



# November Update



Dear friends of Bethel Neighborhood Center,

**“What are you thankful for?”** is the question we have been asking each other at Bethel Neighborhood Center since the beginning of this month. Some of the reasons our community is thankful for include: **“Bethel,” “My parents,” “My mother,” “My friends at Bethel,” “The help I received here,” “Emergency food assistance my family received,” “My health,”** and **“Bethel programs in which I am participating.”** Listening to our community members, the Bethel board, staff, and I are thankful for generous donors like you for enabling us to help our community all these years. We count on you: your prayers and financial support to continue the work we do.



We were all very excited to take part in the Junior League of Wyandotte and John Johnson Counties’ grand opening of our food pantry in the last week of October. In addition to providing funds to expand our food pantry, they donated food, helped us sort canned and dry foods, and volunteered to do **“Kids in the Kitchen”** and health related programs to help our children and families. At the grand opening, Pam Curtis, a former Bethel youth who serves as a State Representative for 32nd District was the main speaker. She spoke about her experiences as a Bethel kid some years back, how Bethel has shaped her worldview, and how much she enjoyed the **“Teen Town”** at

Bethel Neighborhood Center. It was a fun evening and we are very grateful to Junior League for adopting our food pantry. At the end of October, our food pantry has served more than 7,500 individuals.

We feel obligated to thank and recognize the contribution of the American Baptist Women of Central Region with a beautiful bronze plaque for providing the catalyst that has driven the entire expansion and renovation of our facility. Their donation of funds to construct a garage at Bethel Center was **multiplied more than 98 times!** The beautiful facility we now have would not happen without the help we received from them, and we are very grateful to all the members of the American Baptist Women of Central Region. **Miracles were not things of the past but they do continue to take place everyday.** We see them regularly through our programs and services at Bethel Neighborhood Center.



At this time, we are working on our year end fundraiser to raise funds and showcase the talents and skills of our children/youth to be held in the second week of December. The dates are fixed for Tuesday, December 10th and Friday, December 13th, both at 6:00 p.m. We are planning to provide ethnic food, music, and dance as well. Please mark your calendar to join us.

I hope and pray that you will find many reasons to thank God for this Thanksgiving season. Have a very blessed Thanksgiving!

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director