STRIDE Working Group Report

- Philly STRIDE created a list of [resources](#) for online summer classes/engagement for youth.

- Baltimore STRIDE is trying to meet the immediate needs of families. They have delivered masks and held a virtual "orientation".

- DC STRIDE's last anti-racism meeting with Working Group on Racism will be on June 27th.

Mutual Aid
Mutual Aid is a voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. Mutual aid, as opposed to charity, does not suggest the moral superiority of the giver over the receiver. Mutual aid has been around for a long time especially in communities of color.

[Dean Spade](#), activist and writer explored in his course "Queer and Trans Mutual Aid for Survival and Mobilization"
- Whereas charity differentiates those who have from those who need and puts those who have in a position of power to make decisions about how to meet others' needs, mutual aid emphasizes working cooperatively to meet each other's needs. Charity is vertical; mutual aid is horizontal.
- Whereas charity addresses symptoms of systemic issues, mutual aid analyzes the causes of those issues and builds new social relations to help society be more survivable in the long-term.
- Whereas charity is often professionalized work performed through 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, posing onerous bureaucratic accounting and compliance obligations, mutual aid projects avoid formalization to retain autonomy and flexibility.
- Whereas the charity funding model relies on the donations of rich individuals and profitable corporations, requiring the charity to publicize those donations to boost the public image of donors and for donors to continue to make sufficient profit to have enough left over to donate, mutual aid utilizes the resources available in their communities, often creatively seeking free supplies.
- Whereas charity implements criteria for who is deserving of assistance, mutual aid is offered to anyone.

[Solidarity Not Charity: Mutual Aid & How To Organize in the Age of Coronavirus](#)

[The Preamble of the African Free Society](#) provides a succinct portrait of a religious-oriented mutual aid society. This organization was rooted in caring for one another. The Free African Society was established by Absalom Jones (Episcopalian Priest and Abolitionist) and Richard Allen (writer, educator, and Bishop who founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church). Joseph Clarke a white Quaker, who was chosen as Clerk and Treasurer, with the understanding and support that other Quakers would also occupy that space.