



The Bethel Beacon

January 2022



Dear Bethel Friend,

Happy New Year! We thank God for bringing us into 2022 with new hopes and excitement! Although 2021 was a difficult year for many people in our community, many of you helped bring smiles to our children and their family members during the Christmas season. Thank you so much for adopting our families and helping them to know that there are people who love and care for them. Linda, who is raising her two grandchildren said, *“Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts you all have helped us with. My grandsons will have Christmas gifts to open on Christmas morning because of Bethel.”* Words fail to express our thankfulness to you for your partnership in offering hope to our community. We need your prayers and financial support in 2022 to offer hope and touch more lives in our city.



In this issue, we would like to share with you a sneak peek of what you have helped us achieve in 2021. Through our food pantry, we provided emergency food assistance to **13,890 individuals**, worked with 30 senior citizens in our senior day program, trained 42 men and women in sewing classes, provided Christmas gifts to 71 families, 28 senior citizens, and 93 children and youth who participated in our after-school program. The cooking class we started for young refugee mothers last fall was a huge success. Khoa, one of our 3rd grade students thanked us for teaching his mother how to cook

American meals as he likes them a lot. He said, *“The American foods my mom cooked were delicious.”*

Last year, we worked with 110 students from grades 1-12 in the after school and summer programs. We started the year off by doing the after-school program online. Students received materials they would need for the week to complete various art projects, science activities, and lessons about healthy lifestyles. We were able to bring students back for in-person programming in June. One of our 4th graders, Kevin, was so excited about returning to the summer program in-person. He said, *“Bethel is the best place! We always get to do fun stuff, and I never want to leave!”* Ida, 1st grade, was elated that she was able to come to the program. She begged her parents to bring her even though they live about 15 minutes away from the Bethel Center.



Thank you once again for your continued prayer and financial support of the work we do in our community. May God bless you and your loved ones to have a prosperous and healthy 2022!

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna