

Date: March 23, 2009

Project: Amani Bead/Transformational Development

Participants: Messiah Faculty Member Helen Walker

Messiah Faculty Member Jean Corey

MED Student Leader Laura Grovatt

MED advisor J-Lynn Conrady

Messiah College professors Walker and Corey are currently working with several Harrisburg inner-city, up-town, William Penn high school students in a jewelry making enterprise. The professors, together with a number of Messiah students, meet weekly at the Messiah College Harrisburg Institute to make jewelry and spend time with the students. The jewelry that is created is subsequently sold and the proceeds are sent to one of five New Life Orphanages located in Kenya, Africa. The Amani beads used to create the jewelry is donated, without cost, by an African firm in Kenya. The request for MED involvement would be in several areas:

- The 'enterprise' needs a business plan with a marketing strategy and system of recordkeeping (to record & track sales)
- There is a need for one on one mentoring by Messiah students with the William Penn High School students. This could involve life skills as well as basic business skills.
- Discussion of potential connection with Harrisburg Save-a-Lot as a market channel

There are several longer term visionary objectives which were expressed by Professors Walker and Corey:

- The 'enterprise' is aware of a woman in Nairobi, Kenya who has an education ministry among the women in Kibera, a major slum in Nairobi, who live with the effects of HIV/AIDS. She is in need of educational materials which the MED could help create.
- Currently, the 'enterprise' is involved in "narrative/violence/healing therapy" among some of the high school girls who attend the weekly session at The Institute. The dream is to expand this ministry in Harrisburg as well as into Kenya.

The over-all vision is best captured in a February 25, 2009 e-mail from Helen Walker-

*To sum up my brainstorming, I see a team of people from the Collaboratory taking on a Kenyan-focused project-- looking at the mix of a film project, helping what is already going on there with narrative/violence/healing therapeutic work and HIV/AIDS education work, and the layer of inner-city young women in Harrisburg being involved in this transformative work and being transformed themselves, being mentored by both Messiah students and by Africans.*

Additional information is available at either of the following web sites

<http://amaninecklaces.com>

<http://www.amanichildren.org>

Laura Grovatt

J-Lynn Conrady