



# October Update



Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

In spite of the bad news of the mass shooting last week in our neighborhood and the graffiti on our newly painted wall, the number of times people shared our **Facebook** post about the graffiti, the phone calls identifying the suspect, and the words of encouragement we have received from community leaders, parents of our children, and our well-wishers give us a renewed sense of hope knowing there are many good people in our community. **In fact, your recent donation to the Bethel ministry is a great encouragement to us.** Thank you for enabling us to provide a **safe and nurturing environment** to young people and senior adults **in this troubled world.** We are able to do what we do because of generous people like you.



Bethel continues to be a safe and welcoming place - a beacon of hope for all in our community. We have put up new banners and signs in our renovated building to make everyone feels welcome and to remind ourselves of the life-transforming work we do in our community. We recently hung a huge world map to encourage our young people to think globally, to broaden their worldview, and to show the opportu-

nities they have as they grow up in America. They love the world map and the animals in it. It was so good to see our young people telling their friends and staff where their family had lived before coming to Kansas City, Kansas. Dominic, a second grader said, **"I love Bethel. I love everything we do here. It is a fun place."** Our commitment is to be a safe and fun place for our young people to learn, dream big dreams, and to help in realizing those dreams!

Our senior adults are active and healthy physically and mentally. They enjoy playing bingo, learning about healthy eating and exercise, hanging out with one another, watching movies, and shopping. They took a field trip recently to Jamesport town, in Missouri. Pascual, a new senior who went there for the first time said, **"I didn't think I would enjoy it but the others were saying to come so I did, and I'm glad that I did. I really enjoyed it."** This annual trip lets our senior adults enjoy a day out of KCK to walk the main street of the small Amish town to look at the local shops and of course to eat at the buffet. Before the seniors head home, they are sure to stop by the local bakery and grocery store and are always excited to see the horses and buggies go by.



It has been a very exciting year for us. Our renovated building has allowed us to serve more children/youth in our summer and after school programs, and we see growth in the number of senior program participants and English language learners. Please continue to uphold us in your prayers.

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

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director