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## Bethel Neighborhood Center Capital Campaign

### BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



Case Statement

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## BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Objective

Bethel Neighborhood Center (Bethel) seeks \$1,300,000 to build a multipurpose space to help address the urgent need for Health and Wellness programs for the community around the center, as well as provide much needed program space. Bethel has partnered/worked with Vibrant Health, KU MED Center, Unified Government Health Department, REACH Healthcare Foundation, Catholic Charities, Safety Net Clinics, Family Conservancy, Mental Health of America, and PACES - Wyandot Center, and other nonprofit organizations in Kansas City, Kansas, to address the health, social, and economic needs of immigrants and refugees who are the most difficult group to reach in Kansas City, Kansas. Bethel will continue to collaborate with various community health partners in this new space to design programs tailored for the multiple minority groups Bethel serves.

- Wyandotte County is one of the most ethnically diverse counties in the US, with 68 languages spoken in the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools located there.<sup>1</sup>
- Wyandotte County has the lowest life expectancy in the State of Kansas.<sup>2</sup>
- The Unified Government of Wyandotte County has identified the lack of access to health and wellness resources as a key factor in low life expectancy.
- Even when services are provided, the diversity of ethnic communities – **Hispanic/Latino, White, Black, Congolese, Sudanese, Somali, Burmese, Iraqi, Bhutanese, Micronesian** – and linguistic barriers in Wyandotte County often mean services are not understood or trusted and, consequently, not accessed

*Working with refugees and immigrants daily, I am drawn into their complex and varied life struggles in their new country. The healthcare system in this country is very confusing and is difficult for them to navigate. Their problem is compounded by low health literacy, language and cultural barriers, and lack of trust. The diverse communities we serve need a trusted organization like Bethel Neighborhood Center to work closely with them.*

**—Mang Sonna, Executive Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center**

#### The Problem - SPACE and ACCESS

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<sup>1</sup> <https://kckps.org/kckps-at-a-glance/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://247wallst.com/state/this-is-the-worst-county-to-live-in-kansas/>

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## BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



■ There is a lack of safe space for health and wellness programs in the Bethel neighborhood. A staff member of Health Forward Foundation called the area a “Recreational Desert.”

■ Among ethnic communities, low literacy, **low health literacy**<sup>3</sup>, the lack of trust, and confusion over who to listen to for their care make it difficult to access services meant to help them.

The need to stay active cannot be overemphasized to improve health and wellness. Long periods of inactivity is a major factor in poor health. Having a safe indoor place to walk and do basic activity is not available for the community around Bethel. There are no indoor spaces people can access to stay active. Bethel would like to provide this type of space, as well as the programing for physical activities needed for individuals or groups.

Bethel has a good reputation for working with many diverse ethnic communities. Health partners are drawn to work with Bethel because Bethel staff share the culture and language of the people they serve. The US health system can be extremely challenging for immigrants to understand. Often services are not accessed because there is a lack of trust and understanding about what is available. This is a KEY role for Bethel. With over 110 years of service in the community, Bethel is seen as a trusted and reliable source of guidance. Bethel’s collaboration with various community health partners will enable greater access for some of the most underserved members of the community.

### Solution

■ Bethel – a trusted friend to various ethnic communities – will build a health/wellness space and provide access to the various ethnic communities Bethel serves.

■ Community Health Partners – various health providers in Wyandotte County – will collaborate with Bethel to provide programming to Bethel’s members and to design programs for the space.<sup>4</sup>

■ Bethel and community health partners will collaborate to design appropriate programs to address the health and wellness desert in Wyandotte County.

#### Bethel’s Mission

To empower individuals to achieve a renewed sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency

### Space Use Case

■ To provide indoor recreation/exercise for Bethel youth, senior citizens, and community members

■ To hold community health fairs or other health-related events, such as immunization clinics, healthcare seminars, and diabetes education

■ To provide a multi-use event space that strengthens ties to the community

■ To use the space as an emergency shelter for the community

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<sup>3</sup> See insert with stories of how Bethel helped intervene when low health literacy created unhealthy situations.

<sup>4</sup> See insert for illustration of how Bethel plays a key role in providing access to health services.

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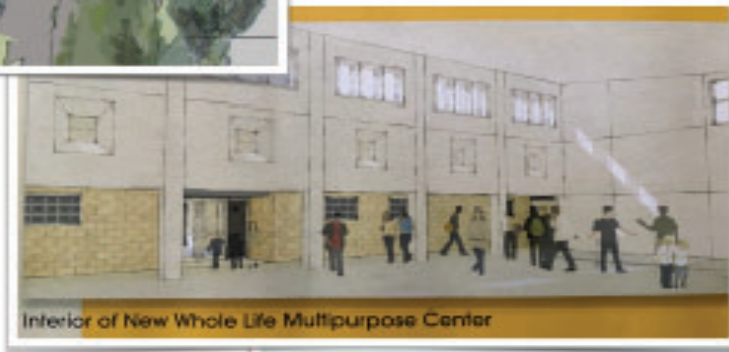
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## BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



### BUILDING RENDERING



### BUDGET

Building \$1,100,000  
Program \$ 200,000  
**TOTAL \$1,300,000**



- ❖ FOCUS is a newsletter published for professional church leaders in the Central Region, and it is distributed monthly. It is on the Region website, <https://abccr.org/>.
- ❖ The deadline for FOCUS is the first of the month of publication.
- ❖ A variation in content and format is required for copy to be printed in two or more successive issues.

American Baptist Churches  
of the Central Region  
5833 S.W. 29th St., Ste. A  
Topeka, KS 66614-5505  
[katherine.cunningham@abccr.org](mailto:katherine.cunningham@abccr.org)  
785/272-7622  
<https://abccr.org/>



Follow your Region staff on the ABC Central Region Facebook page as they provide information on resources and services, as well as events and happenings across our Region — <https://www.facebook.com/ABC-CRegion/>

Check our ABC Central Region Twitter link — <https://twitter.com/ABCCRegion>

Please like and share the posts made on these Central Region social media accounts to help us spread the news!



**MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER WEEKEND**

**"CRAZY FRIENDS"**

**JANUARY 28-29, 2022**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**410 S HICKORY ST, OTTAWA, KS 66067**

**SPEAKER: ERIC MOSHER, LIVING A LEGACY CHURCH, NEWTON, KS**

**\$35 A STUDENT IF REGISTERED BY JANUARY 14TH**  
**\$50 LATE REGISTRATION**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 6:30PM ON FRIDAY.**  
**DEPARTURE IS AT 5:30PM ON SATURDAY.**



### Senior Adult Retreat

April 27-28, 2022  
@ First Baptist Church, McPherson  
600 E. Marlin St.

#### Handshakes, Hugs and Hallelujahs

Psalm 107:1-3, 43 (CEV)

Come experience a time of fun, fellowship and learning with senior adults from the Central Region. The registration form can be found on the Region website under the Events tab or through your local church office. Registration deadline is April 11, 2022.

Keynote Speaker is Rev. Joel Grizzle from Lyons First Baptist Church

EVERYBODY NEEDS  
A HUG  
LET'S KEEP IT GOING.

