

Exploring Asylum Hill – Sewing in Asylum Hill

Back in 2015 the News & Views published a story about a sewing program at the Asylum Hill Boys & Girls Club. By then it had become quite successful, with many girls and boys signing up to learn the basics of how to use a sewing machine to create something from cloth, for themselves. In the process of course, they also learned a few other lessons. The children came to know the suburban ladies who volunteered to help teach the class, and those volunteers got to know the urban children by name and face and personality. But circumstances change, and Sandy Fromson, who began the program, moved to the shore with her husband Howard, and without her leadership the program lost its energy. Today what is left is a closet at the club with 18 very nice, but currently unused sewing machines and bolts of material.



Sewing classes are among those things that don't translate well to Zoom, and having a dozen or so teachers and learners leaning over cloth and thread at machines is not compatible with current COVID guidelines.

At a recent Zoom meeting of nonprofit service providers gathered to share information, these details were shared, and it turns out that Loaves & Fishes, who for years offered a program to teach sewing, to women in need of a marketable skill, had just begun planning to start that program up again in the next few months. And Lynn Webber at the Village Spring Street Family Center mentioned that they had a sewing training program with 20 machines, cutting tables and bolts and bolts of cloth, just waiting to begin again.

The trigger for all of these connections was WNPR's morning program *Where We Live* with Lucy Nalpathanchil on January 28th about the growing popularity of sewing clothing and such for oneself. If you're someone who is skilled at sewing of any sort, or someone who has always harbored a desire to learn, the opportunity is just around the corner. Reach out to staff@asylumhill.org for more information.