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## October 2024 Newsletter

Hope-Filled Organization:



# Save the Children®

Save the Children was the first global movement for children, boldly declaring that children have rights.

Today, we champion the rights of the world's 2.3 billion children.



Believe it or not, in 1919, when Eglantyne Jebb founded Save the Children, her conviction that **children have the right to grow up healthy, educated and safe** was not a mainstream idea.

Much has changed since then. The UN Convention on Rights of the Child, based on **our founder's declaration**, is now the most universally accepted human rights treaty in history. And, through **our work in the United States and around the world**, we've changed the lives of **over 1 billion children**.

We work in **over 100 countries, doing whatever it takes** —every day and in times of crisis — to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

Thanks to our supporters, we achieve tremendous results for children. In 2023 alone, **Save the Children programs and partners helped 105.9 million** children in **115 countries** become healthier, safer and better educated.

As the world's leading expert on childhood, we believe **that every child deserves a future**. This belief is at the heart of everything we do. **We know you share it, too.**

To learn more about Save the Children, click on this link: [Our Mission | What We Do | Save The Children](#)

## Hope-Filled Story:

### Reading program works to keep incarcerated parents connected to their children

By Ryan Patterson, Racine Journal Times, September 1, 2024

RACINE COUNTY — When Jovantae Phifer came home, his children told him they loved the recordings.

On video, Phifer read a book to each of his four kids and explained the books' lessons.

"It was a beautiful thing to have that feeling and to know that they enjoyed it," Phifer said. "It just gave me a good, positive feeling."



*Jovantae Phifer is one of many people who have participated in "Making Reading Memories," a Racine County Extension program at area correctional facilities. On video, Phifer read a book to each of his four kids and explained the books' lessons. [Ryan Patterson](#)*

Phifer is one of many people who have participated in "Making Reading Memories," a Racine County Extension program that has operated at area correctional facilities since 2018.

Under the direction of Pam Wedig-Kirsch, Racine County Extension school readiness and family resiliency educator, the program is intended to connect children with parents who are incarcerated and improve children's literacy skills.

"I think most people as parents question, 'Am I doing this right? Is this the best thing for my child?'" Wedig-Kirsch said. "Parents who are incarcerated are no different ... (This) gives them that knowledge: 'I am doing things right, I am working to stay connected, I'm staying involved in any way I can.'"

### Giving parents a voice

["Making Reading Memories"](#) is one of several The Literacy Link initiatives aimed at addressing relationships between incarcerated parents and their children. Depending on the relationship, the programs can create, maintain or grow their connections.

[The Literacy Link](#) is a statewide University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension project that includes "Making Reading Memories" and parenting workshops. It also aims to improve welcoming areas and visitation spaces at correctional facilities by [adding toys and books](#) for children's visits.

The Literacy Link's funders include [Roots & Wings Foundation](#), [Blocks for Books](#) and [First Book Marketplace](#). Ronda Davis, justice-involved families state outreach specialist at Extension, said The Literacy Link programs provide parents with the chance to impact their families while behind bars.

"They still have a voice," Davis said. "It looks different to parent from a distance, but you're still a parent."

The Racine County Extension programs are mainly funded by Racine County and United Way of Racine County, in addition to The Literacy Link.

Jessica Safransky Schacht, UWRC chief operating officer, said the nonprofit has provided annual funding because Racine County Extension is an organized, data-driven entity that excels at identifying barriers to access and responding to community needs. To read more of this article, click on this link: [Reading program connects incarcerated parents, children \(journaltimes.com\)](#)

Hope-Filled Organization:

## NEW LIFE CENTERS

### *Creating the Beloved Community together*

**Vision:** Connecting young people and their families with Christ and Community through life-on-life relationships.

The Beloved Community is a global vision envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a society where all people share in the wealth of the earth creating authentic community. It is a vision achieved through nonviolent resistance of the injustices that divide us and proactive commitment to right relationship with each other. It means that no one is left out of creating the community, so we go out of our way to center the people who our systems often exclude. For us at New Life Centers, that means especially centering the leadership and voices of young people in our communities.

**Mission:** Creating the Beloved Community together!

New Life Centers seeks to equip this generation in every community we serve. We work alongside community partners and listen to neighbors to create solutions that fit our neighborhood. Our desire is to host Centers where people can continually come to with needs or ideas that transform their community. “We cared so much for you that we were willing to share with you not only Creator’s good story but our own lives as well. That is how deep our love for you has become.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8 is the bible verse we choose to live by.

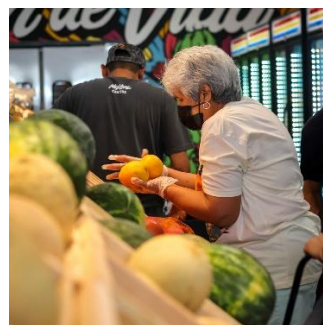
**Our History:** 15+ Years Serving Our Communities

While now serving as a nationwide model for gang intervention and a citywide model for after-school programs, New Life Centers of Chicagoland, NFP was originally created in 2005 to address the needs of communities surrounding New Life Community Church locations. As neighbors approached the church with pressing issues—gang violence, teen pregnancy, justice system involvement, unemployment—New Life responded with custom-made Centers programs that fit the community. Initial sites grew in the Little Village and Midway neighborhoods (2005). Subsequent programs sprang up at Humboldt Park (2008), Cicero, Jefferson Park, and Oak Forest. To this day, New Life Centers continues in its culture of creating programs that address neighborhood needs and empower neighborhood involvement.

New Life Centers was founded by the New Life Community Church, a multi-site church operating at more than 27 sites throughout Chicagoland and internationally. Founded in 1986 as an 18-member church in Chicago’s Back of the Yards neighborhood, New Life (Nueva Vida) still exists under its founding pastor, Pastor Mark Jobe, and now hosts over 34 services weekly. As an auxiliary partner organization, New Life Centers seeks to equip leaders within each of these New Life communities to serve their neighbors through health, education and employment services for all ages.



New Life Community Members



New Life Food Pantry

To learn more about the New Life organization and programs, click on this link:

[New Life Centers | Creating the Beloved Community Together](#)



## Welcome to Fields of Sinsinawa

### Sharing the good news of healthy soil for a healthy planet

On September 13 and 14, 2023, a fledgling group of soil enthusiasts gathered at the Sinsinawa Mound in southwestern Wisconsin, inspired by the vision of the late no-till legend and “godfather” of soil health, David Brandt, who had begun exploring the possibility of creating a new farmer-led learning center at the Mound. After that successful visioning event, a steering committee and core team were formed and Fields of Sinsinawa was born. Since then, the group has begun developing ideas and a plan for the center to become a unique, vibrant, accessible hub where resources, demonstrations, community building and farmer-led learning connect healthy soil, healthy food, healthy people, and a healthy planet together.

**Our Mission**-Fields of Sinsinawa is a Farmer-Led Learning Center created to demonstrate and share farming practices to promote healthy soils, protect the environment, ensure profitability, and revitalize rural communities.

**Our Vision**-Fields of Sinsinawa is a farmer-Led Learning Center where dialog among peers, educators, and consumers will increase the adoption of resilient agricultural production systems and ensure a legacy for the next seven generations and beyond.

### We Believe

- Caring for the land is sacred work.
- Growing healthy food begins with functioning soil.
- Agricultural systems have the capacity to cycle carbon, protect and/or restore water resources, produce healthy food, and preserve land for future generations.
- Peer-to-peer networking and sharing are the best teachers.
- Open minds and diverse views lead to new insights and understanding.
- No one has all the answers; we are all learners.

There is something special here. Long before the Dominican Sisters came, our Indigenous ancestors called this place Manitoumie, “a place where the Spirit dwells.” In 1847, the Spirit called for something new. Young women of the area were invited to come together by the lone Catholic Missionary of the area, Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, OP, to teach the children of the immigrant families struggling for a new life in this lead-mining region. This was the beginning of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa.

Sinsinawa Mound continues to be the home and Motherhouse for these sisters. They have treasured this land for its beauty and nourishment for over 177 years. The Sisters farmed some of their land to provide for their own needs, milked their cows, and tended their woods and understood that tending the fields and nurturing the land was an important part of their mission. They became rooted in this driftless region along with those whose ancestors were among the immigrant families they had taught in their early years.

Today, in this time of ecological crises, the Spirit of Sinsinawa calls again: *Earth is suffering. Soon she will not be able to provide for her children.* The Sisters of Sinsinawa heard that call. The Fields of Sinsinawa will continue their mission of education and service to the community. It is a response to the Spirit’s call to attend to our suffering earth by providing opportunities for others to deepen a commitment to the well-being of present and future generations.

To learn more about the Fields of Sinsinawa, click on this link: [Fields of Sinsinawa – A Farmer-Led Learning Center](#)

**The Arts:** One of the things I really enjoy about living in the upper Midwest is the changes of seasons. Each season of the year has its own scenes of beauty. Autumn is often spectacularly beautiful as illustrated in this 2 minute and 40 second musical video.

**Beautiful Music and Beautiful Photography Always Bring Hope to Me, and I Hope to You Also!**



## “Autumn Leaves” by Nat King Cole

Click on this link: [The Autumn Leaves By Nat King Cole - YouTube](#)

**Closing Thought:** These are challenging times in our country. There are deep divisions among us. But there are also many, many positive things being done by individuals and groups as shown in our monthly Newsletters to overcome these divisions and bring healing and hope to all of us. I urge you, as I urge myself:

## **DON'T GIVE UP**

Keep pursuing and creating **TRUTH, GOODNESS, AND BEAUTY** with **LOVE** any and every way we can.

## **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:



[www.hopefromthebottomup.com](http://www.hopefromthebottomup.com)

**Or**

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

## **Thank You**