

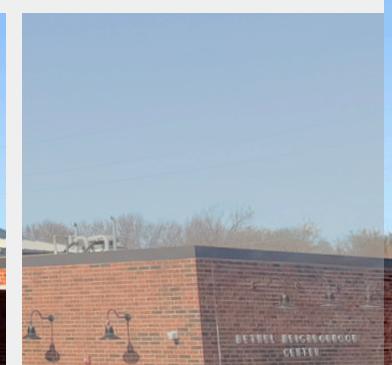
Bethel Neighborhood Center



Annual Report 2024

Our Mission:

Empowering Individuals to Achieve
a Renewed Sense of Hope,
Wellness, and Self-Sufficiency.



Board Members of 2024

Board President

Jan Smith

Vice President

Richard Copeland

Secretary

Gregg Hemmen

Treasurer

Gordon Criswell

Members

Deasiray Bush

Tony Carter Jr.

Reuben Diyalai

Ted Hawj

Kami Minor

Luz Ortiz

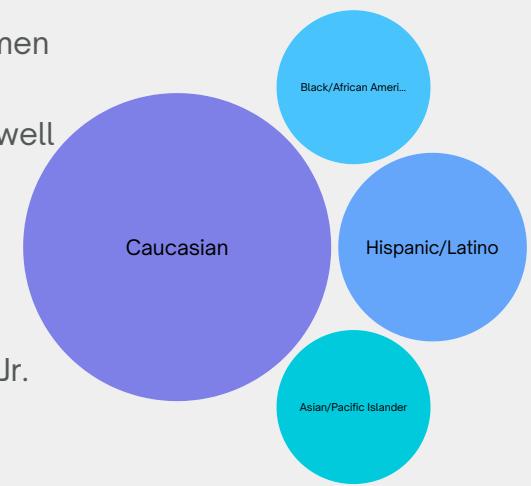
Bob Page

Marylou Reiter

Rene Rocha

Joel Schroder

Miguel Torres



Meet our Staff

Mang Sonna
Executive Director

Hau Leivang
Program Director & Volunteer
Coordinator

Nem Sonna
Sewing Instructor & Co-Ordinator
Women's Enrichment Program

Sheri Harding
Refugee Resettlement Coordinator

Nicole Tosha
Case Worker

Judy Lemaster
Bethel Nurse

Bibiana Ruiz
Financial & Administrative Officer

PROGRAM STAFF

Adan Espinoza

Cristian Gallegos

Flor Orta

Homero Cardoza

Michael Stewart

Pau Cing

Yadhira Espinoza Lorenzana

Vernita McMurtrey
Development Director

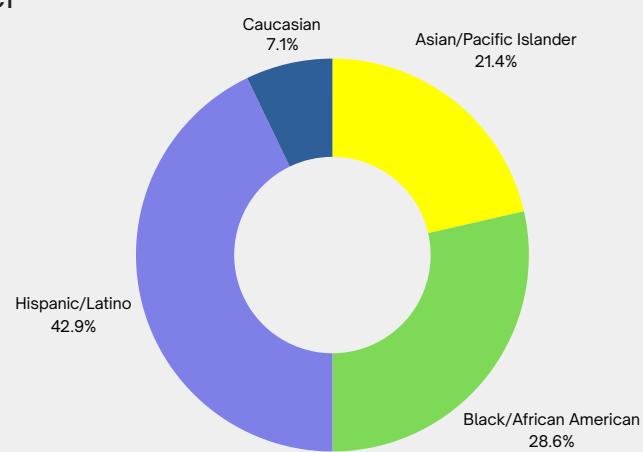
London Dillard
Assistant Program Director

Dim San
Sewing Instructor

Luke Mang
Case Worker

Liliana Perez
Bookkeeper

Zo Hmung
Bookkeeper

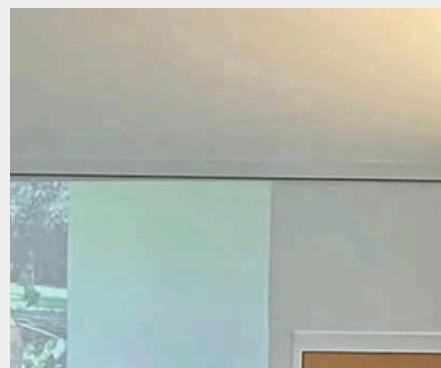
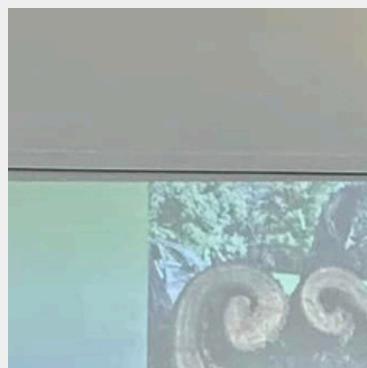


Bethel is Here For the Community

For over a century, Bethel Neighborhood has adapted to shifting cultures and political landscapes to remain relevant and supportive of the community it serves. The year 2024 was no exception, as we stayed committed to our mission of being a guiding light in our community. From worship services to gardening, and from the food pantry to our Annual Christmas Shop, Bethel spent the year giving hope and promoting wellness and self-sufficiency. This wasn't done in isolation; we partnered with other organizations, churches, friends, and community members whose names and titles are too numerous to list here. Nonetheless, Bethel remains dedicated to serving our neighbors in Wyandotte County, Kansas.



Hope



Sewing Training

Our sewing program offers two tiers: beginner and advanced classes, each lasting two months. At Bethel, this initiative has successfully empowered women by providing them with essential sewing skills that foster self-sufficiency. Many graduates have transformed their new talents into sustainable sources of income. In addition to the experience, advanced-level graduates receive a brand-new sewing machine set, a generous amount of fabric, and other essential items to help them start their sewing journey. All of this is made possible through the generosity of our donors and supporters.

35

32

32

30
25
20
15
10
5
0

2024 Student Enrollment & Course Completion (Students and Adults))

Students who completed the course

100%

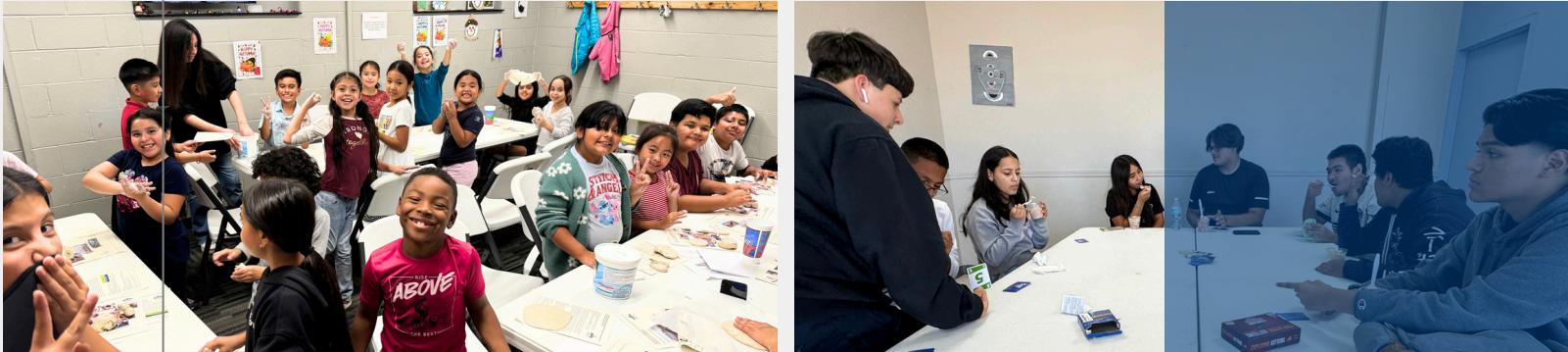


Teacher and Student Ratio

1 : 3

Total Number of Students in 2024

32

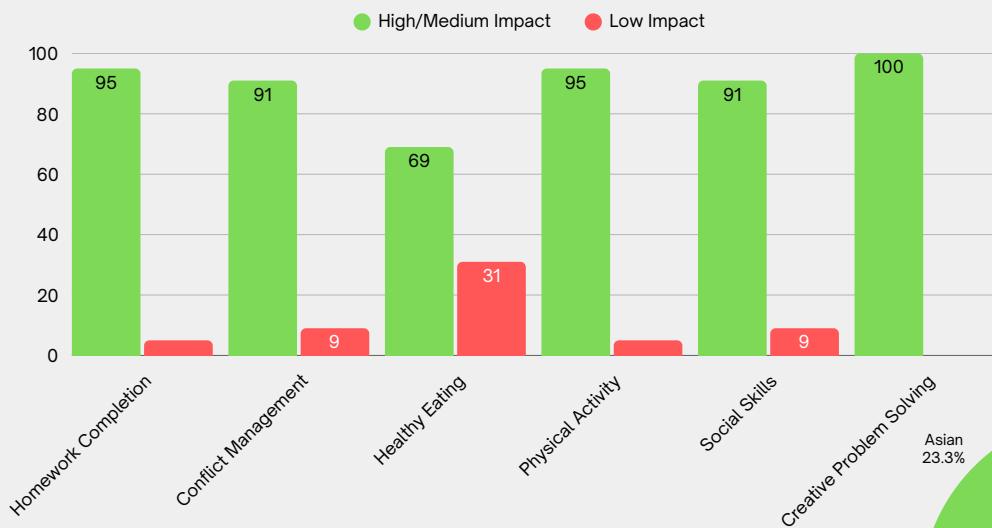


After-School Programs

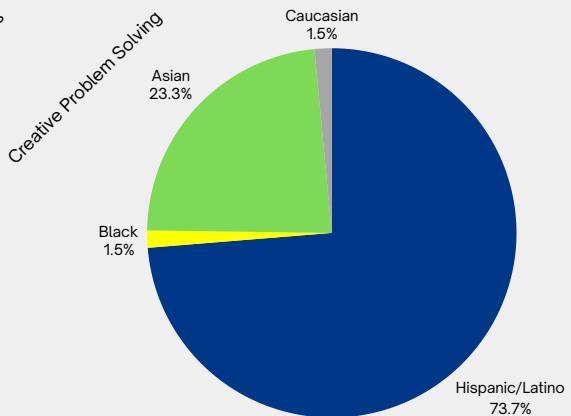
Bethel offers three different after-school programs for various grade levels throughout 2024. We serve students from 1st grade through 12th grade. Mondays and Tuesdays are designated for elementary school students, Wednesdays for high schoolers, and Thursdays and Fridays for middle schoolers.



While the general emphasis on academic and social growth remains consistent for all age groups, the focus and methods differ. Last year, our priorities for the younger students included homework completion and healthy eating. Middle schoolers participated in conflict resolution courses and activities promoting active lifestyles. High schoolers spent their time visiting colleges and engaging in community-building activities with one another.



Number of Students Served
138



Summer Program: Believe and Achieve

The summer program at Bethel was highly anticipated by both students and staff, centered around the theme "Believe and Achieve." This theme fostered creative thinking and helped build confidence.

High school students focused on college readiness, visiting colleges such as K-State, KU, Baker University, Donnelly College, and KCKCC.

Notable activities included Conflict Resolution workshops with the Center for Conflict Study, Soccer, Basketball, and engaging STEM projects using marbles to explore age-appropriate scientific concepts.

Exciting outings featured trips to Deanna Rose Farmstead, Science City, a Disney Exhibition, Royals games, a tour of the Capitol building in Topeka, Top Golf, and visits to swimming pools, all contributing to a summer rich in fun, laughter, and learning.



The 56th Bethel Christmas Shop

For nearly six decades, Bethel has been dedicated to creating a joyful Christmas experience by fulfilling families' wishlists. In 2024, we reached a new milestone by assisting over 80 families. This achievement was made possible through our collaboration with KU Medical Center, which adopted 65 families, along with the generous support of various churches, businesses, and individual donors who contributed their time and resources to meet needs during the Christmas season.

Over the years, the KU Medical Center has become a key partner in addressing Bethel families' Christmas needs. Their first experience with this project came when they partnered with Bethel several years ago, where they were inspired by our approach to meeting real needs at Christmas. We ask our families to submit to us their Christmas needs and sizes of clothes, shoes, etc., and present them to those who would like to give back to our community. The project has grown into a significant highlight for the KU medical community, as they adopted more families each passing year. We are thrilled to report that they have committed to adopting 100 families in 2025.



Senior Program

Many changes have taken place within our organization and the community we serve; however, one aspect of Bethel that has purposefully remained consistent and familiar is our Senior Program. In 2024, 54 seniors enrolled in our senior program.

From Monday to Friday, seniors from our community who are 60 years and better come together at the center to engage in a variety of activities. These include:

- Regular Activities: Bingo, arts and crafts, Movies, Tai chi, and Zumba sessions.
- Health Services: Medical check-ups provided by a nurse.
- Nutrition Education: Information on healthy lifestyles offered by representatives from K-State and KU Medical Center.
- Meals: Hot meals supplied through the Area Agency on Aging.
- Food Assistance: Each week, participants receive a bag filled with fresh, healthy food to take home.
- Bethel staff and volunteers help seniors with minor home repairs, mowing their lawns, and shopping once a month.

While the essential features of our program remain consistent, we have also introduced several new activities, such as tai chi and yoga, led by certified instructors.

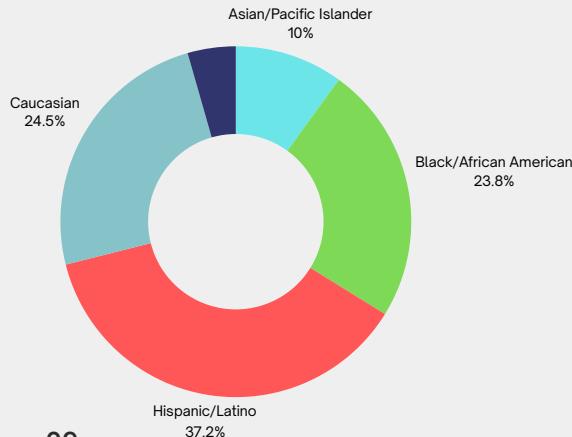


Food Pantry

The pantry has been a lifeline for over two thousand households, reaching nearly ten thousand individuals, and providing essential support in times of financial strain.

As the cost of basic necessities continues to rise, many families find themselves struggling to make ends meet. The pantry steps in to fill this critical gap, offering a variety of food items and household essentials to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by these households. By ensuring access to nutritious food and other necessities, the pantry not only addresses immediate needs but also contributes to the overall well-being and stability of the community. This support is invaluable, particularly in the face of economic challenges that make it increasingly difficult for families to afford the essentials required for everyday life.

The pantry's efforts underscore the importance of community resources in fostering resilience and supporting those in need during challenging times.



Distribution Data of 2024

Total Households Served	2,634
Total Individuals Served	9,741
Adults	4,673
Children	3,478
Seniors	1,590

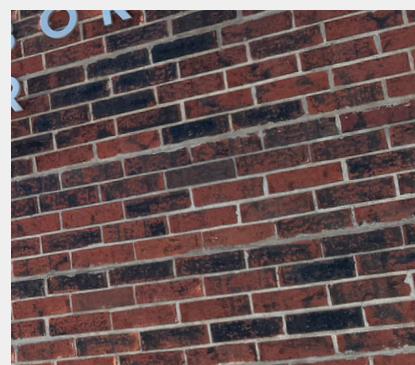
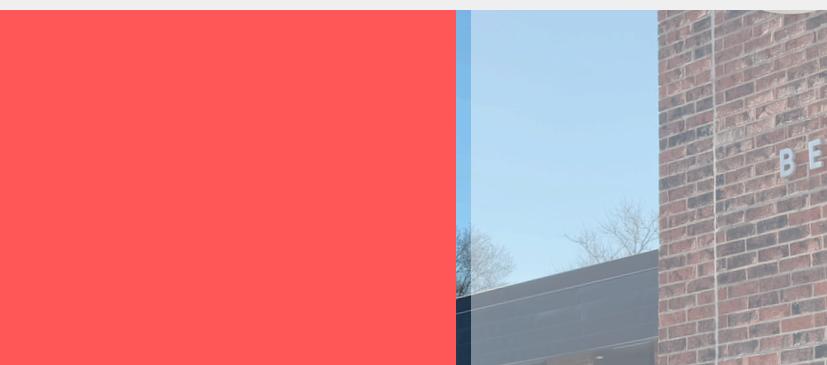
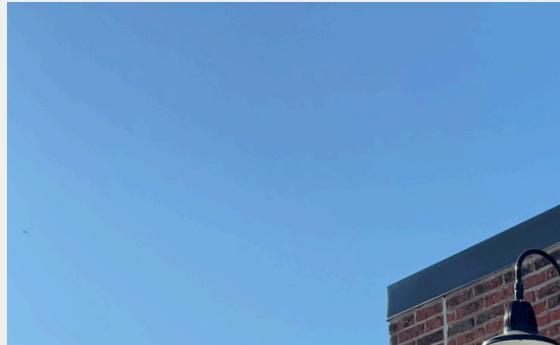
THANK YOU

On behalf of the entire Bethel team, we extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members for enabling us to touch many lives in our city. Your support has made it possible for us to empower individuals to fulfill our mission of empowering individuals to achieve a renewed sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency. We could not have achieved these milestones without your dedication and belief in our mission.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are filled with excitement for the future. With your continued involvement, we look forward to expanding our efforts to serve more individuals, helping them unlock their potential and create lasting change in their lives.

The work is far from over, and we invite you to continue with us on this important journey. Whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, your support is essential for us to continue offering hope and help in community. Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient community, and we look forward to meeting more needs in the coming year.





Contact us

 Bethel Neighborhood Center

 +1 913 371 8218

 14 S 7th St. Kansas City, Kansas 66101

 www.bethelcenter.org

Scan here to donate



venmo