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December 2024 Newsletter



BEAUTY INSPIRES HOPE

The Arts: Each season of the year has its own beautiful expression. Here is a picture of some of the beauty of winter! And 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:



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

Catholic Charities USA supports a national network of agencies committed to encountering those along the margins, regardless of their faith. Join us in providing help and creating hope for those in need.

Mission: The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide service to people, families and communities in need, to advocate for justice in social structures and to call the entire church and other people of good will to do the same.

Our Vision: As Catholic Charities, we labor in the streets inviting and serving those who have been left out to know and experience the tremendous and abundant love of God through Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to break down walls of division that keep sisters and brothers separated from one another, excluded, or rendered disposable by our society. With joy, we resolve to build bridges of hope, mercy and justice toward the creation of a culture of communal care responsive to the cries of those who are poor.

Catholic Charities provides a broad range of services and programs to individuals, groups, and not for profit organizations. Here is a 4 minute video of how they helped one mother and her son who has Downs Syndrome get back on their feet.



[The power of a 'support circle' to change a life \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

To learn more about Catholic Charities, click on this link: [Working to Reduce Poverty in America - Catholic Charities USA](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/)

Hope-Filled Organization:



THE NEXT WAVE OF WHOLE CHILD EDUCATION:

DESIGNING TRANSFORMATIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

Why Collaborative for Spirituality in Education was Formed

All human beings are born with a natural capacity for spirituality, which is an integral dimension of full human development. Spirituality fosters a way of being that provides a foundation for a young person's intellectual, emotional, moral, social and physical development. There is mounting empirical evidence that nurturing the spirituality of children supports their health and happiness and helps them be more engaged, higher achievers, and better citizens.

Spirituality and religion are often interrelated, but they are not identical. The universal innate capacity for spiritual development can be nurtured both within and outside the framework of institutional religion. The CSE recognizes that all schools—public, private, religious, charter— can and should support the healthy spiritual and moral growth of children and adolescents.

When their spirituality is not nurtured, there is a higher prevalence of anxiety, depression, hopelessness, even violence and suicide. This proves to be the case regardless of gender, income-level, ethnic origin, or other background. By neglecting this critically important part of education of the whole child, we are putting our children at

risk and leaving them without the resources to navigate the increasingly complex and challenging world they will inherit.

Spiritual and moral development not only benefits the individual child; it is critical for building a society of engaged citizens committed to the common good, the renewal of American democracy, and sustainable development. Fostering spirituality in children before it goes dormant is of critical importance if the nation is to generate the quality of future leadership so urgently needed in all sectors and institutions.

The Collaborative for Spirituality in Education (CSE) is planting the seeds of social change and nurturing spiritually aware citizens and leaders for a new generation.



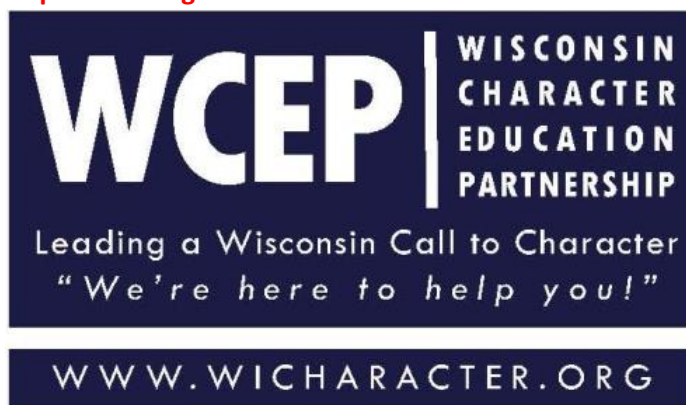
What We Do

We are working to transform public and private education by promoting spiritual and moral development within schools and by giving educators tools to build classrooms and schools that nurture the inner life of their students. *We aim to support every interested educator in the United States and globally, with particular emphasis on educators who teach children in poverty and/or adverse societal conditions. To ensure access for all educators, all of our CSE conferences, resources, training programs and workshops are free of charge.*

We do this work through four strategic initiatives:

1. **Research.** We gather successful practices and lessons learned from master practitioners, develop our process of school change, and share these findings.
2. **The Awakened Schools Institute.** We bring educational leaders and teachers from around the country to learn about and reflect together on ways that their schools can develop a more spiritually supportive culture.
3. **Public Speaking.** Through conferences, social media, and outreach, we share our work with schools, universities, researchers, and the public who want to do more to support the inner spirit of our children.
4. **The National Council on Spirituality in Education.** Through our National Conference on Spirituality in Education and other events, we are continuing to build a movement begun at our National Conference in 2015. Our conferences and events gather practitioners and academics to collaborate on ideas and initiatives that will advance the field of Spirituality in Education.

Hope-Filled Organization:



PARTNERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE FLOURISHING LEARNING AND WORK COMMUNITIES SINCE 2010!

Leadership Advancing Character and Culture in Schools (LACCS-pronounced "laces") is a network of educators dedicated to developing leaders from education and school-adjacent organizations through character education. LACCS retreats focus on growing a healthy flourishing culture and climate within the organizational community. LACCS is made possible through a partnership between [Alverno College](#) and the [Wisconsin Character Education Partnership \(WCEP\)](#).

Our Mission: We are a student-centered leadership network that champions character education.

Our Vision: We envision a world where ALL students thrive and ALL communities flourish. Enrollment in LACCS gives schools opportunities to engage in in-person and virtual sessions; to work with national and local experts; to be recognized for Promising Practices; and to achieve State Schools of character.

LACCS will engage participants in a systematic process of exploring character education and social-emotional learning, while engaging in an audit of current school data and practices and a process of design to fit the needs of their school.

Some sessions will feature speakers and others will involve participants in hands-on workshops and each team will have an on-site consultation visit each semester.

At the end of the program, participants will have developed a plan to infuse character education in their schools, as well as to maintain data on key indicators that can help them continue to refine their practice to develop both moral character and quality performance character for their learners.

Wisconsin Character Education Partnership (WCEP) continues to believe principals are essential to both effective character education programs and for successful schools. In order to do this, it is important to train and support these leaders.

Personal Note: Character has been a focus of mine in my many years of working with organizations and individuals to improve their organization's productivity and effectiveness. When I read about the Collaborative for Spirituality in Education at Columbia University, I was very impressed that an Ivy League school is playing such a key role in this area of discussion. It meant to me that the term Spirituality, as used by Columbia University, has a broader meaning than a religious orientation. I have thought for a long time that as human beings we are a physical entity. But I have also thought that we also have a spiritual reality about who and what we are. I was glad to see that the educational leadership of the Collaborative saw spirituality as a reality that exists and can be grown to help us human beings deal with the challenges we face in our lives in general and including the work we do.

I have written two books and made presentations to over 350 organizations about one or both of my books. One book is titled [Knowing and Loving: The Keys to Real Happiness](#), and the second book is [Character Based Management: A Key to More Productive and Effective Organizations](#). You can find out more about these two books at my website for the books: [Robert Beezat – Character Based Management](#) Because of the [Character Based Management](#) book, I have spoken at Alverno College during several of the [WCEP'S](#) annual programs.

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