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Melrose Center delivers 3D printed personal protective equipment to Orlando Health

Fab Lab staff working with local maker groups to print and deliver parts

(April 9, 2020 – Orlando, FL) – Staff from Orange County Library System’s Melrose Center connect with local maker groups working to 3D print critical personal protective equipment (PPE) and deliver finished face shield visors to Orlando Health.

In late March, the Melrose Center’s Fab Lab team began investigating ways they could 3D print personal protective equipment for healthcare professionals. Working with files provided freely by Budmen Industries, a company that designs and sells 3D printers, staff started printing visors from home using 3D printers and supplies borrowed from the Melrose Center’s Fab Lab, a makerspace that offers hands-on classes and equipment for DIY projects.

“The Melrose Center’s Fab Lab team is really happy to be able to join the maker community’s efforts to help our health care workers. They are a focused and energized bunch, and glad to be in a position to make a small difference. I’m really proud of them,” said Jim Myers, Department Head of the Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity.

Fab Lab Instructor Harold Singh, using supplies at his home makerspace, began the initial process of printing these needed parts. With the help of his daughter, who works in the ICU, he delivered them to Orlando Health. At the same time Fab Lab Instructor Yesenia Arroyo connected with the Central and South Florida chapters of the nonprofit Open Source COVID-19 Medical Supplies, a group working to connect makerspaces with medical professionals in need around the world. Soon after, the group received information from Orlando Health with details on what equipment could be accepted and work began. Earlier this week, Arroyo and fellow Fab Lab Instructors Jennifer Michalicek and Frank Mackey each took home a 3D printer, filament and other supplies from the Fab Lab. Melrose Center staff now have four printers creating face shield parts, which take around two hours each to complete. Singh has also created a rubber mold of the visor frame and can produce an additional four per hour using liquid acrylic.

Singh plans to deliver the 20 visors he's made to Orlando Health this week, with the other Fab Lab Instructors soon following suit. So far there have been 41 visors printed, all of which are ready for delivery to Orlando Health for final assembly and sterilization.

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