



The Bethel Beacon

April 2023



Dear Bethel Friend,

Thank you very much for your recent donation to Bethel Neighborhood Center. We are able to feed the hungry in our city and continue our programs and services for all ages because of your prayers and financial support. This month, Bethel is completing its 112th anniversary of serving our community in Kansas City, Kansas. We thank God and all of you for your love and care for the people we have served all these years.



Bethel continues to be a place where you can meet new people and make friends with them at any age. Lupe and Martha met at Bethel in 2022 not long after we resumed our senior program as Covid restrictions were lifted. They didn't know each other before, but they became good friends. They finally got married on Saturday, April 1st at the courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. Bethel provided a wedding cake and senior program participants brought food and gifts in celebration of their wedding on Tuesday, April 4th. The bride and groom's family joined the celebration and we had a fun time. One of our senior citizens jokingly said, "The next one to get married would be, Ms. Rita (93)," and we all had a good laugh! The recent wedding of our seniors shows that our program participants are mentally, spiritually and physically healthy. We are very pleased with our program.

The Hard Hat Tour of the new construction on April 4th was well attended. Thank you to everyone who came by to take the tour and shared words of encouragement. Our dream of having a multipurpose activities center (mini-gym) many years ago is becoming a reality, and we are very excited. We like Miller Stauch and their workers as they work around our schedule. We don't need to cancel or delay any of our ongoing programs or services due to construction. Ben Goodison, the Project Manager of Miller Stauch said, "We are three weeks ahead of schedule, and if we go at this speed, we are likely to get the work done in mid-August." While taking a tour of the new building, many of our students asked questions like: "Can we play soccer inside? What about basketball, football or dodgeball?" and the answer to their questions is "YES!", and they were all ecstatic. Our seniors are thrilled to learn that there will be a walking trail along the wall and that they will be able to exercise safely inside. However, we still need to raise more funds in order to complete the building.



It has been difficult to restock our food pantry this year as food donations are down while the demand for food is increasing. We have been buying food from Harvesters and ethnic stores to meet the food needs of our families. Please share our needs for funds to complete the building and food to your family and friends.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the Bethel ministry. May God bless you abundantly!

Mang Sonna

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna