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Bethel Neighborhood Center  
14 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101



# *2014 Annual Report*

# Our Mission

*Bethel Neighborhood Center exists to offer a renewed sense of hope to a multi-ethnic community by sharing material, educational, health, social and spiritual resources that bridge ethnic and economic boundaries.*



Bethel Kids enjoying Christmas gifts

## **2014 Board of Directors**

**President**  
Marylou Reiter

**Vice President**  
Elizabeth Gonzales

**Secretary**  
Pam Curtis

**Treasurer**  
Marty Thoennes

Daphne Braswell  
Janice Jones  
Bob Lightner  
Leonor Segura  
Bob Southard  
Jessica Chadwick Williams

Amee Her  
Joseph LeMaster  
Eloise Mills  
Ram Poudel  
John Williams

# Our Staff

*Our caring and compassionate staff understands the importance of Bethel's mission.*



Back Row: Rev. Mang Sonna, Nico Garcia, Binod Gurung, Paul Rollet, Rev. Tim Schwartz  
Front Row: Rosa Macias, Manuala Arambula, Millie Knopp, Cing Zo  
Not Pictured: Frances Nzioki, RN

Between our Staff, Bethel Neighborhood Center is able to communicate in 10 different languages to better serve our community in Wyandotte County.

***Your Support is Appreciated!***



[www.bethelcenter.org](http://www.bethelcenter.org)  
Find us on Facebook!



# Our Services

## Friday Night Worship & Meal



Bethel Neighborhood Center offers a worship service open to the community. Bethel provides transportation as well as an evening meal to **75 adults and youth of Asian, Latin American, and North American descent**. In 2014, **five local churches** and Bethel organized meals for the worship service. Preparations include cooking dinners, preaching, and providing musical accompaniment. Many participants leave worship with strengthened relationships, nourished families, food for the week, and healthier lifestyles.

## ESL & Citizenship Classes



In 2014, Bethel had **over 30 students** learning English at different levels. Classes are taught by bilingual staff and volunteers. In 2014, **six students** who attended Bethel's Citizenship Class successfully passed their test and have become US Citizens.

## FOOD PANTRY



Bethel provides emergency assistance to all Wyandotte County residents. Families and individuals who come to the center are able to receive food, and personal hygiene products. In 2014 Bethel **served 3,794 families**: 10,547 adults, children and seniors through our food pantry, senior program, and Friday night meal food distribution. Bethel also provided over 1,200 children under the age of 2 with baby diapers, wipes, and formula.

# Our Programs

## Senior Program



Residents of Wyandotte County who are 60 years of age and better are welcome to attend lunch Monday through Friday. Lunches are accompanied by programs which allow participants time to socialize, participate in games, listen to music, work on arts and crafts, exercise, participate in health education, bingo and field trips. In 2014 **Bethel served 35 individuals** through the Senior program by visiting them at home, involving them in the program and distributing a bag of groceries to each participant twice a week.

## Afterschool Programs



Bethel offers a safe and nurturing environment for youth to learn, grow, and have a chance to be a kid. Programs are available 5 days a week to youth from 1st to 12th grade. All students from Wyandotte Schools are welcome. Transportation is available to the students. Through our partnership with Harvesters we feed every program participant dinner. In 2014, Bethel **served 115 students**. Thanks to an incredible program the students were able to participate in a weekly Bike Club, 16 Art Classes provided by Nelson Art Gallery, Health classes, Recreation, and provided backpacks and school supplies throughout the year.

## Summer Program



In 2014 **104 students** attended the Summer program at Bethel. Participants went on field trips to hiking grounds, swimming parks, and sporting events. These students learned to cook, write creatively, artistic and cultural skills through the classes provided by the program.



# Our Impact



"My child enjoys coming to Bethel. I am grateful for people that help him with his school work after hours, being able to be around people from different cultures is a great thing." *—Parent of Afterschool Program Participant*

*"Bethel is like a second home, when you get older it's a great place to be and visit with friends."*

*—Louise & Rick, Senior Program participants & volunteers*

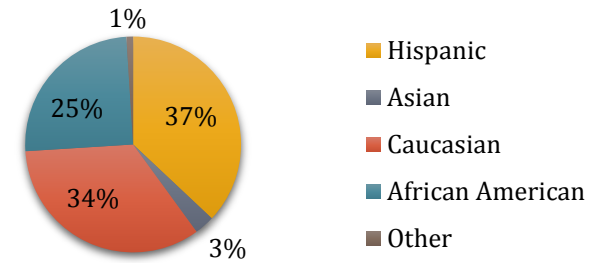


Bethel's annual Christmas Shop connects communities wanting to give back with families in need. This year **70 families** and **35 seniors** received Christmas gifts from **25 donors** ranging from individuals, families, churches and businesses. Families receiving gifts attended a financial literacy class on topics such as opening a bank account budgeting, and credit building.



# Who We Serve

## Food Pantry Users



***80 percent of the families we serve have income below 150% of the federal poverty line.\****



*"Bethel is like a family, that's why I continue coming here. I have lots of things in common with the people, it's the camaraderie."*

*--David, neighborhood resident*

Bethel expanded the existing community garden located on the property in 2012. In 2014, **ten newly immigrated families** shared the plot with the center growing typical vegetables as well as Burmese & Bhutanese herbs. During harvest season, ripe vegetables are often used to serve children in the school programs.

