



## March Update

Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

What a joy it is for us to see God's leading hands in the midst of many uncertainties in our lives and in our ministry at Bethel Center! We thought that we had enough money for the much needed renovations and expansion until the bids came in from three contractors. The lowest bid was over \$500,000 from the original budget as the cost of construction has gone up 20-30% in our area. Before our contractor A.L. Huber could move in, we had to fix the contaminated soil at two sites, come up with the extra funds needed, and fix our roof that was leaking at three places to prevent our old building from further deterioration. We thank each one of you for your donations towards our campaign and daily operations. Thank you for your partnership in offering hope to individuals and families that are struggling financially in our community! **Our hope and prayer is that one day, they will become self-sufficient and fulfill God's will and call in their lives.**



As of March 1st, we have raised a little over \$185,000 out of the \$500,000 extra funds needed. Our youth and their families, seniors, staff members, and volunteers miss Bethel and they keep asking, **"When can we go back home? Is there any progress in construction?"** Carlos, a 4th grader in our after school program said, **"I hope we can go back to the new Bethel...so that we can play and play over there. I can't imagine how it will look like the inside and the outside."** Our students expressed their enthusiasm to help in anyway they could to help us raise

funds that are needed to start construction. As we began making plans for our 107th Bethel birthday on **Tuesday, April 10th at FBC, Kansas City, KS at 5:30 p.m.**, our students would like to have it as a celebration as well as a fundraiser for construction. Our students will perform music, hand bells, solos etc. at the event. Mayor David Alvey will grace our celebration as our Chief Guest. Please join us.

It has been a very busy year for us as our days are filled with life-giving programs and activities for our seniors, students, and English language learners. Our elementary students practiced long and hard on their music to share in the upcoming 107th Bethel birthday. They are so excited to do their part in helping raise funds for the renovation so that they can be back in their space! Our middle schoolers are enjoying their weekly debates. They discuss current events, academic, spiritual, and health related topics. The high schoolers are enjoying leadership training. We worked with them to plan and lead a whole day of lessons and activities for the middle school students. It has been an intellectually challenging semester for them and they are proud of the newfound skills they are developing! The number of students in our English language learners class and middle school program is growing and we are thrilled to have more students.



Thank you very much for your continued support of our inner city ministry. May God bless you for your love and care for the less fortunate in our community!

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Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director

