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June 2022 Newsletter

Quotes:

To laugh often and love much;
To win respect of intelligent people
And the affection of children;
To earn the approbation of honest critics
And endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To give one's self;
To leave the world a little better,
Whether by a healthy child,
A garden patch,
Or redeemed social condition;
To have played and laughed with enthusiasm
And sung with exultation;
To know even one life has breathed easier
Because you have lived...
This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Stories of Hope:

Door County Candle Sales Raise Half a Million Dollars for Ukraine

By Debra Fitzgerald, Door County Pulse, May 4th, 2022



Christiana and Nic Trapani of Door County Candle Company hold a check that represents the amount of money they have raised in little over two months to help the people of Ukraine.

Look no further for proof of the wild success that comes from gestures of the heart than the Candles for Ukraine campaign that Door County Candle Company owner Christiana Gorchynsky Trapani started two months ago.

The second-generation American Ukrainian began making the yellow-and-blue, vanilla-scented “Ukraine” candles at her Carlsville store shortly after Feb. 25, when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Moved by the fears she’d heard over the phone from her Ukrainian aunts and uncles, Trapani’s plan was to donate 100% of the profits to a Ukrainian nonprofit organization. Maybe she’d raise \$5,000-\$10,000, she thought.

As of Monday, Door County Candle Company has donated \$525,000 to Razom for Ukraine.

“I’m really proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time,” said Trapani, in what is surely the understatement of the year.

They’ve not taken inventory since the candle campaign began, but Nic, Trapani’s husband, estimated they have sold some 60,000 candles to date.

“They like having a physical symbol that they’re standing behind Ukraine and are able to support it in this way,” Trapani said about the candle customers. To read more, click on this link: <https://doorcountypulse.com/door-county-candle-sales-raise-half-a-million-dollars-for-ukraine/>

Married for 60 years, Orland Park couple have delivered over 900 meals as hospital volunteers

By Melinda Moore Daily Southtown May 18, 2022



Bill and Lorraine Bonk, of Orland Park, have delivered more than 900 meals while volunteering through Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital. (Northwestern Medicine / HANDOUT)

Lorraine Bonk finds volunteering as natural as breathing.

“I started when I was 17 and have done something ever since,” she said. “It always gives us purpose no matter what age we are.”

Lately, she’s been volunteering with the home-delivered meals program at Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital in Palos Heights, joined by her husband, Bill, who began volunteering for the hospital 11 years ago. The Orland Park couple, who celebrated their 60th anniversary in April, have delivered more than 900 meals for the program thus far. To read more of this story, click on this link: [Married for 60 years, Orland Park couple have delivered over 900 meals as hospital volunteers – Chicago Tribune](#)

A NEW PARTNERSHIP: 'We're building a house for people'

Racine high school students construct a new Habitat for Humanity home

[Ryan Patterson](#) Racine Journal Times, May 26, 2022



Grant Buenger, Racine Habitat for Humanity executive director, center in green shirt, talks with Case students about a home they helped build on Thursday, May 19. Students are, clockwise from front left, junior Michael Blommel, junior Austin Sigris, sophomore Erick Felix, junior Cade Hamilton and junior Rashawn Cobb.

MOUNT PLEASANT — Rashawn Cobb couldn't stop smiling when he heard the news: that the home he and his Case High School classmates helped construct was for Racine Habitat for Humanity.

He felt overjoyed to know their labor would help a local family. "We're building a house for people," said Cobb, a junior. "We've never done anything like this, and for us to get the chance and show how good at working we are is amazing."

The pilot project is a new partnership this year between Habitat for Humanity and the Racine Unified School District. The idea came about last summer during a conversation between Grant Buenger, Racine Habitat for Humanity executive director, and Alex DeBaker, Racine Academies executive director. It was brought to life over the ensuing months, and students began hands-on work in February.

About 120 construction pathway students at Case, Horlick and Park high schools were involved. Students at each school built interior walls for three separate houses. Habitat supplied the materials, and students provided the labor over the last few months.

To read more, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/local/we-re-building-a-house-for-people-racine-high-school-students-construct-a-new-habitat/article_07992ac4-d7b9-11ec-8090-c73cec592239.html

Related Hope-Filled Organization:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - MILWAUKEE



Everyone deserves a decent place to live.

In Milwaukee, families are finding it harder than ever to afford a decent place to call home. In fact, nearly 60% of Milwaukee renters are currently living in unaffordable housing paying 40%, 50% and even 70% of their income just to

cover the rent. For families living below Milwaukee's median income, often times that means little is left over for education, savings, or even basic needs.

Milwaukee Habitat is here to combat our city's affordable housing crisis by providing families with an affordable path to safe, stable housing. Affordable housing means more than a decent place to sleep at night. Studies show safe, affordable housing leads to improved health, education and financial stability.

By concentrating our efforts in targeted areas, Milwaukee Habitat is not just helping local families, but revitalizing entire neighborhoods. As we build block by block, we aim to decrease crime, increase community engagement, and create vibrant, sustainable neighborhoods.

Milwaukee Habitat offers a hand up, rather than a hand out as Habitat homeowners help build their own homes and pay an affordable mortgage. To learn more about Habitat for Humanity – Milwaukee, click on this link: [Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity](#)

Story of Hope:

A Muslim 'bridge-builder' started interfaith work in his basement. Now he has programs on hundreds of campuses.

By Nara Schoenberg, Chicago Tribune, May 10, 2022



Eboo Patel established Interfaith Youth Core, which has been renamed Interfaith America. He is seen here at his office on May 6, 2022. (Youngrae Kim/for the Chicago Tribune)

Eboo Patel began his efforts to bring people of different faiths together for dialogue and service projects in a basement office on the Northwest Side.

He kept his day job and piloted a practical Chrysler Cirrus sedan through the streets of Chicago, delivering high school kids to meetings where they engaged in spirited discussions and packed meals for homeless people.

"I was like a Cub Scout leader," Patel said with a chuckle.

What a difference 20 years makes. Today, Patel, who comes to interfaith work from a Muslim perspective, helms a nonprofit with a staff of 54, a budget of \$14 million and programs on hundreds of college campuses. Interfaith America has advised presidents and helped Starbucks develop religious diversity education for employees.

And Patel, whose organization — formerly known as Interfaith Youth Core and is being renamed Interfaith America on Tuesday to reflect its broader goals, is still innovating.

In his new book, "We Need To Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy," Patel pushes for a broader vision of American religious values that acknowledges not only Christians and Jews, but also Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Zoroastrians and nonbelievers, among others.

"The only way to have a healthy, religiously diverse democracy is for people who disagree on some fundamental things to work together on other fundamental things, right? It's a remarkable achievement in human history for people of diverse identities and divergent ideologies to build a nation together, and we think religion has an awful lot to do with that," he said.

Patel acknowledged that religion can be weaponized but noted that his Muslim parents obtained degrees from the University of Notre Dame and DePaul University, both Catholic institutions. His kids went to Catholic preschools. His sister-in-law's children went to a Jewish preschool.

“We in America have this remarkable civic genius where communities of a particular faith build institutions as an expression of their particular faith identity, (and those institutions) serve everybody. I think it is one of the great, never-celebrated geniuses of America,” Patel said. To read more, click on this link: <https://newsnetdaily.com/a-muslim-bridge-builder-has-started-interfaith-work-in-his-basement-now-it-has-programs-on-hundreds-of-campuses-chicago-tribune/>

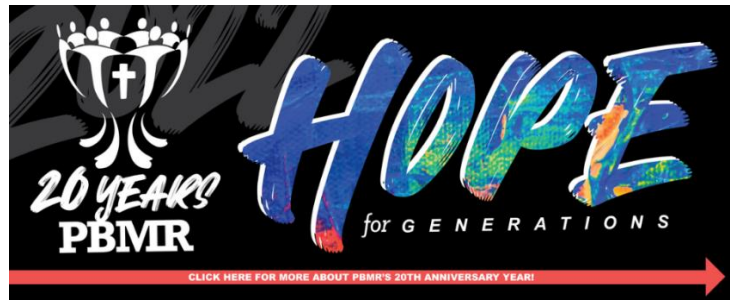
Related Hope-Filled Organization: Here is some information about Interfaith America referred to in the story above. To learn more about Interfaith America, click on this link: [Interfaith America - Faith is a bridge](#)



Vision: Religious diversity is a foundational America strength. Interfaith America is building a nation that achieves that promise for **the common good**.

Mission: Interfaith America's mission is to **inspire, equip, and connect** leaders and institutions to **unlock the potential** of America's religious diversity.

Hope-Filled Organization:



[Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation \(pbmr.org\)](http://pbmr.org)

RESTORING COMMUNITIES THROUGH RADICAL HOSPITALITY, HOPE, & HEALING.

OUR HISTORY: “What if we could create a place that works to build up a neighborhood impacted by violence and incarceration? It would be a place of healing and hope. This place would work towards a more healthy and restorative community where young people and families could thrive.” Father David Kelly



Our Mission: Rooted in the spirituality of the Precious Blood, we restore human dignity through hospitality, hope and healing. We work as agents of reconciliation to:

- Build relationships among youth and families impacted by violence and/or conflict
- Create safe spaces where people can experience radical hospitality, hope and healing
- Promote a restorative justice approach to conflict and build a sense of community

Core Values:

Radical Hospitality We provide a safe and welcoming space for youth and families

Accompaniment We walk alongside youth and families, supporting them through obstacles & life's moments

Building Relationships with Youth and Families We meet young people and families where they are and build relationships with them

Relentless Engagement of Systems & Stakeholders The ability to effectively link youth and families to resources needed to be successful

Collaboration We collaborate with other RJ Hubs and partners through genuine relationships to learn together

The Arts: In Recognition of the First Anniversary of the Juneteenth National Holiday, click on this link to hear and see the Black National Anthem: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" <https://youtu.be/MyS3HPInHtl>



And to close this Newsletter during these particularly trying times, click on this link for a smile:

[The Jive Aces present "Bring Me Sunshine" \(Morecambe & Wise theme\) - Bing video](#)



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If you find this Newsletter to be a positive contribution to promote Hope and positive changes for now and in the future, please forward this Newsletter to people you think would enjoy it and who may want to share their hopeful stories and programs for future Newsletters. They can sign up for the monthly Newsletters by doing the following:



www.hopefromthebottomup.com

Or

Send me an email (robert@robertbeezat.com) with the name and email address of the person you think would be interested. I will then contact them.

Thank You