

**2022 Board of Directors**

Board Presidents – Richard & Mary Etta Copeland  
Vice President – Sandra Olivas-Talavera  
Secretary- Gregg Hemmen  
Treasurer – Gordon Criswell

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John Pauls	Marylou Reiter	Robert Southard
Miguel Torres		

**2022 Bethel Staff**

Mang Sonna  
Executive Director

Rosa Macias  
Administrative Officer & Community Support Coordinator

Hau Leivang  
Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator

Liliana Arreola Perez Assistant Program Director	Vernita McMurtrey Development Director
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Judith LeMaster Bethel Nurse	Nem Sonna Sewing Class Instructor
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**Program Staff**

Julio Macias	Cristian Gallegos	Pau Cing
Adan Espinosa	Erik Acosta	



United Way  
of Greater Kansas City



**BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**  
Our Mission is to empower individuals to achieve a renewed  
Sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency.

**2022 Annual Report**



**Bethel Neighborhood Center**  
14 S. 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101  
P.O. Box 171637, Kansas City, KS 66117  
Telephone: 913-371-8218 Fax: 913-371-5206  
[www.bethelcenter.org](http://www.bethelcenter.org)

## Youth After School and Summer Enrichment Programs

Children/Youth – Grades 1st through 12th

In 2022, Bethel served 127 in the after-school program and 78 youth in the summer program. 90% of our students completed assigned projects, 92% completed homework, 80% practiced social skills they learned, and 95% self-reported understanding the importance of healthy nutrition and exercise. High school students received relevant presentations from four guest speakers in the fields of medicine, entrepreneurship, architecture, and photography.

### After School & Summer Program

Total Youth	127
Hispanic	97 participants
Asian	26 participants
White	03 participants
Black	01 participants



***“My parents aren’t usually able to help me with my homework so coming to Bethel I know I will always be able to have someone who can help me!***  
***- Christian, Elementary Student.***

### Summer Program Theme: Make An Impact

Technology    Science    Arts & Crafts    Cooking Class

Our high school students visited 3 college campuses and KCKCC Tech site emphasizing on college readiness, career options, community service, and job training. Our students participated in 2 intown community service projects and enjoyed 10 fun-filled & educational field trips to Deanna Rose Farmstead, the movies, Wyandotte County Lake, mini-golf, Kaleidoscope, roller skating, Worlds of Fun, KC Zoo, and the Nelson Atkins Museum.



***“It is so good to have them back in our building. Their energy, free spirit, creativity, and excitement makes me want to give them the best program.”***  
***- Lili, Assistant Program Director***



## Our Year At A Glance

### January 10, 2022

Bethel after school program returns from winter break.

### February 01, 2022

Bethel advanced sewing class learns to measure and make customized clothes.

### March 25, 2022

Bethel held its first Friday night meal & fellowship since March 2019.

### April 11, 2022

Bethel celebrated 111 years of offering a renewed sense of hope!

### May 27, 2022

Children of Bethel cooking class participants had fun decorating cupcakes.

### June 11, 2022

Family Fun Day provided by FBC of Olathe, KS.

### July 1, 2022

Bethel high school students visit Emporia State University.

### August 27, 2022

21st Annual Bethel Open Golf Tournament to raise after-school program funds.

### September 19, 2022

Bethel seniors visit the Amish town in Jamesport, Missouri.

### October 12, 2022

Edgar Galicia, CABA Executive Director, speaks to our high school youth on leadership, entrepreneurship, and opportunities for young people.

### November 03, 2022

Contract signed w/ Miller Stauch Construction to construct multi-Purpose Hall

### December 19 – 21, 2022

Bethel Christmas Shop helped 66 families and 27 senior adults.



## Sewing Class & Cooking Class

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

Bethel, in partnership with the American Baptist Women of Central & Nebraska region, offers a 9-week training to participants. Bethel had 28 students graduate. Beginner graduates receive the machine they learned on, a pair of scissors, iron, ironing board, thread, 10 yards of fabric, and a Certificate of Accomplishment.

***"I am happy now that I can fix my kids clothes on my own instead of paying someone else to do it."*** – Bethel Sewing Student

We provided a 9-week long cooking class to young immigrant mothers. Since their children love the American food that are served in their schools, we would like to teach young mothers some easy to cook/prepare American meals. Cooking class participants learn how to use measuring cups/spoons, read and follow recipes, use an oven and prepare 16 -18 easy to make meals during our hands on class. Our class helps families incorporate meals their children enjoy at school at home in addition to their traditional dishes.



## Assistance with Language Translation and Notary

Refugees, Immigrants, Economically Disadvantaged

Bethel works with immigrants and refugees to help them make their transition into a new country and an unfamiliar culture easier. Our staff is able to speak several languages and we work closely with Burmese, Bhutanese, Congolese, Hispanic and other refugee families.

Bethel was able to help 124 individuals and families in 2022 by providing culturally appropriate programs and services. Services range from translation of forms, notarized court documents, income letters, permission to travel letters, daycare forms, deeds, and help in reading/interpreting and replying to mail.



## Senior Program

Senior adults 60 years and better

We were completely back in person for morning programming and lunch. Out of 33 seniors enrolled, 13 attended regularly three or more days a week. Seniors enjoyed activities such as Bingo, sewing class, art & crafts, in house movie day, drum fit class, nutrition class, Healthy Lifestyle class with our nurse, and a visiting nurse who checks blood pressure/glucose on a monthly basis.

- 93% self-reported being happier participating in classes
- 93% enjoyed the activities led by Bethel staff and nurse
- 81% would eat alone at home if they did not come to Bethel
- 80% of them eat healthy and exercise more

### Senior Program

Total	33
Hispanic	24 participants
White	05 participants
Black	02 participants
Asian	02 participants



***"I like coming to Bethel to exercise in group with other fellow seniors. We motivate and encourage one another to become healthier."*** – Gloria, Bethel Senior



Bethel meal site was awarded a new 12 passenger van to help transport our participants to and from home and for events.



## Food Pantry

Residents of Wyandotte County

In 2022, we continued with contactless pick up outside the building due to Covid. In order to keep up with the increased demand for food, nonperishable items were ordered weekly from The Harvesters. Emergency food assistance of 70,000 pounds was provided to more than 9,115 adults, senior citizens, and children. We provided baby diapers, baby wipes and baby food to 589 infants/toddlers: giving out 8,835 baby diapers.

*"I haven't been able to work because of my health issues. Thank you for your help. Every little bit helps me and my girls."*  
- Britani, Pantry Visitor

**Food:** produce, bread, shelf stable foods, & culturally appropriate foods

**Baby Items:** baby diapers, wipes, and formula when available.

**Other Items:** hygiene products and clothing when available.

Our pantry was stocked with donations from six KCK public schools, Post Office Annual Carrier Food drive, a local Hen House, churches, individuals, and various organizations. Monthly food drops from First Baptist Church of Stilwell, KS helps us distribute more fresh produce and bread.

### Food Pantry Users

By Ethnicity

Hispanic	31%
Asian	10%
Black	19%
White	30%
Other/Unknown	10%



### Food Pantry Users

By Zip Codes

66101	19%
66102	32%
66103	06%
66104	16%
66105	03%
66106	07%
66109	05%
66111	03%
66112	05%
Unknown	04%



## Bethel Christmas Shop

Bethel Families & Program Participants

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. Families submit their needs list and are asked to attend financial literacy training to help their family.



In December, Bethel helped 66 families, 27 seniors and 86 Bethel youth. 31 different churches, church groups, families, individuals, organizations and 30 KU hospital departments assisted us in providing items for Christmas. Bethel seniors were adopted by members of Grace Baptist Church. Bethel youth and adults received shoebox gifts from the RW/WV Association and their friends.

*"It will be fun to be able to play basketball and soccer inside the new building. I hope the building looks cool too!"* - Dominick, 5th Grader

### Capital Campaign: Phase 2

Bethel signed a contract with Miller Stauch Construction company in November 2022 to begin construction of the wellness center (gymnasium) on the North side of our building. The new addition is scheduled to be done by the end of summer 2023. The Bethel Board is continuing to fundraise the remaining \$788,000 needed to complete the project. 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.



[www.bethelcenter.org](http://www.bethelcenter.org)