

**Ujima Friends Peace Center and Sankofa Artisan Guide**  
**Friends Foundation on Aging Reapplication Grant – March 2025**  
**PASHI Expansion – The Kuumba Circle**

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Amount requested: \$25,800

Once again, it is our earnest hope that FFA will fund this amazing program for another year. The PASHI program hopes to continue engaging its elders in purposeful, culturally grounded, community building activities through the arts. This is being done in two ways. One is the continuation of PASHI's reusable menstrual pads project. The other is the Kuumba Circle project that meets every Thursday at the Ujima Friends Peace Center. The Kuumba Circle brings elders together to share artistic gifts and produce multi-media works of art in celebration of culture, community, and self-expression.

**1.Changes in the problem**

The problem of elders living in isolation and often not feeling as if they can contribute remains a challenge throughout our communities. Building a sense of community among elders, where they are teachers, leaders, and mentors is a win-win that increases everyone's sense of wellness and wholeness. Combating isolation and cultivating purposeful living is even more important today as elders find themselves in times of turmoil and uncertainty. The elders of PASHI find home in one another as they create safe spaces to share and support one another with their personal struggles as well as the struggles facing our nation and world today.

**2.Action to address the problem:** We continue to provide elders the opportunities to be impactful through the making of reusable menstrual pad kits on Wednesday. This project and this community of elders have captured the imagination of folks throughout Philadelphia and beyond. In addition, as we build a stronger sense of community among the Ujima/PASHI collective, we are supporting elders in working on projects that they identify as important for themselves. This has led to additional projects that are done on Thursday at the center. This endeavor has come to be known as the Kuumba Circle. The Kuumba

Circle has grown exponentially this year as the elderly have presented their art in local galleries and exhibitions. This includes quilt shows, City Hall, the Johnson House, The African American Museum of South Jersey, Pennwood Manor and Folkways Retirement Community.

We plan to continue to create more opportunities for our elders to use their creativity (Kuumba) and collective work (Ujima) to express themselves and improve conditions for people in their communities locally and globally. We also are creating more opportunities to make decisions about participating in local and global initiative.

This year we have an average of 50-60 seniors who gather on Wednesday and 15 - 20 who gather on Thursday. PASHI elders travel to a local high school to teach pad making to STEM ambassadors traveling to Kenya this year. Participants have been excited to fellowship and be taught by our PASHI elders at the Ujima Friends Peace Center. Imagine how transformative these experiences continue to be for our elders. They see themselves touching the lives of others worldwide. They feel themselves being seen and celebrated as they share their personal expressions. Most importantly, PASHI has become a fixture in the lives of the participants.

PASHI will attempt to reach even more elders, youth, and organizations working to improve outcomes for women throughout Africa and the Diaspora. While the elders are uplifted by the opportunity to make and teach others how to make menstrual pads for girls and women in Africa and the Diaspora, some members found that they wanted opportunities to express themselves, for themselves, while expand their artistic skills. Together, they are becoming a community of artisans and artists who care for one another as well. Thus, the Kuumba Circle was born to provide a welcoming and communally rich space to teach, learn, and share various artistic expressions.

**3.Learning and leaning into the coming year:** While PASHI continues with its menstrual pad making project at the Peace Center, it is conducting seminars for other organizations that want to learn how to make the products. These sessions once again have been attended by Mandela Scholars throughout Africa, school-based organizations, women's groups, church groups, universities, and sororities in addition, teams of elders are going into schools to teach children how to make

the pads. This year is one that we intend to lean into teaching, sharing, and spreading the news about this project. In addition, we anticipate moving the project to Unity Meetinghouse in Frankford. We are learning how empowering it is for elders to create community with one another and make decisions together. We also see how important it is to share and celebrate the accomplishments of our elders. This makes a difference in how they feel about themselves and others. We were surprised by the increase in our seniors and in the donations that are now coming into the project. We have come to see the importance of developing and maintaining a social media presence and how important it is to make receiving and responding to donations easy.

**Changes in funding:** Through the years the cost of the 1701 facility has increased. Our cost last year for rent and utilities alone was \$54,405.51. As PASHI has expanded so has the cost to house it. Way has opened for us to move to the Unity Meeting house in August 2025. Although there is much work to do there, this will relieve some of the facilities cost for the program. We fully expect the move to increase PASHI participation as most of the seniors drive to our present location and some have been discouraged because of the lack of parking. Our new facility will be able to provide parking and have handicap access.

**Sustainability:** Our FFA funding has allowed us to reach so many more seniors, serve more young people, and expand our reach internationally. The various articles and news spotlights on the program are resulting in donations. It is our hope to build on the attention we are receiving to raise funds for the day-to-day expenses of the projects. We see sustaining this project as essential. We also see the move to Unity Meeting house as assuring us stability and sustainability.

**(SEE HERE: [Dozens of Black women in Philly gather weekly to sew reusable period pads for girls in Africa and beyond](#))**

**PASHI Project 2025-26 Budget**

**(4X 12-week project)**

		<b>Income</b>		
	<b>Friends Foundation on Aging</b>		<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>25,800</b>
	<b>Donations</b>		<b>7,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
			<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>30,800</b>
		<b>Expenses</b>		
	<b>Items</b>	<b>Last Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Budget Request</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Project Director (1 part time)</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>10,841.00</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Site Coordinator</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3.</b>	Rent, Utilities, Facilities	<b>\$22,000*</b>	<b>23,316.65*</b>	<b>15,000*</b>
<b>4.</b>	Used sewing machines	<b>\$200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Equipment and Repair</b>	<b>\$1500</b>	<b>717.39</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Fabrics &amp; Materials</b>	<b>\$3500</b>	<b>2935.74</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Notions</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>316.13</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Refreshments, Hospitality and Volunteer Celebration</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>1524.49</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>9.</b>	Shipping and Postage	<b>800</b>	<b>7.89</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>56,700</b>	<b>39,659.29</b>	<b>30,800</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Total in-Kind and materials</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Total grant Request</b>	<b>\$46,700</b>		<b>25,800</b>

\*This 3/7 or 42% of the \$54405.51 facilities cost for Ujima

\*We hope to move in July and reduce the facility cost