

# THE BETHEL BEACON

MAY 2024

## NOTES FROM DR. MANG SONNA THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Dreams do come true! We dreamt of renovating and expanding our building to serve more people in a safer space ten years ago. Our dream was finally fulfilled and we had the grand opening of the new Wellness and Multipurpose Center and Rededication of the Bethel ministry on Saturday, April 27th. The new building was packed with donors and well-wishers, and the celebration was enhanced by the sounds of handbells, clapping, noisemakers, and screams of joy! It was a true celebration of what God has done.

Colin Powell is right in saying, "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." Our campaign team worked hard, and God blessed their sweat and determination to raise more than \$5 million dollars to renovate and expand our building. I am very grateful to the hardworking past and present Bethel board and staff members, capital campaign and construction committees, foundations, banks, businesses, churches, ABWMs, and individuals for donating sacrificially to make our dream comes true. May God bless you all abundantly for your generosity! THANK YOU SO MUCH for your continued support of the Bethel ministry.



## FOOD PANTRY IN APRIL

It was another busy month in the food pantry! Here's a review by the numbers:

- 260 families received help with food
- 630 diapers distributed

We had many more families request diapers, but we ran out very early. The sizes in most demand are sizes 4, 5, and 6. We greatly appreciate your partnership in meeting the needs of our community!

**"Thank you so much for accepting me to the sewing class and for giving me the machine I used while I was in the Beginner class. I had so much fun and I am planning to come back for the Advanced Class." Maria.**



## GRAND OPENING RECAP

The grand opening began with a soul-stirring singing of the hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness O God My Father, led by Michael Griffin and Elizabeth Fulton. Following this, Mang Sonna gave a warm welcome and set the tone for an afternoon filled with heartfelt connections and shared aspirations. Our excellent MCs inspired everyone and made the celebration fun and exciting the whole time.

Mayor Tyrone Garner shared a word, and many testaments to the work Bethel has done were shared. Several performances from Bethel program participants added to our joy. It was a truly momentous celebration!



## SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

We are preparing ourselves to provide a safe and nurturing environment for learning and growth to 100 children and youth this summer. The theme of the summer program is **BELIEVE & ACHIEVE**. Please keep us in your prayers and help us financially to meet our summer goal of **\$50,000**. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## WHAT ELSE'S GOING ON AT BETHEL

This month has been an eventful one! Our high school students got to visit several more business owners, learning from their expertise and experiences. A group of middle and high school students got to attend a Sporting KC soccer match thanks to the organization gifting us some tickets! The students that participated in our grand opening performance got to take a Saturday trip to the Topeka Zoo! Our seniors have been hard at work on their own performances and their paint by color projects. Our advanced sewing students recently had their graduation as well! It's been a true joy to be able to serve our neighborhood in this way thanks to your incredible support.

We ask that you would continue to pray with us and support us as we look forward to the many new ministry opportunities coming to us in the coming months. Without your continuous prayers and support, none of what we do would be possible. We look forward to keeping you updated on the various ministries taking place at Bethel Neighborhood Center.



## PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for the success of the Grand Opening and Rededication of the Bethel ministry.
- Praise God for our senior and youth program participants and the positive impact in their lives.
- Please pray for the success of our Summer Youth Enrichment Program.
- Please pray for God's supplying of the funds we need for the Summer Program.

