

Bethel Neighborhood Center

2021 Annual Report

Our Mission is to empower individuals to achieve a renewed sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency.



Youth After School and Summer Enrichment Programs

Children/Youth – Grades 1st through 12th

Description: Our program impacts the lives of more than 100 children/youth in grades 1-12.

We provided educational and recreational programs in a safe and nurturing environment and include reading, homework help, leadership training, health education, social skills, and cultural awareness. Our high school program emphasizes on college readiness, career options, community service, and job training.



Outcomes: In 2021 we started the year online with the after-school program and in-person for summer program. 95% of our students completed assigned projects, 100% completed homework, 96% practiced social skills they learned, and 90% self-reported understanding the importance of healthy nutrition and exercise and incorporating them in their daily lives. Our high school students visited 2 college campuses. Our students participated in 1 intown community service project and enjoyed 6 fun-filled and educational field trips to Deanna Rose Farmstead, the movies, swimming, a picnic day at the park, roller skating and laser tag. Students also completed 30 different art & crafts projects.



Senior Program

Senior adults 60 years and better



Description: Our seniors attend lunch Monday-Friday accompanied by programs allowing them to socialize, participate in Bingo, cooking class, sewing class, music, arts and crafts, and Healthy Lifestyle classes. We have a nurse

teaching healthy lifestyles and a visiting nurse who monitors blood pressure/glucose and weight on a monthly basis.

Outcomes: In 2021, we continued to stay in contact with each senior with a weekly call, crafts, recipes, a letter from the nurse and bag of produce and resumed in-person programming in October 2021. Out of 30 seniors enrolled, 11 of them attended regularly in-person. While 100% of our senior program participants self-reported being happier because of their participation in the program, 94% of them enjoyed the activities led by Bethel staff and nurse, and 93% of them eat healthy and exercise more.

Food Pantry

Residents of Wyandotte County

Description: Our pantry offers a variety of culturally appropriate foods, baby diapers, wipes, and formula to neighborhood residents. We provided hygiene products and clothing when available. Our pantry is stocked with donations from KCK public schools, a local Hen House, churches, KU Health Systems, individuals and in partnership with the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson County. Weekly food drops from First Baptist Church of Stilwell, KS helps us distribute more fresh produce and bread to our community.

Outcomes: In 2021, we continued with contactless pick up outside the building due to Covid. We did weekly food orders to help keep our shelves stocked as only 5 KCK public schools did a food drive for our pantry and the post office again was not able to have their annual food drive. We saw a continued need for assistance as many were still affected by COVID. We helped more than 13,890 adults, senior citizens and children and handed out more than 114,917 pounds of fresh produce, bread, dry goods, and non-perishable foods. We also provided baby diapers and baby wipes to 528 infants/toddlers: giving out 7,920 baby diapers throughout the year.



Assistance with Language Translation and Notary Refugees, Immigrants, Economically Disadvantaged

Description: Bethel staff members speak more than 10 languages helping provide culturally appropriate programs and services to our community. They help in advocacy, filling forms for schools, jobs, and clinics, translation of documents like birth certificates, legal matters, proof of income, authorization forms and much more.

Outcomes: Bethel was able to assist over 200 individuals in 2021. The assistance we provided ranges from translation of forms, notarized court documents, income letters, permission to travel letters, daycare forms, deeds, and helped in reading/interpreting and replying to important mails and providing current COVID information in various languages.

Sewing Class

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

Description: In partnership with the American Baptist Women of Central and Nebraska regions, we offer 9-week sewing training to refugee women and men. At the end of the program students receive a Certificate of Accomplishment, the machine they learned on, a new pair of scissors, iron, ironing board, thread and 10 yards of fabric.

Outcomes: Bethel had 42 students graduate and 3 who had job placement because of their training. In 2021, we added an advanced class for students who would like to learn new patterns and skills. At the end of the year there were 16 people on the waiting list for the beginner class and 8 on the waiting list for the advanced class.



ESL/Citizenship Classes

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

Description: Adult ESL/Citizenship classes meet weekly for two hours on Fridays. They work on conversational English, learn new vocabulary, and listen to, read, and learn pronunciation. For immigrants who have lived in the US for five years or more, we have been preparing them to become citizens by teaching the 100 civic questions and answers they have to know to pass the citizenship interview. We resumed classes in the fall and had 3 registered adult students from the Spanish speaking community attend. We also added a Spanish Learners class with 3 students. Keeping attendance low helped us with social distancing due to Covid.

Bethel Christmas Shop

Bethel Families & Program Participants



Description: Bethel offers a Christmas Shop in partnership with Prairie Baptist Church since 1968 and other churches, individuals, groups and organizations providing gifts and much needed items for low-income families year after year. Families submit their needs list which include requests for food, basic

needs, and other household items. Families receiving Christmas baskets are asked to attend financial literacy training to help their family.

Outcomes: In December, Bethel helped 71 families, 28 seniors and more than 93 Bethel youth. 40 different churches, church groups, families, individuals, organizations and around 40 KU hospital departments assisted us in providing



items for Christmas. Bethel seniors were adopted by members of Grace Baptist Church and KU hospital departments. Bethel youth and adults received shoebox gifts from American Baptist Women in the RW/WV Association and their friends.

Capital Campaign: Phase 2

Description: After the completing the first phase of renovation and expansion of our existing building and campus by adding a new safer driveway, additional parking space, a garage, enhanced classrooms and food pantry, and remodeled public and office spaces prior to Covid-19, the Bethel Board of Directors decided to begin a new campaign to complete the expansion of our building. We are planning to construct a wellness center (gymnasium) on the North side of our building.

The new space will allow Bethel to provide indoor recreation and exercise programs, hold community health fairs, clinics, and education seminars and offer multi-use event space to strengthen community ties. This space can also serve as an emergency shelter if there is a need for it.



Service Breakdown Statistics

Youth Program Participants

Total Youth	114
Hispanic	85 participants
Asian	23 participants
Black	05 participants
White	01 participants
Other	00 participants



Summer Program

Theme: Rebuilding

- Arts
- Science
- Healthy Lifestyles

Senior Program Participants

Total seniors: 30
60 years and better

Hispanic	20 participants
Black	04 participants
White	06 participants



Food Pantry Users

Total: 13,890 individuals served

Hispanic	42%
Asian	12%
Black	18%
White	22%
Other/Unknown	06%

ESL/Citizenship Class

Hispanic	100%
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Bethel Personal Impacts



"I like coming to Bethel because I get to make more friends and get to know new people. I feel safe to be myself."

- Emily, Bethel middle school youth



"Bethel is the best place! We always get to do fun stuff, and I never want to leave!"

- David, Bethel elementary youth



"We are BLESSED to [be] a part of the BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY."

-Grace, Bethel senior adult



"Bethel is a really fun place to work. Getting to know the kids and spend time with them is something I always look forward to. They always have great stories to tell and have so much energy."

- Kristy, Bethel Staff



"Your kindness has helped my family and myself so very much."

-Anonymous, Bethel food pantry recipient



2021 Snap Shot

January 09, 2021

Bethel drops off food to a family in quarantine who tested positive for Covid.



February 24, 2021

Bethel receives heartwarming family donation as their young children wanted to donate from their savings too.



March 29, 2021

Bethel begins work on our community garden in partnership with Kansas City Community Gardens.

April 01, 2021

Bethel reached 110 years of serving families, children, senior adults and individuals!

May 2021

Bethel distributed 1,000 produce boxes & gallons of milk to those in need thanks to USDA Farmers to Families program.



June 25, 2021

Bethel took 16 of our high school students to K-State for a campus tour and information about admissions.

July 3, 2021

Bethel staff & students learned about Depression, Anxiety, and Suicide Prevention from a staff from the Mental Health of America.



August 28, 2021

Bethel has 20th Annual Bethel Open Golf Tournament to raise funds for our after-school program.

September 29, 2021

Bethel Fall Festival sponsored by Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson County with fun-filled activities.

October 15, 2021

Bethel started a new cooking class with our refugee mothers and a sewing class with our senior adults.



November 23, 2021

Bethel picked food up from 5 KCKS public schools for our food pantry.

December 20 – 22, 2021

Bethel Christmas Shop helped 71 families and 28 senior adults.

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