



www.hopefromthebottomup.com

Hope Newsletter April 2026

Hope-Filled Organization:



A healthy meal isn't just nourishment. It's stability and hope for families facing hunger.
Together, We Can End Hunger

Hunger in America is a crisis.

48 million people face hunger in the U.S.—including 14 million children.
Hunger touches every U.S. community, including yours.

Together, we can meet this moment.

Click on this link to learn more about this program: [U.S. Hunger Relief Organization | Feeding America](#)



Click on this link to learn about one of the Feed America programs: [Summer meals for kids | Feeding America](#)

Story of Hope:

Park High School senior assisting young students at Bull Early Education Center

From the Bright Side Stories series by [Ryan Patterson](#) Mar 20, 2026

RACINE — Jimmy Boatner jumped for joy when he received the call.

He had just been told he would soon start his role as a youth apprentice at the Bull Early Education Center. Since September, Boatner, a Park High School senior, has helped teach 4-year-olds at the BEE Center, 815 DeKoven Ave.

Boatner loves working with kids and said the best part is interacting with students, who call him “Mr. Jimmy.”

He assists teacher Kelly Newby from noon to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Boatner “is a valued and reliable member of our team,” Newby wrote in an email. “We always look forward to having him with us. ... His willingness to support the hard work required in this setting is greatly appreciated.”

According to Newby, Boatner is positive and supportive when working with students. “He clearly enjoys his work and strives to serve as a positive influence and role model for young children,” Newby wrote.

Boatner is one of 230 students in the Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce youth apprenticeship program in 2025-26. The program is facilitated by RAMAC in collaboration with Racine Unified School District. It started in the early 1990s and is for juniors and seniors in eastern Racine County. It is funded by a grant from the state Department of Workforce Development. The goal is to provide direct, paid learning experiences for students in a line of work they are interested in for a career.

Boatner said patience is a crucial part of the apprenticeship. It can be challenging when children do not listen, but he likes working with the energetic, humorous students. “Some kids have really funny names for things, and the laugh I get out of it is very therapeutic,” Boatner said.

He is interested in a career in child social work or child psychology and said being a teacher’s assistant could provide good experience for his future work. “I just want to be able to help children in some type of way,” Boatner said. Whatever he pursues, Newby believes Boatner will have success.



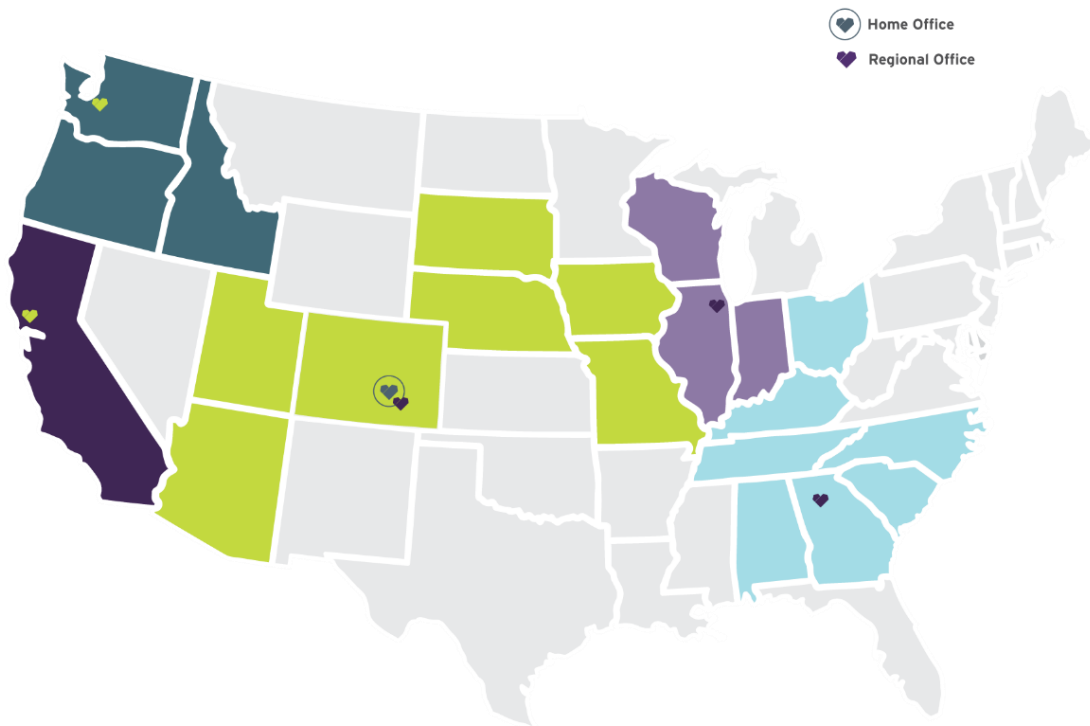
[Park High School senior helping young students at BEE Center](#)

Hope-Filled Organization:



Transforming Lives Through Affordable Housing

2024 by the Numbers



346 properties across 21 states. Mercy Housing is headquartered in Denver, with five regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, and San Francisco.

25,700 apartment homes. Of the households we serve, almost half are families, more than a third are seniors, and about 15% are people with special needs, including veterans and people who have been homeless.

\$34,055,257 in donations from generous supporters that will help fund programs, services, and initiatives

The Mercy Housing Story

Our story begins in the early 1980s, when founder Sister Timothy Marie O’Roark, a Sister of Mercy of Omaha, served as a legal aid attorney in Omaha, Nebraska, working with families facing eviction from their homes. She witnessed the horrible conditions in which they lived and saw that many had little to no help accessing affordable housing. She vowed, **“We can do better.”**



Sister Mary Terese Tracy, RSM, serves as the organization’s first president and CEO

Determined to help these families, O’Roark appealed to the Sisters of Mercy in Omaha to adopt affordable housing as a sponsored ministry. Having seen how stable housing positively influenced health and education, O’Roark hoped that the Sisters would expand their community endeavors to include housing.

The Sisters accepted O’Roark’s proposal and wrote the check that started it all. With an initial investment of \$500,000, the Sisters made it clear that their goal with this ministry is to provide opportunities for residents to stabilize their lives and achieve their dreams. They envisioned affordable housing coupled with supportive services as a means to achieve this goal. Sister Mary Terese Tracy, at the time a hospital administrator, was drafted to lead this new initiative, and on Christmas Eve, 1981, Mercy Housing, Inc. was incorporated as a Nebraska nonprofit corporation.

To learn more about the History of Mercy Housing, click on this link. [The History of Mercy Housing](#)

To learn more about the work Mercy Housing is doing now and moving into the future, click on this link: [Home | Mercy Housing](#)

And it’s Easter: what better time to hear Beethoven’s Alleluia chorus.

Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohagajJvzhU>

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:



If you find this Newsletter to be a positive contribution to promoting 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