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## Innovation Places New Haven Newsletter v.2

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To: JR Logan <info@makehaven.org>

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### CTNEXT - INNOVATION PLACES ELM CITY INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE - UPDATE



*Heather Burtman and Akhil Thomas display the protective sewn cloth masks they made as part of MakeHaven's initiative to coordinate makers in donating masks to community organizations.*

MakeHaven is a member organization based in New Haven, offering imaginative individuals and groups both shared space and access to the tools and resources needed to design, invent and create. With support from the Elm City Innovation Collaborative – New Haven's Innovation Places organization – MakeHaven is flourishing, catapulting past its target membership goals since relocating to its new location in January 2018.

ECIC's support of MakeHaven began when the organization was in its first, much smaller location, serving 160 members in a severely restricted space. ECIC investment has enabled MakeHaven to move into an expanded facility and provide a wide range of professional equipment and machinery, along with private studio space that gives more entrepreneurs and early-stage companies a home where they can comfortably create and launch new products. MakeHaven's membership has grown to over 400 makers with a

The MakeHaven community is now actively responding to the Covid-19 pandemic by constructing more than 1,000 plastic face shields and hundreds of sewn masks to protect those on the front lines working at local hospitals and area nonprofits. With the facility closed for social distancing, the network of makers continues to sew masks from home and engage in collaborative problem solving online.

In Year 3 of the Innovation Places program, ECIC continues to support MakeHaven as the organization aims to upgrade the quality of its facility and leverage its professional-quality machinery, such as a waterjet cutter, laser cutters, sewing machines and CNC milling machines, to teach makers more advanced skills, and to support entrepreneurs to a greater extent.

"With our commitment to MakeHaven, we've given local New Haven people a place to work on their own designs and projects, in a space where they can learn new skills, develop prototypes, launch companies and sell products," Harris continued.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED OR CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS. Please check our site [www.elmcityinnovationcollaborative.com](http://www.elmcityinnovationcollaborative.com) for new information as it develops, and to sign up for email alerts.



range of skill levels, from beginners and enthusiasts to professionals and researchers.

"MakeHaven has become a place where researchers and engineers can build and test theories and ideas, and where aspirational entrepreneurs can access needed skills and tools, develop prototypes and launch companies," said ECIC Director Mike Harris.

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