

**Organization Name: Vonzella's Crown****Organization Information:****Mailing Address:** 18 Woodside Ave Trenton NJ, 08618**Office Location:** 407 West State Street, Suite 300 Trenton NJ, 08618**EIN:** 86-1803183, **DUNS:** 118300377**Program Title:** Von's Seasoned Seniors-(Inter-generational, Health & Wellness, Therapeutic Arts & Financial Fitness 101**Grant Award Amount:** \$4,000.00**Program Budget:** \$8,237.69 (specific to the Intergenerational activities for 17 weeks)**Organization Contact:** Tara R. Clayton-Butler, Founder/CEO**Contact Info:** (609)954-5996, [yakembe@hotmail.com](mailto:yakembe@hotmail.com), [www.vcrown.org](http://www.vcrown.org)**END OF GRANT CYCLE REPORT:**

Vonzella's Crown respectfully requested a grant for \$4,000.00 from the Friends Foundation for the Aging in support of the organizations Inter-generational programs provided for Older Adults, Grand-Families, and Multi-generational Households in the City of Trenton NJ, and surrounding areas. Vonzella's Crown is one of if not the only premier organization in the City of Trenton that specifically focuses on serving the Grand-families, Inter-generational, and Multigenerational Populations. We have identified one of the most vulnerable/forgotten populations are our older adults; many of whom suffer from loneliness, and isolation even more so during the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of Vons' Seasoned Seniors Inter-generational programs, and activities Vonzella's Crown provides an atmosphere for older adults to engage, mentor, and bridge the gap with younger generations. Giving our older adults a sense of purpose in addition to addressing their social-emotional, and health and wellness needs. All programs, and activities are free of charge to our older adults and grand families, a vulnerable population made up entirely of low-income men, women, and children in an urban impoverished community.

**WHAT PROBLEM WERE YOU ADDRESSING? WHAT SOLUTION DID YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS IT?**

The Covid-19 pandemic changed the narrative, and trajectory of how we live, work, operate, and communicate. Subsequently the pandemic has placed an even greater burden on the undeserved Communities in the city of Trenton NJ; with a plethora of families being forced out of their homes, employment, schools, and into situations of unprecedented stress, isolation, and anxiety; in addition, struggling to survive to make ends meet. One of the most vulnerable populations Vonzella's Crown has identified is our older adult community ages 65 and older. Countless older adults were isolated away from family, and friends for almost 3 years; many struggling financially, socially, and emotionally, in addition to undergoing health, mental health, and nutritional issues. Research has linked social isolation, and loneliness to a higher risk for a variety of physical, depression, and mental health conditions, individuals can become socially isolated for a variety of

reasons. Such as getting older or weaker, no longer being the center of their family, leaving the workplace (retirement), the death of spouses, friends, and family, or through disability, illness and/or pandemic. More than 40% of seniors regularly experience loneliness and disconnection from others especially for populations 65 and over. Loneliness has taken a substantial toll on our nation's older adults the forgotten population. Through "Vonzella's Crown" "Von's Seasoned Seniors" program, and activities, we set out to address and combat the isolation, and loneliness issues through our inter-generational activities. Senior women, and men ages 65 and older participated in our inter-generational Therapeutic Art, Health, and Wellness, and Financial Fitness workshops. Ninety-two percent of Americans believe that inter-generational activities can curb loneliness, depression, and isolation. Which is why this program remains essential to our growing senior population.

**WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE? WHAT WORKED AND DIDN'T WORK TOWARDS YOUR OBJECTIVES? PLEASE SHARE ANY UNANTICIPATED BENEFITS OR BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED:**

Vonzella's crown held 17 weeks of programming, and services which included a series of Inter-generational therapeutic art, health and fitness, which included in-person and virtual sessions, exergaming Financial Fitness 101, senior therapeutic art resting station, and lastly the 2nd annual Mothers Day luncheon. This cycle began in May 2022 and will actually finish out with the 3rd annual free Mothers Day luncheon for older adult women on May 13, 2023. Some of the benefits that worked in helping us to run a successful but challenging program were collaboration with other organizations, and a needs assessment. There were definitely some challenges and unanticipated barriers, more so when it came to the winter months (Dec, and Jan, after the holidays due Covid restrictions and precautions), which affected programming. In addition to losing our Program assistant due to Maternity leave however the organization was able to pivot and get back on track.

**HOW DID YOU MEASURE SUCCESS—BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE? PLEASE INCLUDE NUMBERS AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE TOUCHED BY THE WORK.**

Quantitative and Qualitative successes were measured by evaluations, pre- and post surveys, sign-in sheets, eventbrite, and participant interviews. A combined total of 72 participants between the ages of 4 years and 85 years participated in Inter-generational Therapeutic Art, Inter-generational Health and Wellness, and Financial Fitness. Participants between the ages of 65 and 85 were asked to complete a pre- and post questionnaires which assessed older adults health and wellness, physical and mental functional well-being, feelings, and knowledge of inter-generational programs and initiatives, social connectedness, art, technology, and financial literacy. Participants between the ages of 4 and 18 years were administered age appropriate pre- and post questionnaires, or given verbal interviews (younger children). Questions asked included, but not limited to knowledge of inter-generational programs, art, technology, likes, and dislikes, Feelings when attending sessions, school or civic activities and hobbies. Quantitative measurables included how many older adults lived in senior buildings, how many lived alone or have a grand child or other family members living with them, how many times a week do you get out of the house? Our findings show that out of the 72 participants 45 were between the ages of 65-85 and 27 were between the ages of 4 and 18 years of age. Out of the 45 older adults 6 of them were men between the ages of 68-74 yrs. Participant Demographics : **Newtown PA-1, Hamilton NJ-3, Ewing NJ,-5 Senior buildings -**

**11, City of Trenton-52.** Qualitative results showed that program participants were actively engaged in the art making, therapeutic and mindfulness activities, and being able to engage in fellowship with family and friends. Results also showed participants enjoyed making crafts for other family and friends, and building stronger relationships with grandparents, grandchildren. However results also indicated older adults would like to become more technologically savvy so they can communicate with younger family members, travel to a museums, art shows, or festivals. In addition to desiring more time to get out.

### **HOW DID PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS ENHANCE OR CHALLENGE THE PROJECT?**

Vonzella's Crown is an organization that welcomes partnerships and collaborations. We were able to partner and collaborate with E.B.F.I.T for our Breast Cancer, and fitness art session, Legacy International Foundation for Education(Partnering with the hut app) this enhanced our program tremendously in terms of getting the word out about Vonzella's Crown program an events. We are listed as the premier organization as it relates to servicing older adults and youth through Inter-generational and multi-generational programs and services.

### **WHAT CONVERSATIONS HAVE YOU HAD ON HOW TO SUSTAIN THE PROJECT AFTER THE GRANT, AND DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO SHARE YOUR RESULTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?**

Vonzella's Crown continues to have conversations with its Board of Directors, Family, and Team members and current partners as it relates to the sustainability of the organizations current project, needless to say the organization has their full support and have pledged their time, treasures, and talents. In addition Vonzella's Crown will continue to build community partners and collaborations, apply for additional funding, and fundraise. Vonzella's Crown is in it for the long haul. As it relates to sharing our results with full transparency the organization has yet to have the conversation about sharing our results with other organizations. It's not that we are not open to it we recognize that Vonzella's Crown is a small grassroots organization and we are being extremely cautious of who gets our information. However we do understand and recognize that our results could possibly make transformative impact to other organizations.(we are still pondering over it)

### **FEEDBACK: HOW HAS FFA HELPED? MADE IT HARDER? WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO TO FACILITATE YOUR WORK?**

First on behalf of the Founders Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, Board of Directors, Team members, and volunteers at Vonzella's Crown we are extremely humbled and grateful to have received funding from Friends Foundation For the Aging. Special thanks goes out to Nikki Mosgrove for recognizing the work of Vonzella's Crown and always being available. Executive Director Susan Hoskins you made a stressful nerve wrecking process less stressful. You always answered when ever I had a question responding back in a timely manner, Always offering advice and suggestions on how to better service our older adults. Your suggestions and guidance has helped Vonzella's Crown tremendously although we are still a work in progress. Not only are extremely grateful for the funding, we are most grateful to have established a relationship with Friends Foundation for the Aging. Lastly thank you FFA Board of Directors for everything.

### **BUDGET NARRATIVE**

**PROGRAMS: Von's Seasoned Seniors**

Inter-generational, Health & Wellness and Therapeutic Arts Program. Financial Fitness

**PERSONNEL: Total: \$2,000.22**

(Stipends for workshop facilitators)-Facilitators are certified.

Financial Fitness facilitator- **\$1000.11: 17 sessions @ 58.83 per session** Fitness & Nutritional  
Facilitator- **\$1000.11: 17 sessions @ 58.83 per session**

**PROGRAM LOCATION RENTAL-Total \$1700.00**

For the Glory of God small fellowship hall-**\$100.00 per week** (for fitness, inter-generational  
therapeutic art and Nutrition classes, fee can be spread out over **17 weeks @ \$100.00 a week per**  
For the Glory of God office manager M. Duffie)

**PROGRAM SUPPLIES: \$3,537.47**

**TRANSPORTATION: \$1,000.00**

ACCESSLINK and transportation fund (for seniors and girls who do not have transportation to  
and from the program)

**GRAND TOTAL: \$8,237.69**

**Remaining balance less requested amount of ASK will be supplemented from our annual  
fundraisers, Crowd Funding, & Board of Directors donations**

Respectfully Submitted,

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c/o: Tara R. Butler. Founder/CEO