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Hope Newsletter May 2024

WHERE AND HOW DO YOU FIND THE ORGANIZATIONS AND STORIES WHICH YOU INCLUDE IN THE HOPE FROM THE BOTTOM UP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

That is one of the most frequent questions I am asked when I meet someone who is a regular reader of the Hope From the Bottom Up website and the monthly Hope Newsletter.

The shortest and quickest answer I can give is that I have spent most of the past 60 years working with over 300 organizations across our country which serve their communities by providing essential services and programs which bring hope to their residents.

Because of that experience, I have seen what good things many, many people are accomplishing.

Consequently, I am always keeping my eyes and ears open to learn about those people and organizations.

A recent example is a group I heard about in the Kansas City, MO area.

I was having a sandwich for lunch and watching a few innings of a baseball game on TV between the Kansas City Royals and the Chicago White Sox. The game was in Kansas City. Between innings, the TV station inserted a story about a group of volunteers in their area called Project Happiness in Lee's Summit, Missouri. (Lee's Summit is a suburban community of about 105,000 people).

Hope-Filled Organization:



PROJECT HAPPINESS LSMO

In 2016, during a heated Presidential election, I was extremely frustrated to see our great nation so divided. It broke my heart to see people I knew and loved unable to rationally communicate about politics. I knew that soon my own street would be filled with signs that would only create additional division in a neighborhood filled with folks I cared about. I realized then that we needed to create a campaign of our own to lift people's spirits, fill their hearts with joy, and bring a smile to their faces as they traveled down our busy street. Project Happiness LSMO was born! It has been more fun than I ever imagined. Our neighbors gathered to create signs with fun sayings. We placed them in every yard on our block. It

immediately slowed folks down and placed smiles on their faces! It soon caught the attention of the local news and the local paper. It was working; we were spreading kindness and raising spirits!

In 2019, we decided to turn this project into an official charity, so we registered with the state and became a 501(c)3. I am not going to lie it is a lot of work, but we are learning every day.

In 2020, we were overwhelmed by the demand for signs from people in our community. In 2020 my family & I created over 1,500 signs! It was unbelievable! We raised enough money to make some significant contributions in our city. It was an amazing year for our project. We heard so many kind words from so many people. During quarantine we kept signs out daily. Since the world had come to a complete stop your visits to "the box" entertained us so much. We met so many wonderful people. That year we also worked to build our Board of Directors, see our "Board Members" page to learn more about who we are.

To this day our sign project continues to grow. Each time the signs are planted in yards across Lee's Summit they delight drivers and catch the attention of many people in our community.

As we move into 2024, we are excited to continue to make a difference with our positive messaging. We know that encouraging words are important to everyone that sees them and you never know who needs motivation.

If you ever have any questions or if you would like to start a campaign in your neighborhood please reach out.

Thank you for helping us make this world a better place.

Your friend, Jennifer :)

Jennifer is Jennifer Hunsinger - Founder/President of LSMO

For more information about Project Happiness in Lee's Summit, click on this link:

[Project Happiness LSMO - Home](#)



4 LSMO Program Participants

Hope-Filled Organization:



CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE

**When we make our communities better places for children,
we make them better places for all.**

The UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) brings UNICEF together with local stakeholders to establish safer, more just, equitable, inclusive and child-responsive cities and communities.

With guidance from UNICEF, communities in the United States are developing action plans to ensure local policies are prioritizing the best interests of children and youth.

Here is a three minute video which explains some important aspects of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative:

<https://www.unicefusa.org/what-unicef-does/respect-children/child-friendly-cities>

Hope-Filled Organization:



After School Matters empowers Chicago's teens.

After School Matters inspires Chicago's teens to discover their passions, develop skills for life beyond high school, and make friends along the way.

After School Matters provides out-of-school opportunities for teens across Chicago to connect, create, and thrive.

Our History: After School Matters has been serving Chicago teens for 30+ years.

After School Matters began in 1991 as Gallery 37, a summer arts education program for Chicago teens located in tents on a lot in Chicago's Loop. It soon expanded from that downtown location to bring the successful program to Chicago neighborhoods and in 1995 started a partnership with Chicago Public Schools to deliver the programs in Chicago high schools.

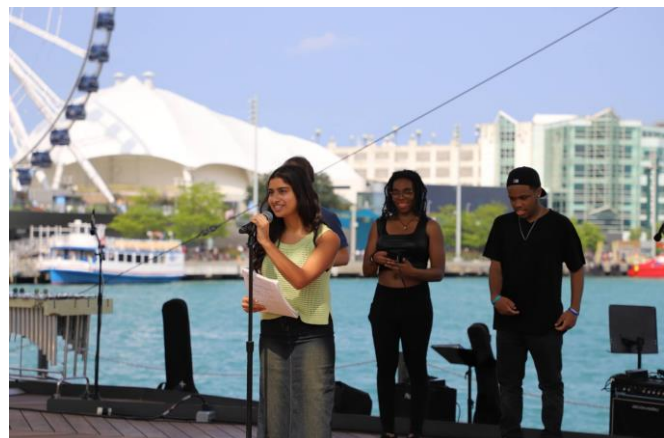
As the program expanded to include after-school offerings in interest areas beyond the arts, it officially became the nonprofit After School Matters in 2000. Working with both independent instructors and community-based organizations, ASM now offers more than 24,000 program opportunities each year, at 338 sites across the city.

Since our founding, teens have earned a financial stipend for taking part in their program, helping to lower potential barriers to participation and teaching them the value of their time. Our instructors are professionals in their respective fields, giving the teens hands-on learning and providing important mentorship.

With programs in the arts, communications and leadership, sports, and STEM, there is something for everyone at ASM. Here are two examples of the many programs which are part of ASM.



ASM launched their Peacemaker program in 2017 to help reduce violence and tensions in their communities.



Communication & Leadership: Offers programs in opportunity business, journalism, marketing and media.

To learn more about ASM, please click on this link: <https://afterschoolmatters.org/>

The Arts: Creating humor is an art form which spreads hope. Here is a suggested playlist submitted to our website by one of our readers which includes a number of suggested songs which might be sung by the following:

Noah: “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head”
Adam and Eve: “Strangers in Paradise”
Lazarus: “The Second Time Around”
Esther: “I Feel Pretty”
Job: “I’ve Got a Right to Sing the Blues”
Moses: “The Wanderer”
Jezebel: “The Lady is a Tramp”
Samson: “Hair”
Salome: “I Could Have Danced All Night”
Daniel: “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”
Joshua: “Good Vibrations”
Peter: “I’m Sorry”
Esau: “Born To Be Wild”
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: “Great Balls of Fire”
The Three Kings: “When You Wish Upon a Star”
Jonah: “Got a Whale of a Tail”
Elijah: “Up, Up and Away”
Methuselah: “Stayin Alive”
Nebuchadnezzar: “Crazy”

Share this Newsletter!

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:



Hope From the Bottom Up website link: <https://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