



December Update



Dear Bethel Friend,

As I reflect on the ministry opportunities we have had this year, I am very grateful for the lives that have been touched and transformed because of our ministry at Bethel Neighborhood Center. **I want you to know that we are doing ministry together as a team** - we, as staff and volunteers at the forefront and you, your church, and your organization right behind us providing all the resources we need to offer **HOPE** to a community that **desperately needs it**. Thank you for enabling us to serve as the hands and feet of Christ for over 107 years in our city.



All our program participants received Christmas presents through us as many of you adopted our families, senior citizens, and gave shoebox Christmas presents to our children and youth. The smiles we saw on their faces while receiving their Christmas presents was priceless. The **“Cops for Kids”** coordinator reached out to us last month and took 15 children/youth to shop with them at a local Target Store. They had a blast buying toys for themselves. David, a first grader said, **“I had so much fun buying toys for myself and for my older brothers. Thank you Bethel, thank you police officers for letting me go. I want to become a police officer one day.”** A very shy Burmese girl who went with the Cops said, **“Police officers are nice people. I like them and I am not scared of them anymore. I am very happy for the toys. I will share them with my brother and sister.”** The police officers were impressed by our children/

youth as they found them buying toys not only for themselves but for their brothers and sisters as well.

Our senior citizens enjoyed the kindness of our friend and supporter, Dave Pierson a couple of weeks ago. He took them out to **“The Nativity”** show performed by the Mesner Puppet Theater at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, MO. They felt special as they sat at the front row and were invited out to lunch at Pizza Ranch by Dave. They still talk about how good it was to watch the show up close and the delicious lunch they had that day. They are very grateful to him and to Bethel for the opportunities they have had as they participate in our senior program.



Bethel benefited again from the KCK Public Schools' food drive last month. KU Health System employees helped us sort all the canned and dry food items that are estimated to be over 8,500 items. We are very grateful to both KCK Public Schools and KU employees for their help to feed the hungry in our city.

Our building at Bethel is almost ready for us to go back to. Our new driveway and the parking lot look good. We cannot wait to go back to our building. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry.

We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director