Networking: Welcome Threads for newsletters, campaign web

**e-news/teaser**

Threads that Transform Lives

Welcome Threads, a social enterprise launched by people of the Welcome Church, has changed lives by building self-esteem, offering a source of income, and gives voice to people living in homelessness. (link to article)

**Article**

**Threads that Transform Lives**

**Welcome Threads offers a sense of purpose while building confidence**

Welcome Threads is a social enterprise that emerged from the people of The Welcome Church, a ministry with people experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. When Pastor Violet Little asked the people, “What do you want to do?” the response she got was, “We want to have a sense of purpose and also a way to make money using the skills we knew were already in the room.” Using phrases and comments from wisdom on the streets and putting them on t-shirts was the idea that began Welcome Threads.

Jacqueline, a Welcome Threads Artisan says, “It help to build my self esteem, helps me to grow as a person, and it relaxes me to be able to deal with life on life-terms.”

Welcome Threads has been, for many, a life-changing experience by being able to earn profit checks from the sale of their hand-made products. For some, it is the first time they have been able to open a checking account. “You really see people’s lives changed, the transformation that this is part of in their lives,” says Pastor Schaunel Steinnagel.

 “This is what drives my belief that everyone should have the chance to be productive and in the case of a studio like this, to make things that are exceptional,” says Leslie Sudock, Welcome Threads Artistic Coordinator, who invited the artisans into her studio.

“One of the most beautiful parts of Welcome Threads is the community we have built together in producing the products,” says Little.

Forward Together in Faith will encourage congregations to build local partnerships and provide grants and resources to support new connections.