

The Bethel Beacon

July 2023



Dear Bethel Friend,

These are exciting days for us here at Bethel Neighborhood Center! Our multipurpose activities center, our new computer lab, and the other upgrades in our building are almost done! Your financial donation enables us to get to where we are with our expansion and we are able to work with all ages in our community because of your help. The Bethel board and the people we serve join us in thanking you for your continued prayer and financial support of the Bethel ministry. ***Our partnership in offering hope and help to our community has touched and transformed many lives in our city. Thank you very much.***



Our Summer Youth Enrichment Program participants enjoy learning how to become a **“Good Neighbor”** through the classes we teach, the fun-filled educational field trips we take, and the recreational activities we do with them. The worldview of our students is broadened by their participation in our summer program. The conflict resolution classes taught by the Center for Conflict Resolution have been very helpful to our students. Our students understand “conflict” as “part of life,” and conflict is not always bad. They also learned that conflicts can be resolved without using violence. The classes have been both entertaining and informative. Our students have been able to apply the lessons in real-life situations.

Our high school students greatly benefit from the financial literacy class Ms. Yessica of Arvest Bank is teaching. She has covered the importance of having and managing checking and savings accounts, credit cards, credit building and “Dress for Success” classes. Our students not only enjoy her class but also gain invaluable knowledge and financial skills.

We are all thrilled to have Ms. Bibiana Ruiz as our new Financial and Administrative Officer. She was once a “Bethel Kid”. She participated in the Bethel after school and summer programs from her elementary up through high school. She comes from a banking background. She worked at a community bank in Kansas City for almost 9 years. She worked in various departments and brings a rich experience and knowledge working with our community. During her time as a banker, she served on various boards including Bethel Neighborhood Center. She volunteered to teach financial literacy classes at Bethel and many other organizations. Helping people in need gives her satisfaction. She believes in empowering others regardless of their background. She believes that empathy is key - ***“I always strive to put others first, listen and understand. Let's make the world a little kinder one interaction at a time. Bethel has been a crucial influence in my journey towards growth and success. I am excited to see its continued impact on others.”*** We are very blessed to have her as a team member.



In addition to praying for our ministry here at Bethel, please pray for Manipur, India, our home state. Many churches and houses have been burned and there are many displaced people whose future is bleak.

May God bless you for your generosity!

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna