



# September Update



Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

Thank you very much for your recent donation to Bethel Neighborhood Center! Your donation enables us to continue our invaluable programs and services in our neighborhood. We have been a beacon of hope for over 107 years among at-risk children/youth, and individuals and families that are struggling in our city. Thank you for enabling us to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We are able to do what we do because of generous donors like you. May God grant you happiness and satisfaction for what you've done for our community!



We resumed our after school program from September 4th and we are happy to see many of our summer program participants coming back to join the after school program. The three areas we focus on with our elementary students are homework help, social skills, and healthy eating and active living. Since many of our parents speak little or no English at all, they cannot help their children at home and homework has become very important for our younger students. With our middle and high school students, we are focusing on social skills, college readiness, healthy eating and active living, leadership, and building self-esteem. We welcome Irasema Becerra, a Junior in Sumner Academy as a new part-time staff this fall. She has been with us since second grade. Irasema said, ***"I am so happy to become a staff member at Bethel. Everything I know about jobs and responsibilities, I learned from Bethel."*** It has been a very good year for us already.

John Pauls, a long time Bethel board member led again the Bethel Open Golf Tournament this summer. The tournament was held on Saturday, August 25th at Painted Hills in Kansas City, Kansas. Twenty one teams (84 golfers) played at the tournament and raised over \$10,000 to go towards our building renovation/construction. We thank each one of the golfers for participating in our tournament and raising funds for us. Our construction project is coming along but much slower than we anticipated. There were a good number of surprises as we are renovating an aged building and we have to comply with new rules and regulations by the city as well. We have spent over \$100,000 of our contingency funds. Please continue to donate towards our building project.



Please mark your calendar as we are preparing ourselves to conduct our annual **Bethel Fall Festival** on **Thursday, September 27th at 5:00 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 and there will be dancers to entertain us all. Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson counties will lead activities. Please come and help us celebrate our community at FBC, Kansas City, Kansas.

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

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director