

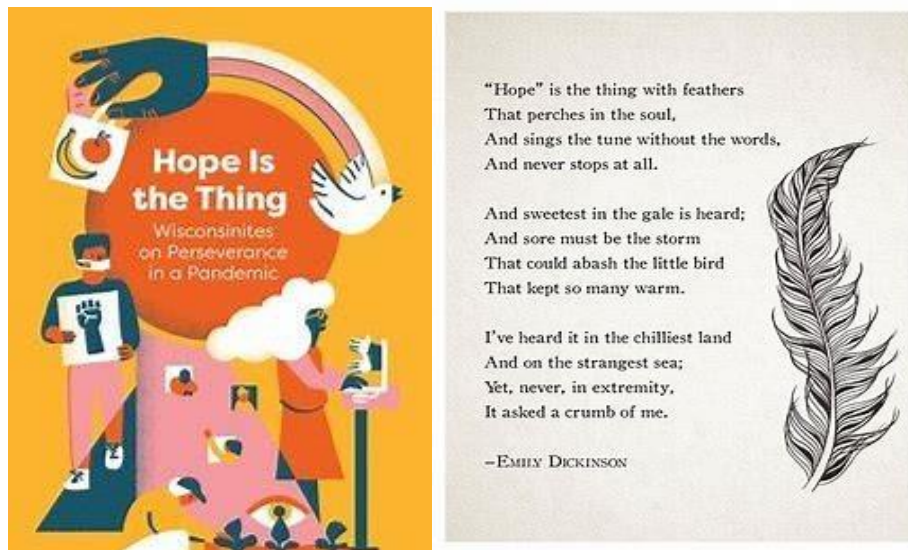


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October 2021 Newsletter

The Arts:

“Hope is the Thing” is a poem written by Emily Dickinson. Hope is the Thing: Wisconsinites on Perseverance in a Pandemic is a book edited by B.J. Hollars and published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. The book is a collection of 100 short essays and poems by Wisconsinites about their thoughts during the 2020-21 pandemic, each of which explores how and why they experience Hope in their lives even in difficult times.



Stories of Hope:

‘We’re all together, one big family, right?’

'Any way we can help':

Racine County hosts donation drive for Afghan refugees in Wisconsin

Diana Panuncial, Racine Journal Times, September 20, 2021



Volunteers of Racine County's donation drive for Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy sort through food donations on Saturday. The drive saw the county's Veterans Service team up with Team Rubicon and the Journey Disaster Response Team for the drive.

RACINE — It was Phil Hartnell's first time volunteering on Saturday, and the cause he chose was the Racine County Veterans Service's donation drive for Afghan refugees in Wisconsin on Saturday.

"We're all together, one big family, right? So, I think we want to help those that need the help," said Hartnell, a member of the Journey Disaster Response Team from Pleasant Prairie. "It's just a great feeling to help people."

Hartnell was one of a few dozen volunteers at the drive, which was a partnership between RCVS, JDRT and Team Rubicon, a Marine-founded humanitarian organization. Amazon in Kenosha also donated a truck to help bring the donations to Fort McCoy. The drive called for donations of clothing, food, baby items and other necessities to bring to the refugees, who are currently at Fort McCoy following the overthrow of their country's government.

As of Sept. 3, almost 9,000 refugees are at Fort McCoy; the base has a capacity of to host 13,000 people. Zdroik said he estimates refugees will stay at Fort McCoy — and other bases across the country — for three months at minimum. To read more, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/local/any-way-we-can-help-racine-county-hosts-donation-drive-for-afghan-refugees-in-wisconsin/article_b631ea4d-31af-580b-84db-7be8bb2ea293.html

Watch now: Madison women donating 'mountain' of fabric for Afghan refugees to sew own clothes

EMILY HAMER Sep 9, 2021



Connie McElrone, left, and Cynthia Hirsch organize fabric donations destined for refugees from Afghanistan while preparing the items for delivery at Hirsch's Near West Side home Wednesday.

Connie McElrone and Cynthia Hirsch carried dozens of colorful fabric bolts from a pile on Hirsch's front porch out to a small silver SUV Wednesday afternoon on Madison's Near West Side. "Oh, I hope two cars will do it," McElrone said to another neighbor.

The women, along with a network of people from the local sewing community and beyond, raised \$8,000 in less than a week and amassed a "mountain" of fabric to donate to Afghan refugees staying at Fort McCoy in western Wisconsin, McElrone said.

McElrone got the idea while having dinner with a friend, Sue Savage, who has been volunteering at Fort McCoy. The two worried about the "culture shock" the Afghans would experience when coming to the U.S. after fleeing from Afghanistan as their country fell to the Taliban, McElrone said.

Although Fort McCoy has received piles of new and lightly used clothes from the community, McElrone noted that those donations "would not be traditional clothing."

"Right off the bat we had a sense that fabric to sew tunics would be welcomed," McElrone said. Hirsch said they wanted to give the Afghan women at Fort McCoy the "comfort of being able to make what they need and what they want in their own fashion," rather than forcing them to wear Western clothes.

To read the entire article and watch a two minute video at this link: [Watch now: Madison women donating 'mountain' of fabric for Afghan refugees to sew own clothes | State & Regional | wisnews.com](#) When you get to the website, scroll down to the second video on the page.

Racine pastor keeps 20-year promise on 9/11

Dee Holzel Racine Journal Times, September 11, 2021



Bill Thompkins made a promise that he would never forget the events of Sept. 11, 2001. When it looked like Racine would not have a major 20-year-anniversary memorial, he planned one himself and invited folks to join him on the grounds of Nehemiah Gardens, 4414 Northwestern Ave. (Highway 38).

RACINE — Following the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Pastor Bill Thompkins made three promises: he would remember, he would pray, and he would speak hope to the nation.

“For those 20 years, I’ve always remembered this particular day,” he said.

However, as the 20th anniversary approached, there did not seem to be many in Racine planning to mark the occasion.

True to his word, Thompkins planned a memorial event in the Nehemiah Gardens, 4414 Northwestern Ave., which began in the inner city of Racine in 2004 and now grows plants that are distributed to families throughout the area.

At the garden’s new home along Highway 38, there is a permanent display dedicated to 9/11, first responders and the “Day of Gray” — so called because the people covered in ash and soot from the collapse of the World Trade Center’s twin towers became one color. To read more click on this link:

https://journaltimes.com/news/local/racine-pastor-keeps-20-year-promise-on-9-11/article_c1ea8a50-2158-59bf-89fd-33986ca61723.html

Hope-Filled Organizations:

FIRST CHOICE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP



WHAT IS FIRST CHOICE? We connect people to the construction industry. The Racine Family YMCA’s First Choice is an equal-opportunity partnership between participants, the Y and area employers to prepare individuals from diverse backgrounds for family-sustaining jobs in the construction industry. Many of our clients have experienced career or life challenges. We help overcome barriers by providing individual mentoring, group training and instruction that leads to career and life success.

OUR PARTNERS: Working in construction requires technical knowledge, problem-solving skills, motivation, teamwork and leadership abilities and our construction industry partners know that First Choice graduates are ready to excel.

First Choice focuses on the “whole” individual. Hands-on work experiences through partnerships with Habitat for Humanity Racine, the City of Racine, construction firms in southeastern Wisconsin and the State of Wisconsin are supported by technical instruction in blueprint reading, safety and OSHA-10 and 30 regulations, and “soft” skills-building including literacy, budgeting, decision-making, and project management. To read more, click on this link: [First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship | Racine Family YMCA \(ymcaracine.org\)](https://ymcaracine.org)



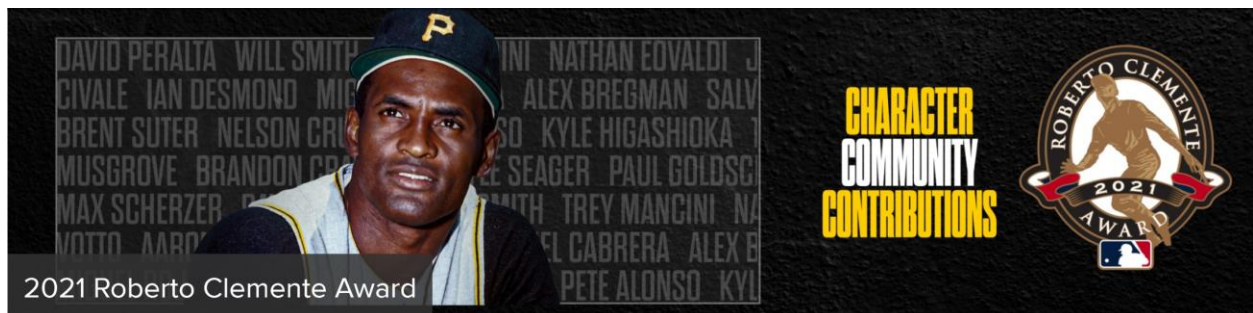
Vision - “Calling Our Citizens To Serve” Our vision for the future is a community in which every citizen understands the importance of volunteerism, values the concept, and consciously volunteers in some capacity in order to contribute to the wellbeing (common good) of the community.

Mission Statement - The Volunteer Center of Racine, Inc. is a non-profit organization that serves as a leader, catalyst, connector, and advocate for effective volunteerism in Racine County. The Volunteer Center:

- Is a leader in our community that mobilizes people of all ages and backgrounds to volunteer by investing their resources of time and talent to make a difference in their own lives as well as the lives of those that are served.
- Is a catalyst for responding to community needs by creating, developing, implementing and supporting volunteer opportunities.
- Is a connector of people and resources with the needs and services in our community.
- Is an advocate for promoting the value of volunteerism.

To read more, click on this link: [Volunteer Center of Racine](https://www.volunteercenterofracine.org)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL – ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD



The Roberto Clemente Award is given annually to the Major League Baseball (MLB) player who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team", as voted on by baseball fans and members of the media. It is named for Hall of Fame outfielder Roberto Clemente. Originally known as the Commissioner's Award, it has been presented by the MLB since 1971. In 1973, the award was renamed after Clemente following his death in a plane crash on December 31, 1972, while he was delivering supplies to victims of the Nicaragua earthquake which occurred on December 23, 1972.

Every year, each MLB Club nominates a player to be considered for the Award in tribute to Clemente's achievements and character. This year's list of nominees features players whose various community and philanthropic activities have focused on important issues ranging from awareness & fundraising to support those with cancer and other illnesses or special needs, education for young people, natural disaster relief, outreach to underserved children & communities in the United States and abroad, and more. To read more, click on this link: [Roberto Clemente Award | MLB.com](https://www.mlb.com/roberto-clemente-award)



[Little Friends For Peace - Home \(lffp.org\)](http://lffp.org)

Our Mission: To counter violence and contribute to a worldwide culture of peace by sharing skills to **prevent, resolve, and transform conflict** with individuals, families, teams, and communities.

Our Vision: LFFP's vision is the Beloved Community, a world where relationships are based on respect and acceptance, conflicts end in reconciliation, and everyone is safe, cared for, and able to realize their unique potential.

From playground put-downs and family fights to street crime and global conflict, violence builds from the ground up. We work to interrupt our current culture of violence through *peace-building*. By teaching peace at an early age and practicing peace at every age, we can together answer the violence with skills for peace.

Our Method: We spread our vision through Peace Camps, after-school, in-school, and adult peace programs. In all of these programs we use the **peace circle process** to teach our peace curriculum. LFFP is a **trauma-aware** organization that offers **social-emotional skills** toward healing. Our programs share our peace toolbox, which empowers individuals to deepen compassion, empathy and love and imparts skills for living peacefully and spreading peace in communities. For more information about our programs, visit the programs tab. To view a 3 minute video, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/ve8ROv6FaMo>

The Future:

SURVEY PRIORITY #7: BIG DATA

- **Corporate Knowledge About All Of Us**
- **Untruthful Information**
- **Possible Counter Measures**

Big Data is the seventh highest priority. Survey respondents saw this as an important issue, particularly as it causes diminishment of sharing the truth about what is real and what is not real. But similar to the to the Environment and Democracy 2.0, the first four priorities (Family Wellbeing; Racism, Sexism, & Rights; The Economy; and Health Care) affect people's lives every day. Survey respondents say they need to be addressed first before combatting the challenges and negative impacts of Big Data.

With that being said, Big Data, is a real threat to our personal freedom and our privacy. And it is a threat to our Democracy as well.

I have divided this topic into two parts. In Part One, I will speak to the first two areas listed above, and Part One is included in the October 2021 Newsletter. Part Two, which will speak to possible counter measures, will be addressed in the November 2021 Newsletter. To read Part One, click on this link <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/future>

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.

Thank You