

## Mid-Year Report

Grantee: Ujima Friends Peace Center

People present: Ayesha Imani, Maisha Ongoza, Conrad, Nikki, Susan

Date: 10.5.21

Project:

What problem was being addressed? Isolation, need for purpose

What actions have been implemented? Created sewing project to give purpose and create community among older women at Ujima

What went right? There are 12-15 people who attend regularly. 3 have learned to sew. The community and peer support are treasured. Much resource sharing occurs in the chatter over the work. One travels from Harrisburg on the train! Happy to be vaccinated and back in person. Funding helped purchase a cutting machine (run by the one male participant) and special fabrics (Zorb, PUL)

What went wrong? Breakdowns of machinery have caused problems. Encouraged them to put repair and replacement in budget.

What surprises did you encounter/what was serendipitous? The group crosses class, education, and location lines.

How are you measuring effectiveness? Reported improvement in product, mood, community, skills and satisfaction. Surveys, stories, video, units made.

What changes will you make in the remainder of the year? Hope to add 1 Saturday a month for those who work but want to engage.

Notes: Shipments of products have gone to Tanzania, Gambia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria. Putting together a batch to send with a dentist who is going over for a dental and pharmacy clinic stint. I offered a connection with Lucy from Trinitas. The group in Ethiopia has started a peer educator program and patterns/templates are sent with each batch so they can also be made on-site.

We were invited to visit any Wednesday.

