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May 2023 Hope Newsletter

Hope-Filled Organization:



Mission: Youth Crossroads supports youth, guiding them through life's challenges, and inspiring them to discover new opportunities for personal development, healthy relationships, and positive community involvement.

Vision: Youth Crossroads seeks to provide youth with a comprehensive system of support, positive structures, and role models to help them navigate the personal and academic challenges they face in their daily lives, including counseling services, mentorship, tutoring, after-school enrichment programs, youth leadership training, college and job readiness, and community service. To read and learn more about Youth Crossroads, click on this link: <https://youthcrossroads.org/> And to see a 2 minute video about Youth Crossroads, click on this link: [Youth Crossroads - YouTube](#)

Story of Hope:

Easter backpack project unites helpers across generations to 'bring joy' to homeless kids

By [Jeff Vorva](#), Daily Southtown, Apr 04, 2023



Queen of Martyrs seventh grader Mia McGreal holds up a backpack she and her classmates helped fill Thursday at Mercy Circle in Chicago. The backpacks were set to be distributed to children staying in a homeless shelter. (Jeff Vorva / Daily Southtown)

Easter has always been a pleasant holiday for seventh grader Mia McGreal.

“My Easters have been nice,” she said. “I’ve been appreciative of everything I have gotten.”

But McGreal, a student at Queen of Martyrs in Evergreen Park, doesn’t have to travel far to hear stories of those less fortunate.

Her mother, Margaret, for example, went through a tough childhood but later rose through the ranks to lieutenant colonel with the Illinois State Police.

“They couldn’t afford much and when they went to the grocery store, they couldn’t afford a box of cereal,” Mia said. “My mom had to get a job when she was 7. She would go on her bike and deliver newspapers.

“She really knows what’s going on.”

What was going on for McGreal on Thursday morning was a gathering at Mercy Circle in Chicago to help those who are down on their luck.

That’s where Mercy Circle residents — many who are retired nuns — tag teamed with Queen of Martyrs seventh graders, including McGreal, to put together backpack care packages for homeless children and teenagers. To read more, click on this link: [Easter backpack project unites helpers across generations to ‘bring joy’ to homeless kids – Chicago Tribune](#)

Story of Hope (continued from last year)

Last year in the June 2022 Hope Newsletter (<https://hopefromthebottomup.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/NewsletterJune2022.pdf>) we ran a story about Christiana and Nic Trapani, owners of Door County Candle Company, holding a check for over 1/2 million dollars that represented the amount of money they had raised in a little over two months to help the people of Ukraine. Here is the story update.

Wisconsin candle company hits \$1 million in donations to Ukraine

Wisconsin State Journal, Barry Adams, Apr 20, 2023

"That one candle, plus another one candle, plus another one candle is what got us to our goal, and it just shows that one person should never think they can't make a difference." Christiana Trapani



Door County Candle Company has sold more than 100,000 candles and has donated more than \$1 million over the past 14 months to benefit Ukraine.

Christiana Trapani knew within a week or so how popular the sale was of her candles to benefit the people of Ukraine.

But on Wednesday, she received further confirmation.

Her Door County Candle Company has surpassed \$1 million in donations with the sale of more than 100,000 blue and yellow candles in 16 ounce jars since the start of the war in February 2022.

Trapani initially thought it would be a weekend project and a few weeks later thought maybe 5,000 candles would be a modest goal. Now she says the candle will be a mainstay and even after the war's conclusion, will continue to be sold to help the country rebuild.

"It's such a huge milestone and we're obviously really proud of that," Trapani said Monday by phone. "I never, ever, in my wildest dreams ever thought this would happen."

Trapani, whose maiden name is Gorchynski and who has family and friends in Ukraine, will be in Madison on Tuesday when she meets with the legislators and speaks at the State Capitol. To read more, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/state-and-regional/wisconsin-candle-company-hits-1-million-in-donations-to-ukraine/article_d0f079e4-8612-5636-ae28-e4eff16b0928.html

To view a 4 ½ minute video about this story, click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYaSGWH7_Z0

Hope-Filled Organization:



We Are...a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of common people—urban and rural, spiritual and secular—seeking equal protection for all, united against hate, bigotry and racism.

What We Do...outreach and intervention in communities to promote understanding, healing, reconciliation and redemption. Instead of simply condemning the latest eruptions of hate-inspired violence, we dig down to the root causes of division, fear and hate. And we advocate policies creating greater economic security, promoting religious tolerance, celebrating differences and honoring America's heritage of openness to foreigners. To learn more about this organization, click on this link: <https://www.united-against-hate.org/>



To learn about the founder of this organization, Masood Akhtar, click on this link: <https://www.united-against-hate.org/management/>

Story of Hope:

Parkside professor receives teaching excellence award

By Ryan Patterson, Racine Journal Times. April 22, 2023



Jonathan Shailor leads a discussion in 2018 about the Shakespeare Prison Project he directs at the Racine Correctional Institution in Sturtevant. Photo by Bill Siel, Lee Newspapers

SOMERS — Jonathan Shailor thought of his parents when he heard the news.

Last month, Shailor received a teaching award and felt grateful to his mother and father. They are both deceased, but Shailor envisioned how wonderful it would be to inform his parents of the recognition.

Growing up in Massachusetts, Shailor said his mother was an artist and performer, and his father was service-oriented and involved in community organizations.

As a communication professor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for the past 28 years, Shailor's work has combined creativity and service.

Shailor was one of three recipients of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents 31st annual Teaching Excellence Awards, which are the UW System's highest recognition for faculty members.

"These UW educators and programs are inspiring students to develop invaluable life skills," Regent Cris Peterson, chair of the selection committee, said in a news release. "With this award, we recognize the innovative, collaborative approaches to teaching that are equipping students to reach their full potential."

Each recipient is awarded \$7,500 to spend on work-related items.

Shailor plans to purchase books and is considering hiring a film crew to make a documentary about the [Shakespeare Prison Project](#) that he leads.

Shailor started the Shakespeare Prison Project in 2004 as a way to bring artistic instruction and performance to people incarcerated at the Racine Correctional Institution, an all-male medium-security prison in Sturtevant. To read more, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/parkside-professor-receives-teaching-excellence-award/article_303636dc-da44-11ed-ac24-f76d6048f657.html?utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&lctg=1387062&tn_email_eh1=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8

The Arts:

One of our website readers suggested adding "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin to The Arts section of the Hope From Bottom Up website. This is the 99th Anniversary of the creation of this beautiful piece of music. Gershwin modeled it after the subway sounds he heard as a kid in NY. Click on this link to hear some subway sounds in a New York subway. <https://pixabay.com/videos/subway-brooklyn-new-york-city-4541/>

Here are two versions of Rhapsody in Blue.

[Rhapsody in Blue Debut | Rhapsody In Blue | Warner Archive - YouTube](#) 6 minute version with Robert Alda playing the role of George Gershwin from the film "Rhapsody in Blue"

[George Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue, New York 1924 Version - Jerzy Maksymiuk and Daniel Vnukowski - YouTube](#)
Full Rhapsody in Blue 19 minutes

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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