



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

## May 2022 Newsletter

### **The Arts:**

Beautiful music is always a source of hope to me. “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning” from the musical “Oklahoma” is a hopeful way to start a day and this newsletter



[Oklahoma! - Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin' \(1955\) - YouTube](#)

### **Stories of Hope:**

## **Can The Promise lift 100,000 Philadelphians out of poverty by 2025?**

*The pandemic has shown how much is out of our control.*

*North Philly native Michael Banks is trying anyway.*

By Christopher Wink



*Michael Banks is leading a \$10 million public-private partnership*

Michael Banks first learned he was poor because his sneakers were different.

Growing up in North Philadelphia, Banks experienced “the five senses of poverty.” The smells were different at each of the stops on SEPTA’s #3 bus. The sounds were different outside his middle school in Kensington than back home west of Broad. But he most remembers that even in a neighborhood with high rates of poverty, other kids wore better sneakers than he did.

“I learned this doesn’t have to be a way of life,” Banks said. “I made it a personal mission to do something about it.”

In February, Banks was named the Executive Director of [The Promise](#), a public-private partnership that has pledged to lift 100,000 Philadelphians out of poverty by 2025. He's now leading the biggest anti-poverty campaign in the poorest big city in the country...

The Promise is billed as something different. It was born of \$10 million in city funding directed toward the United Way of Greater Philadelphia in February 2021. That partnership built on an announcement a year earlier of [the Philadelphia Poverty Action Plan](#), which was introduced by City Council President Darell Clarke as his signature initiative...Clarke frequently calls this a "moonshot," summoning the space race of the 1960s. to read more, click on this link: <https://generocity.org/philly/2022/03/31/promise-poverty-michael-banks/>

---

## Harvard students' site helping Ukraine refugees find housing

By RODRIQUE NGOWI, Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Two Harvard University freshmen have launched a website designed to connect people fleeing Ukraine to those in safer countries willing to take them in — and it's generating offers of help and housing worldwide.



*Avi Schiffmann and Marco Burstein*

Moved by the plight of Ukrainian refugees desperate to escape Russian bombardment across the former Soviet republic, Marco Burstein, 18, of Los Angeles, and Avi Schiffmann, 19, of Seattle, used their coding skills to create [UkraineTakeShelter.com](#) over three frenzied days in early March.

Since then, more than 18,000 prospective hosts have signed up on the site to offer assistance to refugees seeking matches with hosts in their preferred or convenient locations. On a recent day, Burstein and Schiffmann logged 800,000 users.

"We've heard all sorts of amazing stories of hosts and refugees getting connected all over the world," Burstein said in an interview on the Harvard campus. "We have hosts in almost any country you can imagine from Hungary and Romania and Poland to Canada to Australia. And we've been really blown away by the response." To read more, click on this link: [Harvard students' site helping Ukraine refugees find housing \(boston.com\)](#)

---

### An Environmental Step Forward

## The City Of Racine Is Electrifying Its Transit System



The City of Racine is electrifying its transit system by rolling out 9 all-electric buses to serve the public. 25% of Racine's transit fleet will be electrified, making it the largest electric fleet in the State of Wisconsin. The launch event

on Wednesday, April 27 at 9:00 am at the Corinne Reid Owens Transit Center (1402 Liberty St. Racine, WI, 53403) will celebrate the sustainability, savings, and service benefits of modernizing our transit fleet. Special guests include Governor Tony Evers, Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation Craig Thompson, and Mayor Cory Mason.

The City of Racine received \$6,190,906.00 from the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Volkswagen Transit Capital Assistance Grant Program to fund the purchase of six electric buses and related infrastructure. Additionally, the city was awarded \$3,183,723 from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Low or No Emission Vehicle Program ("Low-No Program") to buy three additional electric buses, bringing the total to nine. Racine was the only city in the state to receive this allocation, and 1 of only 41 other transit jurisdictions nationwide to receive this funding.

---

## **Watch Now: Youthful Offender Facility honors Sister Lois Aceto's 91st birthday**

By Alex Rodriguez, Racine Journal Times, April 21, 2022



RACINE — How do you celebrate 91 years of life and adventure?

The Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility answered that question Wednesday for a longtime volunteer and teacher.

Staff members and residents of RYOFC threw a surprise birthday party on Wednesday for Sister Lois Aceto, a 91-year-old volunteer who has been with the facility since its opening in 1998.

Sister Aceto has lived a life full of accomplishments. From receiving a bachelor's degree from the now-defunct Dominican College in Racine in 1962, to spending 17 years doing missionary work in Bolivia, which included opening a new boy's home in the city of Tarija.

She has been in the sisterhood of the Dominican Ministries for more than 65 years, and a member of the Racine ministry for more than 29 years. Sister Aceto, who said her actual birthday is April 21, teaches conflict-resolution and restorative justice classes at RYOFC on Wednesday mornings.

She's also the author of the book "Journeying toward Justice," in which she reflects on her decades of teaching and ministry work. To read more about Sr. Lois and her work and watch a short video, click on this link: [Watch Now: Youthful Offender Facility honors Sister Lois Aceto's 91st birthday | Local News | journaltimes.com](https://www.journaltimes.com/story/news/local/2022/04/21/youthful-offender-facility-honors-sister-lois-aceto-91st-birthday/7044447002/)

### **Hope-Filled Organizations:**

**Wherever there's a fight so hungry people may eat, we will be there – we must be there.**



[World Central Kitchen \(wck.org\)](https://www.wck.org/)

WCK is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. We build resilient food systems with locally led solutions.

World Central Kitchen started with a simple idea at home with my wife Patricia: when people are hungry, send in cooks. Not tomorrow, today.

Everyone knows that food is central to life and family all over the world. What we learned very quickly was that food is even more essential in a crisis.

It all began in 2010 after a huge earthquake devastated Haiti. Cooking alongside displaced Haitians in a camp, I found myself getting schooled in how to cook black beans the way they wanted: mashed and sieved into a creamy sauce.

You see, food relief is not just a meal that keeps hunger away. It's a plate of hope. It tells you in your darkest hour that someone, somewhere, cares about you.

This is the real meaning of comfort food. It's why we make the effort to cook in a crisis.



We don't just deliver raw ingredients and expect people to fend for themselves. And we don't just dump free food into a disaster zone: we source and hire locally wherever we can, to jump-start economic recovery through food.

After a disaster, food is the fastest way to rebuild our sense of community. We can put people back to work preparing it, and we can put lives back together by fighting hunger.

**Cooking and eating together is what makes us human.**

To read more about World Central Kitchen, click on this link: [World Central Kitchen | Story \(wck.org\)](https://www.wck.org) To watch a 2 minute video about WCK, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WDab4g3uqo>



[Home Page - NNEDV](#)



**Our Mission:** The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a social change organization, is dedicated to creating a social, political, and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists.

**Our Vision: *Making domestic violence a national priority.*** NNEDV is the leading voice for domestic violence victims and their advocates. As a membership and advocacy organization of state domestic violence coalitions, allied organizations and supportive individuals, NNEDV works closely with its members to understand the ongoing and emerging needs of domestic violence victims and advocacy programs. Then NNEDV makes sure those needs are heard and understood by policymakers at the national level.

***Changing the way society responds to domestic violence:*** NNEDV offers a range of programs and initiatives to address the complex causes and far-reaching consequences of domestic violence. Through cross-sector collaborations and corporate partnerships, NNEDV offers support to victims of domestic violence who are escaping abusive relationships – and empowers survivors to build new lives.

***Strengthening domestic violence advocacy at every level:*** NNEDV further supports the fight to end domestic violence by providing state coalitions with critical information and resources. From training and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategic funding, NNEDV brings much-needed resources to local communities. At NNEDV's national and regional meetings, members share information and ideas with NNEDV staff and with each other, working together to develop comprehensive solutions.



**About Us:** The Mesothelioma Center at Asbestos.com is the nation's most trusted mesothelioma resource. Our core purpose is advocacy, awareness and connecting people to the best mesothelioma resources. For more than 15 years, we have built a community of top doctors, hospitals, experts and survivors to help guide patients and their families.

**Community:** We foster a community of support for mesothelioma patients and family members in our monthly online support group and Facebook page. We create opportunities for people to share personal stories, ask experts questions and develop connections with others. If you are a survivor, current or former caregiver, or lost a loved one to mesothelioma, then our groups are for you.

**Support Groups:** Our [Mesothelioma Facebook Support Group](#) is a safe place to connect with other patients, survivors and caregivers coping with the disease. A licensed mental health counselor leads our [monthly support group](#) to provide patients and caregivers a place to share their stories and connect with others who share this rare diagnosis.

---

**The Arts and Some Humor:** I turned 80 years old in April 2022. One of my sisters sent me the poem below.

### I Love to Live

Today , dear Lord, I'm 80, and there's so much I haven't done.  
I hope dear Lord, you let me live until I am 81.  
But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do,  
Would you please let me stay, until I am 82.

So many places I want to go, so very much to see.  
Do You think that you could manage to make it 83?  
The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store.  
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.

And if by then I were still alive, I'd like to stay till 85!  
More plans will be up in the air, so I'd like to stick.  
And see what happens to the world when I turn 86.  
I know dear Lord, it's much to ask.  
(and it must be nice in heaven)

But I would really like to stay, until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes will be late.  
But it would be so pleasant, to be around at 88.  
I will have seen so many things and had a wonderful time.  
So I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at the age of 89.....maybe.

And one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord, I thank you kindly.  
But if its okay with You, I'd love to live past 90.

(Author Unknown)

## Hope-Filled Organizations:



The Collaborative For Spirituality In Education Is Housed At Teachers College, Columbia University in New York.  
It Was Launched In Collaboration With Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors And The Fetzer Institute.

### An Urgent Priority

There is a growing national understanding that success and well-being require a “whole child” approach to education. Social emotional learning, mindfulness, character education, values education, restorative practices, and other related programs seek to address the needs of children in a more holistic way.

Still, national data on youth reveal increasing rates of personal suffering and pathology. Collective understanding of citizenship wanes as does care of the environment. Within the leading whole child movements, in recent years, a question intensifies: How do we strengthen the deep inner core of the child? How do we help children access this inner core to support their sense of meaning and purpose, responsibility for others, and concern for the natural world?



To read more about this organization, click on this link: <https://spiritualityineducation.org/>

## Quotes:

*“Hope is that virtue by which we take responsibility for the future.”*

Jane Goodall

Virtue is a word we don't hear often in today's society, but the Latin root word **virtus** means strength.  
Virtuous women and men possess a quiet dignity and inner strength.

## 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**