



# March Update

Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

Words fail to express our thankfulness to you for your continued support and recent financial donation to the Bethel ministry. We are able to run our programs and meet emergency needs in our community because of your support. Thank you so much for enabling us to continue **our mission of offering hope** to a community that needs it desperately. Please enjoy this brief ministry update.



## FBC of Ames, IA Volunteered at Bethel



Dr. Russell, the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa brought a group of volunteers to help us with several projects during the spring break. We are very grateful to them for completing tasks we thought were impossible for a small group and providing all the materials they needed for the projects. They removed the old fence that was falling apart and put up a new fence about 12 feet away from the old one on the north side of our property. In addition to the fence project, they worked in our library, fixed our handrail to the basement, and led a program with our senior adults. Everyone worked hard and the two young girls were exceptionally talented and hardworking too. It was so good to have them.

## Meet Victor Velez, our New Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator

We are very happy to welcome Victor Velez as our Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator. Victor has been in ministry for over 25 years working in the Midwest churches in children, youth and music ministries. He began taking part in ministry at the age of 13, when a lay minister in his church invited him to play the piano at a senior center. He caught a passion for ministry from that gentleman and accompanied him to senior centers weekly, leading worship and preaching.



When he went to college, he counseled, preached, and led worship at homeless shelters, volunteered in local church youth, and music programs. He brings many years of ministry experience in building quality programs, creative arts, volunteer management, as well as a great love for children. His full bio is available at [www.bethelcenter.org](http://www.bethelcenter.org)

## Capital Campaign

The response we have received from individuals and churches for our capital campaign has been good but we still have a long way to go to match the **\$250,000** challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation. Please keep us in your prayer and let your friends and family know that we have to match this grant by the end of the year to be able to receive it. Thanks for your help in spreading the word.

Thank you once again for your love and care for the Bethel ministry. May God richly bless you!

Rev. Mang Sonna  
Executive Director