



The Bethel Beacon

August 2022



Dear Bethel Friend,

We had a fun and fruitful Summer Youth Enrichment Program, and we want to say **THANK YOU** once again to all of you for your financial support and prayers for us. Our children and youth had a wonderful time of meeting new people, making new friends, learning about healthy lifestyles, doing arts and crafts and science projects, going on field trips, visiting college campuses, and making new memories. Wyatt, a first grader, was a new participant in our program, and he cried all morning when he was first dropped off by his grandfather on the first day. After realizing how much the staff and volunteers cared for him, and how friendly people were, his attitude and behavior changed dramatically. He participated in the activities wholeheartedly and had a lot of fun. When it was time to go home in the afternoon, he said, ***“I don’t want to go home yet. Can I stay longer?”*** It gives us a great satisfaction seeing how we impact the lives of children and youth in our neighborhood. Thank you so much for enabling us to offer a renewed sense of hope to people of all ages and ethnicities in our community through our programs and services.



In the last week of our summer program, all program participants received a backpack filled with school supplies. The backpacks and school supplies were donated by local churches and members of the University of Kansas Health System Rehabilitation Service, Heart Center. We are very grateful to them for bringing smiles to the faces of our students and their parents. Many parents joined their children in expressing their gratitude for the summer program and the backpacks their children received through us. A mother who has four children in the summer program said, ***“Thank you for the backpacks and school supplies you have given to my children. You took away a big burden from us. My children are very excited to go back to school.”***

After the end of the summer program, we partnered with Oak Grove Assembly of Roeland Park, Kansas, to conduct VBS in the first week of August. More than sixty children and youth participated in VBS. The theme was ***“...With God ALL things are possible,”*** Matt 19:26. We had a wonderful time of worship, games, arts and crafts and story time. The things that God made it possible for Joshua, Gideon, Daniel and his friends, and other stories from the Bible opened the eyes of many of our young people.



We cannot thank you enough for your continued prayer and financial support of the work we do in our community. May God bless you abundantly for your love and care for our community!

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Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna