



# The Bethel Beacon

May 2022



Dear Bethel Friend,

April 11th marked the **111th birthday** of Bethel Neighborhood Center's ministry of offering hope and help to the community in Kansas City! There was a great excitement and a strong sense of community among those who participated in our birthday celebration, because Bethel welcomes everyone as they are—your race, the color of your skin, your culture, your country of origin, or your native language doesn't alienate you from others but unifies you with everyone as we all bear the image of God! We thank God, past and present board members, staff, volunteers, program participants, donors and those who prayed faithfully for our ministry all these years. ***We strongly feel God's leading of Bethel Center, and we cannot wait to see what God will do through all of us in the days and years to come.*** Thank you for allowing us to be at the forefront of the Bethel ministry through your prayers and financial gifts.

Our 111th birthday celebration was exciting and fun. Sandra Olivas, our emcee and board member made everyone feel at home and helped us to see the beauty of diversity in our community. Dr. Bob Southard gave a highlight of the Bethel history and the impact it has had on our community for the past 111 years. Bob's closing remark energized the crowd as he talked about our capital campaign, and how close we were to



our campaign goal (\$1.3 million) to build a multipurpose hall (wellness center) in the near future. The Burmese and Mexican dancers captured all eyes with their beautiful dances and made the celebration even more enjoyable. We handed out cupcakes placed in a container to keep everyone safe and healthy.

The schools in our area are winding down soon, and we are busy making plans for our upcoming Summer Youth Enrichment Program. The theme we have chosen for this summer is, **"Making Impact." Our goal is to encourage and teach young people to make good choices for themselves, to impact their family, their community, and the larger world.** We expect to enroll more than 100 children and youth for our summer program. Please pray for our staff and volunteers, and all those who will enroll in the summer program.

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!

*Mang & Nem Sonna*

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna

