



November Update

online after school program



Dear Bethel friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to Bethel Neighborhood Center. Your donation enables us to provide emergency help with food, rent, diapers, and baby food to needy families, and offer help and hope through our programs and services even in the midst of Covid-19. Thank you once again for helping us in meeting emergency needs and in alleviating the burdens of struggling families and individuals in our community. Without your help, we will not be able to impact lives the way we do now in Kansas City.



Rosa, our Food Pantry Coordinator said, “As COVID-19 goes into the winter months there is still a great need for the food pantry. We continue to see new neighbors (new clients) every month in addition to those who have already accessed our pantry before. In order to provide more help while people are trying to figure out what their next move would be, we began to let participants know that they can come to pick up food twice a month (an increase from once a month). While 300 households rely on our food pantry on a regular basis, we have also seen many new families/individuals who sought help from us for the first time within the last few months. We are concerned as KCK Public Schools and the US Postal Services are not able to organize their annual food drive this year. Since their annual food drives helped us to keep about 40% of our shelves stocked, our need for canned/dry foods will be great in the coming months.” Please share our need for food to your family and friends, and church or business groups you are associated with.

Elizabeth Vile, our Program Director, enjoys working with program participants from all ages. It is very rewarding for her to work with refugees who are between the ages of 15-24 in our **ReCONNECT** program. This program is funded by the Kansas Office of Refugees in Wichita, Kansas. Elizabeth writes, “We have started our second year of the **ReCONNECT** program. We have 2 returning participants and 4 new ones. We are in the beginning stages of learning more about the participants and how we can help them achieve their goals. The two returning participants have said how excited they are to continue in the program. They have gained confidence in their English speaking and listening as well as a better understanding of what careers they want to have. Our hope is to pair each participant with a mentor, help them with their educational and vocational goals, and have some fun along the way by going to sporting games, museums, movie theaters, and restaurants.”



This Thanksgiving, we want you to know that we are thankful to you for your love and care for our community. We are planning to have a **Virtual Tour of our renovated building and Dedication of what you have helped us build on Giving Tuesday, December 1st**. The first half hour from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. will be online social time, and our program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Marilyn Turner-Triplett, Director of Community Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies will be our guest speaker. We invite you to join this event. The **Zoom** information you need are: Meeting ID: **4662720650** and Password: **102020**.

May God bless you and keep you healthy! We wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna, Bethel Neighborhood Center