



August Update



Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

Words fail to express our thankfulness to you for your recent donation to Bethel Neighborhood Center! Your donation enables us to renovate our building and allows us to run our invaluable programs and services. Thank you for enabling us to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community.



Enjoy a report of our summer program from Mawi Sonna, one of our summer program staff members. Mawi writes, "If you ask any Bethel kid what their favorite part about summer was, you might get a variety of answers. Swimming, perhaps. Maybe even roller skating, seeing The Incredibles, or Deanna Rose farm! Yet, one thing you will hear about is the friendships that they've been able to make with other kids, our staff, and volunteers. On occasion, you might see some friendly rivalry as many of the elementary students have mastered chess and checkers, and the middle school students are tough with their serves and spikes in the volleyball tournament.

Despite all the fun, our theme of **'One World - Big Family'** remained an important reminder of each of our roles as mentors and friends. Staff and volunteers made it their mission to create the best summer possible for each child. Four of our staff members led classes in cooking, cultural art, biodiversity, and dance. From learning about Uluru in Australia, to making dumplings, the students also got to plant and paint flower pots, and hear a jazz band perform live. Special guests such as a motivational speaker, Sheriff of KCK, a student from WestPoint, The Nelson-Atkins, and Lenexa Baptist Church, were just some of the few individuals that made an impact on the lives of our Bethel kids this summer.



For many of our returning summer staff members, one of the most amazing things to witness was how much each of the kids have grown and to see all the new kids that are starting off on their Bethel journey. From a former Bethel kid who is now a part of the Bethel team, Jackie recalls Bethel being **"a place where kids can leave their energy and have fun"**. We had one of the best summers. The preparation, teamwork, communication, and mission to give the kids a terrific summer made it one we will all remember. I feel blessed working at Bethel during the summer program."

Please mark your calendar as we are preparing ourselves to conduct our annual **Bethel Open Golf Tournament** on Saturday, August 25th at 7:30 a.m. at Painted Hills to raise funds, and the **Bethel Fall Festival** on **Thursday, September 27th at 5:30 p.m.** to celebrate our diversity and to welcome our after school program students and our community. We will provide ethnic foods from various communities. A donation box will be placed for donations to go towards our construction. Please come and help us celebrate our diversity and welcome our students and community at FBC, Kansas City, KS.

May God bless you abundantly for your love and care for our community!

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director