



## **Kelsey Sougoule**

Kelsey Sougoule founded “Sewing to Comfort” in 2015 where he works alongside a team of creative hard-working women from his church and Constellation Number 222-Eastern Star. Namely Eloise Anderson, Carolyn Sistrunck-Harris, Selma Holmes, Evelyn Jenkins, Shedrick Nesbitt, Doretha Poole, Gwendolyn Shepard, his mother Amanda Sprouse and Norma Young.

The conception of “Sewing to Comfort” originated when Kelsey traveled to Alabama to visit his grandmother and needed a pastime to keep him busy. His grandmother introduced him to sewing which sprouted into a hobby that he continued once he returned home. One Sunday morning, he brought up the idea of a group that could sew various items that would benefit others. The patients visited are always appreciative of the visits and gifts.

Since its inception, Sewing to Comfort’s mission is to give love filled, hand-sewn items to those in need of them. So far Sewing to Comfort has visited various communities, including Nursing Homes in Harlem and the Bronx; Pediatric Hospital Wards, Daycares, and Sheltering Arms.

Kelsey attends Friendship Baptist Church in Harlem, under the Pastoral Leadership of Rev. James Kilgore where he is a member of the Youth Choir, the mission bearers, and frequently the worship leader on Youth Sundays. Kelsey is always willing to lend a hand to the Senior members of the church. Sewing to Comfort spearhead a fundraiser to have cushions made for the pews in the sanctuary at Friendship Baptist Church. Kelsey and his mother prepare bags to handout on December 23rd 2018 to several of Harlem’s homeless men and women. The bags included bottle water, socks, hand warmers, toothpaste, tooth brush, fruit cups, candy canes, chips, nuts, feminine toiletries and a card of encouragement.

Kelsey is currently a sophomore attending the Academy of software Engineering in Manhattan, tying into his career focus; Mechanical and Computer Engineering, however, he will always strive to give back to his community. Over the past few years, Kelsey has volunteered at Antioch Baptist Church’s in Harlem after school program to help tutor younger students and at various food pantries.