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March 2022 Newsletter

Stories of Hope:

‘This is really the shot in the arm that we needed.’ Five CPS schools partner with Hope Chicago to help send roughly 4,000 students to college debt-free.

By [Tatyana Turner](#) Chicago Tribune Feb 25, 2022



Morgan Park H.S. seniors react upon hearing will receive debt-free college scholarships from Hope Chicago during their assembly at Morgan Park H.S. in Chicago on Feb. 23, 2022. (Antonio Perez / Chicago Tribune)

Tonya Hammaker, the principal of Farragut Career Academy high school, had been hearing students make comments like " Can you believe it?" and "I wish that was us" in the hallways all throughout the week.

The young scholars were referring to the Chicago Public School students who got the news that their college education has been paid for with the help of Hope Chicago, a citywide, multigeneration scholarship program that covers tuition, room and board, books, fees and surcharges for CPS students and one of their parents or guardians.

This past week the Hope Chicago team, led by former CPS CEO Janice Jackson and Pete Kadens and Ted Koenig, Hope Chicago’s co-founders and co-chairmen, visited high schools — including Benito Juarez High School, Al Raby High School, Morgan Park High School and Noble-Johnson College Prep — that are part of their inaugural cohort to announce to 4,000 students that their postsecondary education will be fully funded.

The last stop for Hope Chicago was Farragut in the Little Village neighborhood.

"I had to play it up so they wouldn't know," Hammaker said. "I'm nervous of course, because I want it to all go really well."

Hammaker planned on having all of her students in the auditorium for a school assembly, but none knew what the event was for. The news is something Hammaker believes her students will view as life-changing.

To read the full article, click on this link: [Five CPS schools to help send 4,000 students to college debt-free - Chicago Tribune](#)

A BEAUTIFUL, INSPIRING, AND HOPE-FILLED STORY

669 Children Saved From the Nazi's by Nicholas Winton of Great Britain



Jewish Children Waiting to Board a train



Nicholas Winton, then a 28 year old stockbroker

Nicholas Winton (1909-2015) was a stockbroker born in London. His parents were of German-Jewish ancestry but chose to have their son baptized in the Anglican Church. Between December 1938 and September 1939, Winton worked with friends and colleagues in Prague and London to organize the transport and reception of children threatened by the Nazi racial laws which applied in Czechoslovakia after the German invasion of March 1939.

Winton was asked to come to Prague by his friend Martin Blake, a teacher and a member of the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia. Blake introduced Winton to Doreen Wariner, who showed Winton the overcrowded refugee camps. Working from his hotel room – often hearing petitions while he shaved – Winton collected applications. He returned to London with the names of children and spent his evenings and weekends raising money and recruiting foster parents. He believed that the time was running out before the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, breaking the Munich Agreement of September 1938.

The first transport of children from Prague left by air on 14 March 1939, just a day before the Third Reich invaded Czechoslovakia. Between March and August, Winton and his colleagues organized a further seven transports departing by rail. The last transport left Prague on 2 August 1939, a month before the outbreak of WW2.

Winton's work was largely unknown until the late 1980s, when his wife Grete found a scrapbook with details of 664 children he had helped. In 1988, an episode of the BBC magazine program *That's Life* introduced Winton to just some of those he had helped, as well as to British public attention. Winton was knighted in 2002 for services to humanity. Asked to explain his decision to rescue so many, he claimed that something simply had to be done. He quoted Doreen Wariner's words to him in Prague in 1938: 'Look, if anything can be done, perhaps you'd like to try and do it.' Winton died in 2015, aged 106. To view a 2 minute video of this inspiring story, click on this link:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=sir+nicholas+winton+bbc&&view=detail&mid=CFDC6A98F4F5404EC114CFDC6A98F4F5404EC114&&FORM=VDRVRV>

Quote: Submitted by Margaret Hershey

This is the true joy in life, the "being used" for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the "being a force of Nature" instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

*I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is not a brief candle to me; it is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations. **George Bernard Shaw***

Story of Hope:

At Shepherd Inn, Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence Get A Chance To Heal

Victoria Shepherd, who founded the nonprofit, knows their stories all too well.

Because it happened to her, too.



Victoria Shepherd poses for a portrait at Shepherd Inn in Dallas. Shepherd Inn is temporary housing and programming from women ages 18-28 who have experienced sexual trauma or domestic violence and need assistance getting back on their feet. By [Sriya Reddy](#), Published 1/11/22

When Victoria Shepherd learned that the teenagers she worked with at Cafe Momentum often didn't have a safe place to sleep at night, she was angry. She was angry not only because of the lack of stability in their lives, but also because she knew what it felt like to feel unsafe.

When she was in her early 20s, Shepherd was drugged, raped on a beach and left in the ocean in Thailand. If two men from her hostel hadn't found her, she believes she would have died. She has no memory of the attack beyond what was told to her.

For years, Shepherd's experience led to her struggle with addiction. She said every time she closed her eyes, her mind would try to imagine what had happened to her on that beach. When she was under the influence, she didn't need to think about it.

"It took going therapy to realize that that's why I was drinking and doing drugs every night," Shepherd said. "Because I just either didn't want to go to sleep at all, or I wanted to black out so I could go to sleep."

All she wanted then was a safe place to be. And now, she dedicates her life to building exactly that. Shepherd started Shepherd Inn in 2019 for women between 18 to 28 who have experienced sexual trauma or domestic abuse. Shepherd Inn has an outreach program and transitional housing, and it has supported almost 20 women.

"It is a safe haven for women who have experienced sexual trauma," Shepherd said. "A safe place for them to recover and get back on their feet. It's a place where you'll feel love and security every single day."

She said that their stories are her story, but she hopes they won't have to go through all that she went through.

To read the full story, click on this link: [At Shepherd Inn, women who have experienced sexual violence get a chance to heal - I Messenger \(myimessenger.com\)](#)

Hope-Filled Organization:

Hello there, My name is Katie and I work for the advocacy organization, Mesothelioma Hope. I came across Hope From The Bottom Up and noticed your organization does a terrific job in providing information for your website visitors. At Mesothelioma Hope, we offer free resources that are reviewed by certified oncologists and provide detailed information about mesothelioma and its health impacts. Our mission is to raise awareness about cancer and other asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma. Would you help us spread awareness by linking our website below, on your website - Have a wonderful day, Katie Vaughn - Advocacy Associate To learn more, click on this link: <https://www.mesotheliomahope.com/>

The Arts:

LAUGHING IS A HOPE BUILDER HUMOR IS AN ART

Signs in Front of the Indian Hills Community Center in Colorado



For a few more laughs, click on this link:

https://hopefromthebottomup.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/indian%20hills%20funny%20signs_0.pdf

Hope-Filled Organization:



It started with a simple question:

How do we improve the economic outlook across an entire community?

It's a massive undertaking, with a surprisingly simple formula. At the core of success, however you choose to define it, are some basic principles and actions which create an environment for accountability and continuous improvement.

We work to harmoniously incorporate these principles and actions to help people, businesses, and entire communities. We're doing this in a wide variety of ways, because we help a wide variety of people.

You can explore hundreds of great, new ideas in our annual **Idea Competition**, viewable on our website, app, and in-person on display throughout our 11-day event in Racine, WI.

We work to integrate these ideas into our incubator funding and growth process to develop them into fully functioning businesses that are ready to pitch for large-scale investors at our **Pitch Competition**, with additional investment available for those that choose to grow within the Southeastern Wisconsin community. There are a number of scholarship awards available for students looking to continue their education as well.

Last year we awarded over \$80,000 to local and global participants. We're scaling that number as the number of event competitors grow. To learn more about TechPrize, click here: [Home - TechPrize \(tech-prize.org\)](https://www.tech-prize.org) To view a 2 minute video about TechPrize, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DubVEURSgkY>

Hope-Filled Organization:



We're moving in the right direction. Let's move even faster.

How We Started.

Two students, Sophie Shulman and Zach Gibson, belonged to a social entrepreneurship organization called Enactus. With a goal to make Kenosha and Carthage College more sustainable, they started an initiative called Project Brooklyn. Through this project, they helped form a Presidential Sustainability Taskforce that works to bring green infrastructure to the Carthage College campus. With the college in a good place, Sophie and Zach set out to have an impact in their local community. They formed Blackbird Gen LLC to quicken Kenosha, Wisconsin's transition to renewable energy.

Why We Do It.

Burning fossil fuels has been the status quo source of energy for a long time. With a youthful spirit and an optimistic outlook, Blackbird Gen aims to help renewable energy's fight to become the status quo of electricity generation. We live this mission by forming partnerships in the community and starting conversations that **encourage** the adoption of renewable energy. We have formed the Kenosha Solar Group Buy. This limited-time program **incentivizes** businesses and households in the Kenosha Area by securing them significant discounts on solar panel installations. Blackbird Gen, in partnership with All Energy Solar, hosts informational solar sessions to **educate** the Kenosha community on the ins and outs of solar energy. To learn more about Blackbird Gen, click on this link: <https://blackbirdgen.com/> To read a transcript of a conversation between Blackbird Gen founders and a potential solar power user, click on this link: <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/blackbird%20gen%20transcript.pdf>

Hope-Filled Organization:



Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI) is a nationally-recognized human services agency that uses a continuum of care approach to provide much-needed programs to underserved populations and people living with an array of health and human service needs. Headquartered on the west-side of Chicago, HSI has offered supportive programs to Chicago's most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents for over 40 years and provides services to over 7,000 people

annually in the North Lawndale, West Garfield, Austin and Englewood communities in Chicago. To view a 3 minute video about HIS, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdbYfKQVmzY>

Habilitative Systems, Inc., held it's "Inaugural Race and Health Equity Awards" Reception on December 9, 2021, at the historic Union League Club of Chicago. The event honored healthcare executives and community leaders who are committed to eliminating inequities within the African-American Community. Four outstanding individuals were recognized for their work and contributions in tearing down the barriers to equal access and quality healthcare. To view a 6 minute video of these awards and the important work they do, click on this link: [HSI Video \(habilitative.org\)](#) And scroll down to the second video on the right.

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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