



## June Update

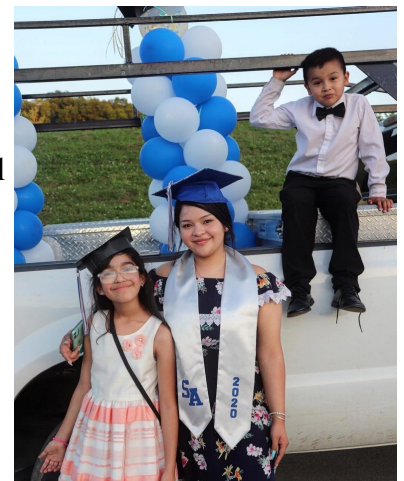
Dear Bethel friends and well-wishers,

In a recent United Way of Wyandotte County Executive Council meeting, we were asked to give a positive word to uplift our spirits in the midst of the pandemic and the social injustice protests happening in our country. In spite of the pandemic and the uncertain future that is ahead of us, the positivity we see in each other and the positive words we share encourage us. Some of the positive words we shared were “resiliency,” “flexibility,” “new opportunities,” “hope,” “caring,” “thankfulness,” “generosity,” “courage” etc. **As we reflect on these words, we know that we have been experiencing them because of you as we work with our community since the beginning of the pandemic.** Thank you for your recent donation, your prayers for us and the community we serve, and the caring cards you sent us. Please know that we serve our community together; and without you and your help, we will not be able to offer hope the way we do it at our Center. Thank you for your generosity!



We are touched by the outpouring of love many of you have shown to our families that were infected with Covid-19. Because of your help, we could provide emergency food assistance, medicine, diapers, and monetary assistance to the five families who were sick and had to quarantine. One of the Burmese fathers who never missed work but had to stay home due to Covid-19, sent a text message stating, **“I have no words to express my gratitude seeing the check and all the foods from Bethel. Tears of happiness rolled down my face. I will now be able to pay my bills for this month. I pray that God will bless the people who help us and Bethel to be able to help people who are in need like us.”** God has given us many new opportunities to meet new people and work with them during this unprecedented time. We offer hope by doing what we do and by being with them in their life-struggles.

In spite of the uncertainties and struggles around us, we are so happy to see our students graduating high school, and are ready to go to college this fall. Irasema was a former Bethel student, a wonderful volunteer, and a dedicated staff while attending high school at Sumner Academy. Knowing the tremendous hurdles she had to go through in life, we are so thrilled to see her graduating high school a few days ago. She wants to major in Business Management with emphasis in non-profits. She wants to give back to our community and in her Facebook message to Mang, she writes, **“I want to be an Executive Director like you.”** As we get ready to run our virtual Summer Youth Enrichment Program from June 8 - July 31, we are very excited. It will be different from the other summer programs we have had in the past, but it will keep our students engaged in life-giving activities and connect them with their peers and our caring staff. Thank you once again for your donation towards our summer program.



May the good Lord bless you and keep you healthy and safe! Have a wonderful summer!

Rev. Mang & Nem Souna, Bethel Neighborhood Center