



## April Update

Dear Bethel friends and well-wishers,

The outbreak of Coronavirus has affected our daily lives and all our future plans are either changed or are on hold. There is uncertainty in the air as we do not know what the future holds. **But knowing who holds the future keeps us calm in the midst of the Coronavirus.** At this dark and uncertain time in our history, the need for offering hope at a place like Bethel Neighborhood Center is felt strongly in our community. Thank you for your prayers and financial support of our ministry. We need your prayers and financial support more than ever as we are at the front-line serving the hungry in our community in the midst of this pandemic.



Although all in-person meetings and classes for all ages remain cancelled, our food pantry is open to serve the hungry in our community. The number of people using our food pantry has gone up tremendously and there are many new neighbors (clients) needing help. If you, your church, or organization like to donate canned/dry foods, we will gladly accept them as our food supply is running low. **The resilience and commitment of our staff members at this time of crisis is outstanding!** While some of them provide worksheets for students in our community, others help in sorting and packing food, taking them to cars, sewing face masks, making

raised bed garden, and delivering groceries to our seniors. Our seniors expressed their thankfulness to the staff who deliver food to them. Some of the things they said are, *“Thank you for the food,” “Thank you for taking care of us,” and “Thank you for remembering us at this difficult time.”*

This young police officer responded to a call to check on some suspicious activities near Bethel Center few days ago. We were all very pleased to see him that day as his presence in our center was very comforting. Sinue was a former Bethel kid. He started coming to Bethel as an elementary student and continued up to the high school program. Once he was old enough, he became a volunteer in our after school and the summer programs and he enjoyed working with kids. He helped wherever help was needed. He loves Bethel and our community. While he was in middle school, he joined the Young Marines for 5 years and very much enjoyed working to move up in rank and finished as a Corporal. He graduated from Sumner Academy in May 2016, and joined the Marines Reserves in December 2017. Upon returning from the boot camp, he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement and joined the police academy in August 2019. He officially became an officer of Wyandotte County on December 12, 2019 and has been proudly serving his community for the last four months. He said, **“Bethel has taught me how to interact with all kinds of people who do not think or act like me. In a way, my interactions at Bethel helps me to become a better police officer.”** We are proud of this promising young officer!



May the good Lord bless you and keep you healthy and safe! We wish you a very Happy Easter!

*Mang Souna*

Rev. Mang & Nem Souna, Bethel Neighborhood Center