



March Update



Dear Bethel friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to Bethel Neighborhood Center. We are able to continue the good work we do in our community because of generous donors like you. During this challenging time, we play a very important role in educating our neighbors (clients) on Covid-19 and providing emergency assistance to individuals and families who need them. Under our leadership, we have organized many meetings for several ethnic groups in different languages on topics like Covid-19, safety guidelines from the CDC, the importance of Covid testing, and Covid vaccine. What we do makes this challenging time a little easier and the help we provide is appreciated by many. A neighbor who used our food pantry sent a thank you card stating, *“I wanted to thank you all for all your generosity over the past few months. Your kindness has helped my family and myself so very much. I started my new job yesterday and I finally can see the light at the end of this dark trying stressful time.”* Praise the Lord! Congratulations to her!



As our sewing instructors and volunteers have received their Covid-19 vaccine and the positivity rate has gone down in our city, we resumed our sewing class in the last week of February. In order to maintain social distancing requirement, we keep our classes small and wear masks during the entire class. A class that can be completed in one day now takes five days as we decided to have 2-3 students at a time. As we spend more time with our students, we realize how helpful and better the smaller classes are for our students and instructors. We get to know our students better as they are more willing to talk and ask questions in a smaller class than a big one. The prospect of getting a job is great in our area for those who are good in sewing and we are all very excited.

The number of individuals and families who rely on our food pantry has not gone down much yet, and we struggle to restock our food pantry. We will welcome donations of canned and dry foods, frozen meats, dairy products, fruits and veggies, baby food, baby wipes, and diapers (sizes 4 & 5). Bethel staff continue to deliver food boxes weekly to our senior citizens and families who are in quarantine due to Covid-19. Our virtual after school program is well attended by grades from 1-12. We drop off materials/supplies for our after school program every Friday for the next week. It is very encouraging for us to see the excitement in our students and their parents to receive them.



Thank once again for your continued support of Bethel ministry. May you have a blessed Lent season and a very Happy Easter!

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna, Bethel Neighborhood Center