elevated or increased level of problem-solving skills.
- Financial Literacy & College Preparedness: Our high school students focused on financial literacy and college preparedness during the summer program.

After School & Summer Program

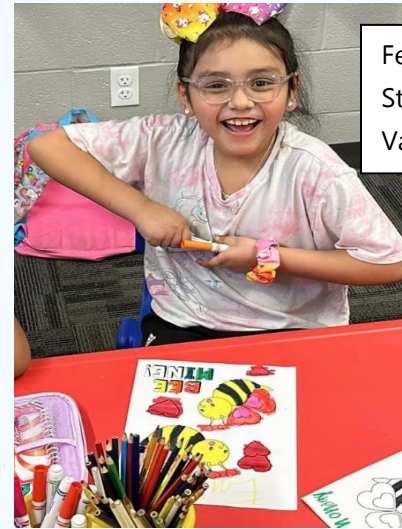
Total Youth: 127
Hispanic: 108 participants
Asian: 14 participants
White: 3 participants
African American: 2 participants

"I came back to Bethel because I got very sad when I wasn't enrolled last school year. Coming here makes me happy." Carolina, 5th Grader

Summer Enrichment Program Theme: Good Neighbor

It was a summer to remember for 89 students who took part in the summer program! We all had so much fun and learned a lot too! Our elementary schoolers learned all about the different cultures that make up our lovely home here in Kansas City through a curriculum centered around finding common ground in such a diverse neighborhood. Our middle schoolers learned life skills like stress management, academic success, and communication skills. They took part in several workshops with the Kansas City Center for Conflict Resolution! Our high schoolers heard from various professionals in highly desired fields and got to visit three prestigious colleges and universities.

After the end of the summer program, Oak Grove Assembly led Vacation Bible School in the first week of August, and we had 56 participants. The theme for VBS was: Be Strong and Courageous.



February 2023 – Emily, Elementary Student coloring a beautiful Valentine's Day Picture.



April 2023 – Highschool Students at Soccer Nation

Summer 2023 - Mrs. Nem Sonna & Abraham, Volunteer, with our elementary students.



December 2023 – Middle school students taking pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Claus



Sewing Class

The sewing classes for beginners and advanced students were 12 weeks long unlike previous years. Previously nine weeks went by too fast to really prepare them to have employable skills. We had 8 previous students return for our advanced class and they reported they were able to earn income doing alterations for their friends and community members. We had 28 beginners enrolled.

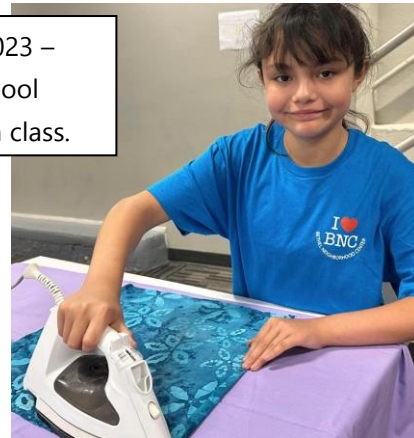
1st Semester 2023 –
Beginners Graduating class
with our instructors.



“One of our adult graduates was able to get a job because of her sewing training. She and her husband both express appreciation to us for the new skills that prepared her to take up a new job.” – Nem Sonna, Sewing Instructor

We introduced 101 sewing class for our middle school and high school students during summer for eight weeks - once a week for 2 hours. They are ready for sewing 102, summer 2024.

Summer 2023 –
Middle School
Students in class.



Bethel Christmas Shop

Bethel Families & Program Participants

Bethel has been offering a Christmas Shop since 1968. Churches, individuals, groups, and organizations provide gifts and much needed items for low-income families. Families attend financial literacy training to help their family.

In December, Bethel helped 75 families – made up of 387 adults, seniors, teens, and children. A total of 18 different churches, church groups, families, individuals, organizations, and KU hospital departments assisted us in providing items for Christmas. Bethel seniors were adopted by members of Grace Baptist Church. Bethel youth and adults received shoebox gifts from the RW/WV Association and their friends.



Food Pantry

Residents of Wyandotte County

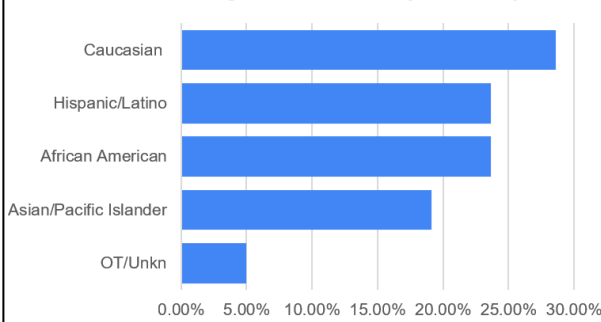
In 2023 we saw a significant increase of households in need. We served 3,238 households – a total of 11,412 adults, seniors, and children. We provided over 11,500 diapers to families with children under the age of 3.

In September of 2023 we had to make the difficult decision to close our pantry two days out of the week. Unlike previous years BNC had to buy canned and nonperishable foods several times a month, more than ever before to support the families that came in.

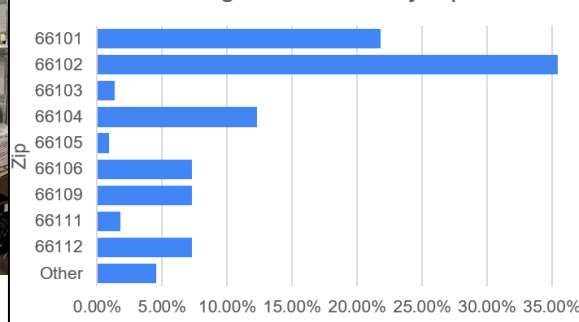
"I've never needed help like this before, but I am retired, and my social security has been reduced. I need just a couple days' worth, until my next deposit." - A Senior Citizen Pantry User.

Throughout the year our pantry was stocked with donations from several KCK Public Schools, Post Office Annual Carrier Food drive, Harvesters, Kanbes Markets, churches, individuals, and various organizations.

Percentage distribution by Ethnicity



Percentage distribution by Zip Code



Senior Program

Senior adults 60 years and better

Seniors enjoy socialization activities, bingo, games, arts & crafts, field trips, and guest speakers. They come to our center Monday through Friday. Lunch is provided daily by Area Agency on Aging. Out of 52 seniors enrolled, 26 attended regularly three or more days a week. Participants go home with a bag of produce and at least one protein every Tuesday.

- 100% of our senior program participants reported being happier.
- 98% of them enjoyed the activities led by Bethel staff and nurse.
- 95% of them self-reported eating healthier and exercising more.

"I live alone and the only time I leave my apartment is to come to Bethel and doctor appointments. I enjoy seeing my friends and having someone to talk to." Juventina A., Bethel Senior

