



Bethel Neighborhood Center



Here to offer a renewed sense of hope
Aquí para ofrecer un sentido renovado de esperanza

Bethel receives substantial donation from The Sunderland Foundation

Bethel Neighborhood Center (BNC) is excited to announce a significant gift from The Sunderland Foundation in support of the BNC capital campaign to build a health and wellness center gymnasium onsite at 14 S. 7th St. in Kansas City, Kansas. The Sunderland Foundation has awarded BNC a \$400,000 grant, which brings the campaign's total funds raised to \$779,628.86. The Sunderland Foundation, a leading philanthropic partner in Kansas City, is known for supporting construction and special interest projects that allow nonprofits to expand and fulfill their missions.

For the past 111 years, BNC has been dedicated to empowering individuals to achieve a renewed sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency. This mission is at the heart of the campaign to make health and wellness programs available to residents around the Bethel Neighborhood Center. Statistically, residents in Wyandotte County have ranked among the worst counties in the state of Kansas for health and life expectancy. Bethel has worked diligently to collaborate with several nonprofits in Kansas City, Kansas, to address the health, social, and economic needs of immigrants and refugees who are the most difficult group to reach in Wyandotte County.

“Working with refugees and immigrants daily, I am drawn into their complex and varied life struggles in their new country, said Mang Sonna, Bethel’s executive director. “The healthcare system in this country is very confusing and difficult to navigate. Their problem is compounded by low health literacy, language and cultural barriers, and lack of trust. This gift from The Sunderland Foundation will help us continue to be the trusted organization for this diverse community.”

The new space will allow Bethel to provide indoor recreation and exercise programs; hold community health fairs, clinics, and education seminars; offer multi-use event space to strengthen community ties; and provide an emergency shelter.

Sandra Olivas, Bethel board member and community development officer at First Federal Bank of Kansas City, said the board is thrilled to see this new initiative come to fruition. “On behalf of our Bethel Board, we are so grateful to The Sunderland Foundation for the generous financial support of our project to improve the lives of Bethel families,” Olivas said. We can’t wait to see the new gymnasium filled with smiling children playing sports and our senior citizens enjoying daily exercise programs. Thank you for believing that everyone, regardless of economic limitations, deserves a chance to live a healthy and happy life.”

For more about the good work of Bethel Neighborhood Center, visit bethelcenter.org. We welcome and encourage others to join in as we strive to reach our capital campaign goal of \$1.3 million.

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