



## **Bethel Neighborhood Center** **2016 Annual Report**

Our Mission is to offer a renewed sense of hope to our multi-ethnic community by sharing material, educational, health, social and spiritual resources that help people bridge ethnic and economic boundaries to achieve self-sufficiency.

### **2016 Board of Directors**

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### **Youth After School and Summer Enrichment Programs**

Children/Youth – Grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>



**Description:** We provide educational and recreational programs in a safe and nurturing environment. Our programs include reading, homework assistance, leadership training, community service, health education, social skills, cultural awareness, and educational and recreational field trips. Our high

school program emphasizes on college readiness, career options, community service, job training, and fun and educational field trips.

**Outcomes:** In 2016, more than 100 students benefited from our after school and summer programs. 99% of students completed their homework and were ready for school the next day. While 98% of our students participated in seven or more community service projects, 98%

eat healthier and exercised more. Our youth enjoyed 13 fun-filled and educational field trips to various places including Deanna Rose, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the Deaf Cultural Center, and the Royals games.



## 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, games, music, arts and crafts, Healthy Lifestyle classes, community services and field trips. We have a nurse teaching healthy lifestyles and a visiting nurse who monitors blood pressure/glucose and weight on a monthly basis.



**Outcomes:** In 2016, out of the 29 seniors enrolled, 15 of them attended regularly and 75% of them reported losing body weight and 100% reported being happier participating in our senior program. They stuffed 475 bone pillows, infant neck pillows and empathy dolls for Children's Mercy Hospital. They enjoyed going to Lake Jacomo, Deanna Rose Farmstead, movies, Jamesport town, and on monthly shopping trips for necessities. Seniors received 1,366 bags of fresh produce during the year.



## Food Pantry

Residents of Wyandotte County

**Description:** Our food pantry offers a variety of culturally appropriate foods, baby diapers, wipes and formula to neighborhood residents. We also hand out hygiene products, clothes and other household items when available. Our pantry is stocked with donations from KCK public schools, US Postal Carriers, churches and individuals and in partnership with the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson County. A weekly food drop from First Baptist Church of Stilwell, Kansas helps us to distribute more fresh produce and bread to our community.

**Outcomes:** In 2016, we helped more than 10,855 adults, senior citizens and children and handed out more than 80,500 pounds of food. We also provided baby diapers, baby foods, and baby wipes to 718 infants/toddlers; giving out 7,919 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 us to 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. A staff notarizes important documents for low-income families.



**Outcome:** Bethel was able to assist 38 individuals translate forms and notarized court paperwork, income letters, permission to travel letters, daycare forms, deeds, and helped in reading and replying important mails.

### Community Garden

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees



**Description:** The community garden offers space on Bethel's property for families to grow their own vegetables. Many of the vegetables produced were unique varieties and were used in authentic cuisine. Bethel tilled the garden and participating gardeners plant their own seeds and tend to the garden on a regular basis.

The influx of refugees from Burma, Bhutan, Somalia, and Congo in our neighborhood has kept us even busier during the last three years. Because we have bilingual/multilingual staff-members, we are able to provide culturally appropriate help to our neighbors.

**Outcomes:** In 2016, 12 families grew vegetables in the garden until late in the fall and were harvested many times. 100% of our gardeners share excess produce with other families in need and donated to Bethel food pantry as well.



## ESL/Citizenship Classes

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

**Description:** Adult ESL/Citizenship classes meet weekly for two hours on Mondays and 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. Voting, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the US history are fascinating to our students. The group rode the Downtown Kansas City, Missouri trolley when it first opened. Bethel provided transportation and advocacy as needed on a case by case basis. Last year, 12 immigrants got their citizenship and they were all very pleased.

## Friday Night Meal and Worship

**Description:** For those who like to participate in worship over meal are welcomed on Friday evenings at 5:30 pm. The range of attendance is between 25 and 75. Transportation was made available for those who did not have cars and meal is provided by churches in our area. Produce, eggs, bread etc. were available for families to take home after the service.

## Bethel Christmas Shop

Bethel Families

**Description:** Bethel offers a Christmas Shop in partnership with Prairie Baptist Church and other churches and individuals, providing gifts and much needed items for low-income families year after year. Families submit their needs list which included request for food, basic needs and other household items. Families receiving Christmas baskets are asked to attend financial literacy training to help their family.



**Outcomes:** Last December, Bethel helped 75 families, 32 seniors and 100 Bethel youth. There were 34 different churches, Sunday school groups, businesses, families and individuals had assisted us in providing items for the Christmas baskets. All the families received holiday meat as well.

## Service Breakdown Statistics

### **Youth Program Participants**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Latino/Hispanic  | 69% |
| Asian/Refugees   | 26% |
| African American | 02% |
| White            | 03% |

Total Youth 110



### **Senior Program Participants**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Latino/Hispanic  | 56% |
| White            | 34% |
| African American | 06% |
| Other            | 04% |



### **Food Pantry Users**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Latino/Hispanic  | 27% |
| Asian            | 06% |
| African American | 29% |
| White            | 33% |
| Other            | 05% |

### **ESL/Citizenship Class**

Asian 100%



### **Community Garden**

Asian 100%

## Bethel Personal Impacts



“It’s time to go home already?!! That was fast!  
I don’t want to go home yet; can we stay  
a little longer?”  
– Ko

“My experience of the Bethel Mission Trip was  
awesome. We had fun and met new people, and I  
felt like it changed me.”  
– Uriel



“I went here when I was young and I loved  
everything about this place. I hope I can send  
my kids here one day.”  
– A Former Bethel Youth

“I love being able to help no matter what it is  
and I enjoy coming to Bethel to volunteer!”  
– Joy



“Thank you for helping and teaching our  
kids. They all look so happy.”  
– Cing

## 2016 Snap Shot

January 22, 2016

First ESL/Citizenship class of the New Year



February 9, 2016

Bethel Youth enjoy a snack donated by Mid-Winter Mission Conference

March 12 – 16, 2016

Bethel Mission trip to Hesston, KS



April 13, 2016

Bethel Beacons get Photoshop lesson at Nelson-Atkins Art Museum after tour

May 20, 2016

Bethel receives over 1,375 pounds of food from US Postal Services food drive

June 28, 2016

Bethel youth at the "School of Economics" w/ Junior Achievements

August 27, 2016

Bethel Annual Open Golf Tournament

September 24, 2016

Bethel Annual Fall Festival



October 14, 2016

Bethel reaches & surpasses campaign goal



November 19, 2016

"What, After High School" readiness seminar well attended & successful.

December 10, 2016

Bethel Christmas Shop

December 17, 2016

University of Kansas Hospital Heroes volunteer sorting food for pantry



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**Bethel Staff**

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