

Peace By Piece Creating Peace, One Canvas at a Time

On March 12, 2017 ninety five women of different faiths and cultures came together at the Holland Area Arts Council for an event entitled "Peace by Piece". In attendance were women from the mosque, Masjid At-Tawheed in Grand Rapids, Holland area churches, and women of newly-settled refugee families in the West Michigan area.

The coordinators, Pastor Linda Knieriemen, local artist Carolyn Stich, and Anne Du Mez had one goal, to create interfaith unity by breaking down the fears and preconceived ideas of each other and building friendships. They believe whole-heartedly we can make a difference in our communities to overcome uneasiness and fear with a simple art project promoting love and understanding.

Space for this event was generously provided by Holland Area Arts Council Executive Director, Lorma Freestone.

After a social time for everyone to introduce themselves to each other, each woman was given a 12x12 blank canvas and asked to share, through art, her image of peace. The women were given stencils to use if needed but most created on their own beautiful pieces of art.

Following the event all canvases were collected and are currently on display at Carolyn Stich Studio, 208 College Avenue, Holland. Everyone is welcome to stop by and view this amazing collection. Travel plans for the collection of canvases include exhibits at participating area churches, Masjid At-Tawheed in Grand Rapids, and Holland Area Arts Center.

Plans are underway for a second women's "Peace by Piece" event to be held at the Haworth Center and will include additional faiths and cultures. Information will be available soon.

