

## ED report 2.23

Administrative: renewed insurances and memberships in CNJG and FSA. Started annual audit process with Marylee.

Iron Mountain: Our monthly bill is currently \$472.85, despite reducing our files from 65 boxes to 20. I have had several frustrating interactions and finally one productive one with them. We can recontract for a lower monthly minimum. I recommend authorizing them to destroy the remaining files which include medical records from the McCutchen and annual reports (which I have copies of).

Thank you for your evaluation of my work last year. I added 3 goals: deepen knowledge about funded/proposed programs, identify board training opportunities, review strategic plan implementation with board. Over the course of this year I have felt more empowered as the gatekeeper as it has become clearer what the board's interests are and how much of the work leading to a final decision you want me to do. I hope this discernment will continue in the coming year. If any of you send a grantee candidate to me, I would appreciate an email telling me what made it look like a good fit to you or what else you know about the organization.

Attended: Trust Based Philanthropy: Impact and evaluation, CNJG Doing Good Better advisory group, PEAK Delaware Valley on DEI, PEAK on board engagement with TBP, PEAK peer group on aging. CNJG annual lunch and workshop. JPM session on social investing. PYM Spirituality & Aging ARCH training.

Visits: ARTZ Philadelphia mural dedication and Jaisohn celebration of one-year anniversary of wellness programs at the Schwenkenfeld Center in Montgomery County. These programs are very popular with the Korean community there, but other residents do not attend and they continue to struggle to find Korean social workers.

I had a long conversation with Steve Mohlke of NYYM about convening a meeting between ARCH and FFA within a few months. This is an ideal time as a new coordinator starts and changes have happened in the program, in the world around us, and in FFA thinking. *I'd like to have some time at the February meeting to discuss.* How long will we support program? What do we need from them? Who would attend meeting?

Tyler attended the Sarah Ralston Foundation launch. This is the rebirth of the Ralston Center, resulting from sale of their building in West Phila. I met with Lynette afterwards and sent their information to our Philadelphia grantee partners.

"We've always been an organization that adapts to the time and the current need at hand," says Executive Director Lynette Killen. "We've taken a hard look at Philadelphia's changing demographics, healthcare inequities, and an aging population. With no other regional foundation dedicated to the needs of older people, we realized that the best way for us to continue to serve this population in Philadelphia is as a funder, supporting nonprofit organizations doing great and innovative work for aging adults across the entire city of Philadelphia County."

The transformation involved the sale of Ralston House, the organization's historic headquarters on 3817 Chestnut Street. The Foundation's new offices are located on Broad Street.

The Sarah Ralston Foundation will be distributing approximately \$2 million annually through both general operating support and innovative project support grants. The deadline for the first cycle of General Operating Support grants is April 1, 2023. The deadline for the first cycle of Innovative Project Support grants is September 1, 2023.

Learn more about [The Sarah Ralston Foundation](#).

## Inquiries:

### RECOMMENDED:

- Princeton Senior Resource Center- initiating an LGBT support group and group for younger seniors. An LOI has been received. I support the LGBT group but it seems that the other group is more to benefit PSRC and may overlap other programs they offer already.
- Snipes Farm & Trenton Housing Authority-farm fresh produce, researching my questions about intersection with other food programs like MOW. I recommend replacing MOW with this.
- Beacon Hill Friends House- update vocational discernment program to include retirement transition; part time staff to assist people with connection to online community; program fellow for older adult programs & collaboration with Pendle Hill. Part 1+2 promising, waiting for LOI for details on 3. LOI did not include 3.

### NOT RECOMMENDED:

- NJAAW- had conversation about need for a strategic plan and clear focus area before knowing what will support their mission.
- Bucks-Mont MOW—had conversation. I was not very encouraging as I don't hear anything innovative or sustainable. They appear to be an alternative to the county-provided, federally funded MOW program; do not receive any public funding.
- Friends Center Phila—seeking funding for hearing assistance in Race St Meetinghouse. I recommended they try other PYM-based foundations first.
- Farmstead Arts, Basking Ridge NJ—art with older adults. Did not seem a good fit, wealthy area.
- Penn's Village, Philadelphia Village –recommended they contact me again when strategic planning completed. Possibly expansion for care coordination services. Can also go to Ralston.
- Care for ALS Inc- out of area, priority issues
- Familiar Touch film workshop- outside of area (LA), priorities-work with 15 AL residents to tell their stories on film. Wished them well.
- Lutheran Settlement House – continue and expand health coaching services

## Reapplication conversations:

- Pendle Hill—collaborative hybrid programs
- Friends Village—SAGE training
- Rise—3d year of AFUN nutrition program
- JFCS—mobile mental health or NORC home repair services in NE Phila.
- Kindersmile—continuing dental care for seniors in Trenton

As I have these conversations, I find myself focusing on the questions “what problem are you trying to solve?,” “how will you know your solution is working?” and “how are you involving participants in identifying their needs and solutions?” as well as looking for impact on participants rather than organizations.

## Mid-year conversations:

**Meals on Wheels Mercer:** Sasa, Heather + Nikki, Susan: Program is over as Snipes has finished growing season. Plan to send out a survey to participants. Feedback has been positive except 1-2 incidents of people complaining about quality of produce. Sasa also feels that they could get more variety of fruits and veggies from another grower, and for a longer period of time. She wants to work with a NJ farmer, "Farmer George" whom she has worked with for 4 years. He also works with other counties and can "procure" more in the cooler months. She paid Snipes \$15 per bag and got fruit from George for \$5. I said that losing a Quaker provider and the stock market made it unlikely that the next grant will be as large. But they are welcome to apply again next year.

### **New England Yearly Meeting**

New England Yearly Meeting mid-year conversation: Nia and Susan.

Helped to get questions in advance. Hired great candidate- Patty Muldoon. Lots of experience in end of life care and meeting pastoral care as death doula. Hiring took longer than expected-slow to start.

The MOA with NYYM is still strong, despite the change of staff. It will take more oversight than expected. Told her to keep us informed as changes might be needed. Callie pushed up the ARCH foundations training and setting up peer groups in anticipation of leaving, but Patty did not have a chance to get into Fall cycle. Now in Winter training. Meanwhile, Patty is facilitating an ARCH type group on End of Life. Will visit meetings to learn more about their needs. Spiritual opportunities of the third third of life.

NEYM just approved an accompaniment program, providing support to meetings on whatever they are dealing with. I noted that Sheila is finding highest demand for these kinds of consultations. Goal is to increase their capacity, not do it for them. Help meetings understand what their role is.

Wondering about assessment--what to ask in baseline survey. I said that numbers of how many workshops and people is one part. I'm interested in hearing what meetings felt they needed help with and whether they got it, whether their capacity increased. Don't bother with a survey of meetings that aren't connected. Start with ones that Patty has made a connection with.

They asked for (and I approved after a consult with Jim) an increase of \$5000 as they found more staff time was required and the rate for coordinators in NYYM was increased (an equity concern).

**Ujima** This video says a lot! <https://www.ujimafriends.org/sewing-for-africa/> The Ujima Friends Peace Center sewing project is going well. Ayesha and Maisha are passionate advocates who keep building the program—so much so that space is a problem (the food bank has also grown). They told several stories that illustrate how much this program (now named PASHI-Pan African Sisterhood Health Initiative) means to participants. The older adult women who are the heart of the program enjoy socializing with each other and teaching the students. They feel a strong sense of purpose in creating the products. The students in turn enjoy the older adults and many assumptions about the other generation are disproven. The PASHI women are now going to the school to teach life skills, equipping each girl with a sewing kit, to reach more students. This summer, in addition to the menstrual pad project, the group got connected with 6 students from the Mandela Fellowship program which brings African students to the US for 3 months to learn from mentors. These participants were from Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Chad and South Africa. They learned how to sew and make the products, taking a large suitcase full of product and patterns. Two sewing machines were donated to them as well. Similar suitcases of pads and patterns have gone to various communities in Africa and Cuba. They said it was the best part of their

time here; one student used this experience for her TED talk. They hope to continue this relationship. Additionally PASHI was connected to Birthing International, creating bags of birthing materials for women in remote areas (packed with a sterile pad, razor, clamp, gloves, masks, soap); they sewed 230 bags to send to Uganda.

The serger machine which was discussed when we last spoke was purchased and has made production much more efficient. This time I asked about connections with African Quakers, and offered to seek a connection via Gretchen Castle. One member of PASHI is joining the Ujima board.

**FSA** – Please see the attached letter which followed a conversation with Jane Mack. It seems they are proposing a change which will be easier administratively and potentially engage more schools and students in areas where they are most needed. I approved this transition. However I have been disappointed in the publicity which seems to say “do you want an intern” without describing the changes which might encourage more participation. I know several of the Lifecare Communities have established relationships with local colleges and might welcome this connection.

**NYYM ARCH:** Callie has moved on and Kevin is the interim director, with more leaning on regional coordinators. As noted, I spoke to Steve Mohlke about having a meeting with meeting with Kevin, Steve and the Aging Concerns Committee to discuss the future of the program. What are our concerns? What can they count on from FFA?

Final reports: several are posted on the website under the February meeting.

Strategic Questions that arise in my mind, perhaps for discussion in May:

- Financial policy vs practice on social screens
- Should we set a goal for giving--% or \$? Address difficult questions about when requests are greater than funds
- How long will we continue to support a project? How do we help transition an organization away from support? How long will we support an organization with different projects?
- Address questions about ARCH: how long, for what efforts, what expected?
- Are our strategic priorities the same as they were when we wrote them? Is the implementation plan still accurate?
- Bonus question: How might ChatGPT impact grant-writing? Can it save time for grantee partners? Create more equity? Help us focus more on relationship building?

Susan W Hoskins, Executive Director