



www.hopefromthebottomup.com

December 2023 Newsletter



BEAUTY INSPIRES HOPE

Each season of the year has its own beautiful expression. Here is some of the beauty of winter!

As the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Beauty is its own excuse for being."

And as the poet John Keats said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

The Arts: Here is a music video which captures some of the beauty and joy of the winter season:

WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

[Amy Grant - Winter Wonderland - YouTube](#)

Hope-Filled Organization:

Make a Wish Alaska Washington



A wish forever transforms the lives of children, their families and entire communities

About Us - Our mission is simple: Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. For three and a half decades, we have partnered with thousands of volunteers, donors and medical professionals in our community to deliver that mission to more than 8,300 local children.

Chapter History Timeline - We're celebrating nearly four decades of granting wishes and it's all because of you! In 1986, thanks to the dedication and support of our local community, we granted six wishes. Nearly four decades later, we celebrate granting 8,000 wishes thanks to YOUR kindness, compassion and investment. YOU make transformation possible for children with critical illnesses each and every day and we are so thankful!

Organizations Nationwide – Make-A-Wish Alaska Washington is one of 58 chapters nationwide. These 58 chapters can proudly look back at the more than 12,800 wishes granted in fiscal year 2022.

Here is a link to the Make-A-Wish Alaska& Washington website: [Make-A-Wish® Alaska & Washington](https://www.makeawish.org/alaska-washington)

Here is a link to information about the nationwide Make-A-Wish foundation: <https://wish.org/about-us>

Here is a link to a Make-A-Wish story from Make-A-Wish Alaska [JoJo's Hockey Wish Come True - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0Jo's Hockey Wish Come True)



Hope-Filled Organization:

FUTURE CAUCUS

[Future Caucus](https://www.futurecaucus.org/)



ACTIVATING YOUNG LEGISLATORS TO BRIDGE THE PARTISAN DIVIDE

What is Future Caucus? Future Caucus is a voluntary network of young state and national legislators which works directly with our nation's leading young policymakers on both the federal and state levels to bridge the partisan divide and lead a new era of collaborative governance. The Future Caucus grew out of the Millennial Action Project which started 2013 and renamed itself the Future Caucus in 2023.

Why Future Caucus? With over 1800+ lawmakers served since 2013, Future Caucus provides young legislators with a network of peers and resources to get things done and transform American politics.

What Does Future Caucus Do?

- Connects Gen Z and Millennial legislators
- Build new skills to overcome toxic polarization
- Get results on key policy issues through bipartisan coalitions

An Unlikely Political Pair Take on Maternal Health in Oklahoma

As just one example of what the Future Caucus is doing, here is a 4.5 minute video of a discussion between a Republican, male and a Democrat, female legislator talking about a topic which they both think is important to their constituents and the future of the State of Oklahoma.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uz_KDR6pt1k

Hope-Filled Organization:

Say Yes to Joy: Deepen Connection and Belonging



Grateful Living

Grateful Living is a global nonprofit organization that empowers people to live meaningful lives through the transformative practice of grateful living. Our programs, educational offerings, and the content on our website are designed to support your daily life during times of joy and adversity. Grateful living is a bold way of being that requires practice, community, and resources, all of which you will find here. Our evidence-based programs promote the joy, belonging, awe, hope, and imperfection that make a grateful life a full life. To learn more about the Grateful Living organization and how you can be part of it, click on this link: <https://grateful.org/>

Creating and participating in shared experiences of joy nurtures connection and a sense of belonging. It builds bridges between individuals and across cultures. You can choose to bring joy to your daily interactions, and you may find that your well of joy is replenished in kind.

Click on this link, <https://grateful.org/resource/joy-3/> scroll down about half a page and enjoy the delight of watching the joy of these kids from around the world singing Kool and the Gang's *Celebration*, a project of Playing for Change. The video is a moving reminder of the essential role of communal joy and its power to connect us to one another.

Story of Hope:

Walden school donates hundreds of boxes of food, more than \$9,000

Ryan Patterson, Racine Journal Times, November 24, 2023

RACINE — Dozens of students carried boxes of food Tuesday morning onto pallets. The boxes were then placed in a truck and will eventually help feed area residents.

That team effort illustrated the collective work done this month by students and staff at Walden III Middle School and High School during the building's annual food drive.

Walden collected 472 boxes of food and \$9,183 for the [Racine County Food Bank](#), 2000 De Koven Ave. Cash was collected Tuesday during an all-school assembly, where an additional \$243 were raised.

That total is slightly less than the school donated last year, but it remains one of the county's largest food drives.

"This is still so much food, and we're still so proud of all of our efforts," said Eliana Hanson, Walden student government president.



Racine Mayor Cory Mason, left, listens to Eliana Hanson, Walden student government president, during the annual food drive at Walden III school.

Walden's annual food drive has occurred for decades, and Hanson said she was "overjoyed to be continuing this long-standing tradition."

Hanson helped organize the food drive and said it is one of her favorite times of the year because it brings the school closer.

"Coming together to work toward this one big goal is really, really amazing," Hanson said.

Casi Schatzman, Walden student government advisor, said it is fun to see teamwork and collaboration during a time of giving. "It gets the kids excited, gives them something to work together for," Schatzman said. "It really fosters a good sense of community."

Schatzman enjoys seeing the students' work pay off "in a tangible way." "It takes the abstract and makes it very real," Schatzman said. "We have done a lot together."

Dan Taivalkoski, Racine County Food Bank executive director, said Tuesday was one of his favorite days of the year, and he praised and thanked students. "We couldn't do what we do without folks like you," Taivalkoski said. "As I look around the room, the future of our community is in very good hands."

Racine Mayor Cory Mason agreed and expressed pride in the students' leadership. "It makes you a wonderful reflection of our community," Mason said. "It is really going to make the lives of people in this community much better because of the work that you've done."

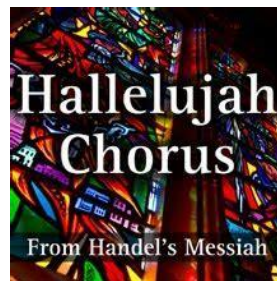
The food drive started Nov. 13. There were competitions to encourage donations, and several prizes were awarded to middle school and high school home groups at Walden, 2340 Mohr Ave.

After the awards, a few award-winning students smashed pies in teachers' faces. Sounds like a lot of fun 😊



The Arts:

Since this is the holiday season, one thing I always find hopeful is a large group coming together to make joyous and hopeful music. Here is a link to such a broad and diverse group doing just that, singing the Hallelujah Chorus in a Philadelphia shopping mall.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohagajVzhU>

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 consider forwarding this Newsletter to people you think would enjoy it and who may want to share their hopeful stories and programs for future Newsletters.



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