



# The Bethel Beacon

October 2022



Dear Bethel Friend,

September was a busy month for us here at Bethel Neighborhood Center. The number of program participants has grown for our senior citizens, after school program, sewing class and food pantry users. We are very grateful to you for your continued prayers and recent financial donation to support the work we do in our community. We count on you and your continued support of our work in providing hope and help to all ages. **Thank you for your enabling us to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community!**



The seniors' field trip to Jamesport town and its nearby Amish's country stores in Missouri, in the third week of September was a memorable one. Our seniors walked up and down the streets in Jamesport town, and they entered almost all the stores in the little town to look at what all they sell. Once everyone was done exploring the town and the stores, we had lunch at the Gingerich Dutch Pantry. After lunch, the group visited two Amish country stores, and it was time to head back home. The out of town seniors' field trip reminded us how important it is to be in a different environment sometimes. They were curious and none of them slept on our way to Jamesport town. They were awake and some of them sung songs in their native language. They all expressed their gratitude many times during the field trip and even after. Darshan, one of seniors said, ***"Thank you for the field trip, the delicious food and the stores you took us to. We will have to do it again soon."*** Our field trip

was special and memorable because Covid-19 stopped us from taking field trips during the last two years.

In the after school program, the number of students enrolled has grown since last month but we are not yet reaching the pre-Covid enrollment of 110. Homework help, social skills, healthy lifestyles, and college/career preparedness are some of the things we do in the after school program. Nem, our sewing instructor said, ***"We have seven students in the Beginner class and five graduated students came back for the advanced class to make several things. I am helping them to sell the things they made. It is very rewarding for me to help my fellow women in this manner."***



Since there is an increase in the number of food pantry users within the last three months, it has been difficult for us to restock our pantry. Rosa, our food pantry coordinator would like to see donations of jello and pudding mixes, stuffing, rice and pasta side dishes, ramen noodles, peas, carrots, mixed veggies, pumpkin mix, canned yams, corn, beans, canned meat, cooking oil, cereals, sugar, diapers and wipes (Newborn to size 5), icing and other nonperishable items.

Thank you once again for your continued prayers and financial support. May God bless you abundantly!

*Mang & Nem Sonna*

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna