



September Update



Dear Bethel friends and well-wishers,

Covid-19 has not only altered our 2020 plans and life but also took the lives of some of our loved ones in our Bethel community. Many community members have lost their jobs and are not able to pay their house rent, electric bill, and some are likely to lose their homes in the near future. The number of people who have asked for emergency assistance with food, house rent, and electric bill has increased tremendously. Although we cannot meet all the needs that are existing in our community, we are able to meet some emergency needs because of the donations we received from generous individuals like you, philanthropic organizations, churches, and grants from several sources. Thank you for enabling us to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our city. Please know that your donation brings hope to those who need them the most at this time.



Our plan to celebrate the 109th birthday of Bethel in April had to be postponed until the last week of August, and we are yet to have the grand opening of our renovated building. On August 26th, we had a drive through Bethel birthday celebration with our community members, who came out to pick up a box of fruits and vegetable from us. While many of our board members volunteered to hand out cup cakes and drinks to those who came by to pick up food, our staff and volunteers gave away more than 5,000 lbs. of food to our community members that day. It was a memorable celebration as we got to see many smiling faces! **We are very grateful to Mary Etta and Pastor Richard Copeland of De Soto Baptist Church for donating individually packed cupcakes for our celebration!**

The pandemic does affect the way we deliver our programs and services but it cannot stop us from helping our community and working with those in need. We are very pleased to report that in the first week of September, we had three immigrant women graduate from our sewing class. Nem worked with them one-on-one, wearing face masks during the entire class for nine weeks. She taught them the skills they need to get a job. Nem said, **“It is very rewarding for me to work with our immigrant women. Many of them did not have the opportunity to go to school or learn about the vocational skills they need in their old countries. They are very thankful to receive the training from us, and the completion certificate boosts their confidence.”** Some of her former students are making face masks, aprons, and other items, and are earning income to support their family. The sewing class enabled us to donate more than 900 face masks to those who need them in our community. Rachel Pierce, the executive director of Hopeprint, another local nonprofit that received face masks donation from us, nominated Nem to receive **“Pay It Forward”** from Fox4KC last month. Kathy Quinn and Rachel surprised her with a gift card of \$400. We are thankful to Kathy Quinn and Rachel for recognizing Nem’s contributions to keep our community safe during this pandemic.



May God bless you and keep you healthy and safe in the midst of the pandemic!

Mang Sonna

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna, Bethel Neighborhood Center