

December 2025

THE BETHEL BEACON



FROM MANG SONNA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Bethel Friends,

I want to take a moment to reflect and express our deepest gratitude for your recent gift to the Bethel ministry. Your generosity is the reason we can reach out, touch, and transform lives—bringing hope to our community every single day. Because of your generous support, we are witnessing real, lasting change in our community. Without **YOU**, this impact would not be possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Your kindness is reflected in stories like Kevin's. Once struggling, Kevin—a senior citizen—now has a stable job and lives comfortably in his own apartment, thanks to the support and encouragement he received through Bethel. Your gift also makes a difference for families. Two young Somali American sisters now thrive in our after-school program, enjoying a safe and enriching environment where they consistently complete their homework and excel academically. And your impact extends to our senior community. Congolese elders have found a welcoming home at the Bethel Center, where they receive the support they need and are learning English—helping them feel more connected, empowered, and embraced in a new land!

You are not just a donor; you are a crucial part of our community and the true hero in these stories. I invite you to see more of the results of your kindness and stay updated on the work you make possible through our Facebook page, other social media, and a visit to take a tour of our newly renovated/expanded facility!

Thank you once again for believing in our mission and for making a tangible difference in our community. The Bethel board, staff members, volunteers, and I are very grateful to you for your commitment to this cause of loving, welcoming, educating, equipping, and offering hope to 'the least of these.' May God bless you abundantly for your generosity! We wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

November was a month of uncertainties for the Bethel Food Pantry. Donations were low, and the looming threat of suspension of the SNAP Program brought concerns of increased food insecurity to our community in Kansas City.

Once again, our wonderful community showed up in a big way. *K9 Camp Day Camp* held a food drive and collected over 1,000lbs of food. There were 5 schools who also held food drives and collected more than 5,000lbs of food. We also received a large sum of non-perishable food items from Harvesters/Feeding America. We are so thankful for these timely blessings!

Our Food Pantry served a total of 324 households, providing nourishment to 885 adults, 267 seniors, and 661 children. Additionally, we supplied diapers to 63 infants. On-site, we served nearly 200 meals through our community meals, the after-school program, and various ministries.

Please continue to keep the Bethel Food Pantry in your prayers as we strive to navigate these difficult times, and as we strive to keep the pantry full for the food-insecure and underserved in our community.



AFTER-SCHOOL & NOVEMBER!



November was a productive and engaging month for our after-school students at Bethel, despite being shorter due to the Thanksgiving break. We welcomed four new friends and offered enriching experiences across all age groups. Here is a quick blip!

Early in the month, Ms. Judy Miller conducted a hands-on arts and crafts workshop, allowing students to create something special for themselves and others. We also visited the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library (KCKPL), where students participated in a special program, and Bethel received a new institutional library card for our students to check out books starting in December.

Our middle school group had an energetic visit from Soccer Nation, while high school students explored off-site learning experiences, including the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and a nature walk at Loose Park. We look forward to celebrating the last few weeks of the semester with our students in December.

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for His goodness and loving kindness to the Bethel Neighborhood Center.
- Praise God for our loving and giving community.
- Praise God for His provision to Bethel so that we could assist our community.
- Praise God for those who have successfully completed the Sewing Classes and have graduated.
- Praise God and congratulations to our dear friend and Bethel Employee, Zo Hmung, and his beautiful Fiancée as they look forward to their wedding day and new life together.
- Please pray for refugees around the country as they navigate an ever-changing climate.
- Please pray for the staff and students of our After-School Program.
- Please pray for the Bethel board as we plan the vision for Bethel and our community for 2026.
- Please pray that God will continue to use Bethel to be the hands and feet of Christ to offer help and hope to all we serve.

BE IN THE KNOW!

- Dec 1st: Sewing Class Graduation
- Dec 6th: Financial Literacy Workshop
- Dec 12th: Last Day of After-School
- Dec 20th: Bethel Christmas Shop
- Dec 23rd: Bethel's Last Working Day
- Jan 5th: Bethel Reopens

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE BETHEL CHRISTMAS SHOP

The Bethel Christmas Shop has been a cherished tradition for decades, blessing families through the generous support of churches, individuals, and partner organizations. Each year, families are lovingly adopted and provided with meaningful Christmas gifts and essentials. Last year, a mother shared that she would not have been able to make Christmas special for her children if it weren't for Bethel. Testimonies such as this one echo the hallways of Bethel.

Our partnerships continue to grow, especially over the past couple of years. KU Health System has adopted many families again this year, Stinson LLP sponsored our Christmas Shop with \$2000, and Kansas Christian School joined for the first time by adopting fifteen families. There are countless local churches and individuals who adopt families, too. These acts of kindness, combined with dedicated volunteers, make the Christmas Shop a true community miracle.

We want to warmly invite you to join us on December 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come volunteer, support, or simply stop by and witness the joy that fill Bethel on this day. There are several ways to help this year: volunteers are needed to carry out gifts and load vehicles, and direct families through the shop. You can also support by bringing new kitchen items or home essentials to help us fill gift baskets. Finally, we still have four families who have not been adopted, and we welcome anyone willing to step in and help in any way they can.

Follow our Facebook page for updates, and call us if you would like to volunteer.

TO DONATE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT US...



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