



August Update

Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Bethel ministry. We have just concluded our Summer Youth Enrichment Program, and we thank God and all of you for enabling us to touch the lives of 113 students. In addition to learning about the FREEDOM they have, our students learned about conflict resolution, fire safety, "Plant to Plate," and dog safety. After the regular program ended, we conducted VBS with the help of volunteers from FBC of Stilwell, Kansas for two days, and another two days on our own. It was a wonderful experience for my son, Suan Sonna, and I to share the Word of God to our students. Prairie Baptist Church of Prairie Village, KS, and other local Baptist churches provided backpacks filled with school supplies to all our program participants. We are all very grateful to them. We had fun-filled field trips and learning activities throughout the summer program.



At the beginning of the summer, the middle school students were rather reserved and shy, but, by the end, they blossomed. Their energy was released when we went swimming, and it was especially peaked while roller-skating. Both elementary and middle school groups were able to learn and practice the helpful guidance of the conflict resolution instructors. Our dedicated staff, volunteers, and guest instructors provided insightful life stories and games for the students to enjoy, and the lessons they learned made an impact on them. Among lessons learned by our students, I would like to share three of them: **"People can solve things without getting mad and talking it out instead of fighting with each other,"** **"They showed me how to forgive people even though they did something bad,"** and **"Small conflicts can turn out horribly wrong and result in someone getting hurt."** Our high school students learned about college readiness, career prep, life lessons about adulthood, and visited the University of Kansas.

The Bethel Open Golf Tournament, a fundraiser to cover program expenses is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th at 7:30 a.m. at Painted Hills Golf Course in Kansas City, Kansas. You may register online at www.eventbrite.com or print a registration form from www.bethelcenter.org

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

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director

