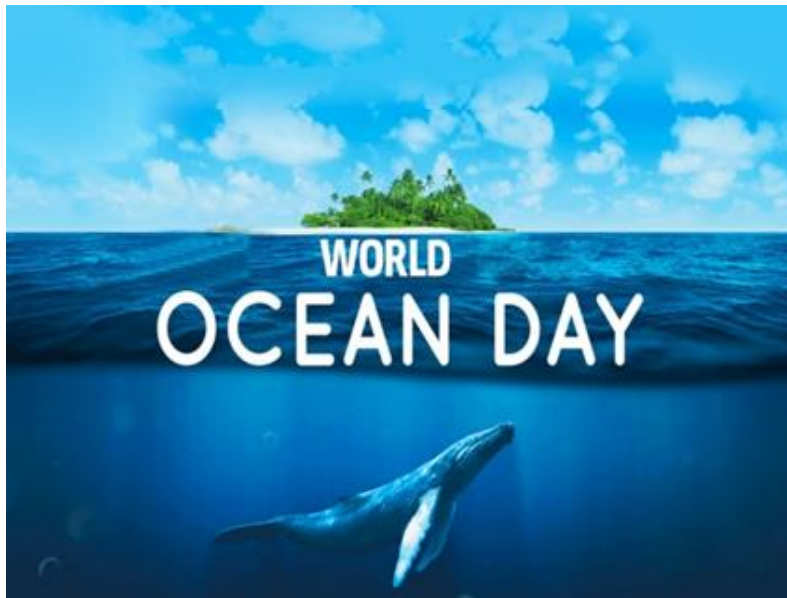




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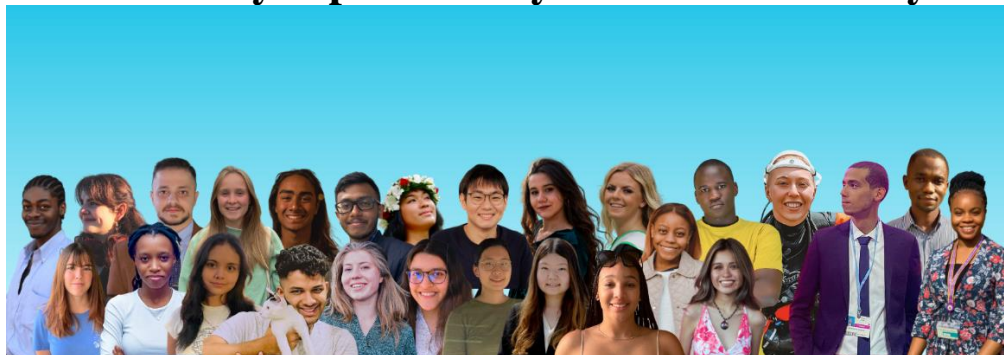
August 2023 Hope Newsletter

Hope-Filled Organization:



World Ocean Day rallies the world for ocean and climate action on 8 June and throughout the year. We work in partnership with youth leaders, zoos, aquariums, museums, and other youth-focused organizations, as well as a huge range of diverse organizations and businesses from all sectors in a growing global network. Together, we effectively engage the public, inform policymakers, and unite the world to protect and restore our shared ocean and create a stable climate. Join the growing global movement in June and continue to grow the engagement and action year-round. To learn more about this organization, click on this link: <https://worldoceanday.org/>

World Ocean Day is powered by its Youth Advisory Council



The World Ocean Day Youth Advisory Council helps develop World Ocean Day as a unique opportunity to raise the profile of our shared ocean, connect and unite youth and others around our blue planet, and focus collective action on creating a healthy ocean and a stable climate in June and throughout the year. To learn more about the Youth Advisory Council, click this link: <https://worldoceanday.org/youth/youth-advisory-council/>

Story of Hope

'They come to this country with a dream': Woman teaches English to migrants on a South Loop basketball court

By Laura Rodríguez Presa, Chicago Tribune, Jul 17, 2023



Samantha Oulavong, right, teaches basic English to Karla Urbino, 45, from Nicaragua, and Brayan Lozano, 28 from Colombia, at Margaret Hie Ding Lin Park across from the 1st District police station on June 29, 2023, in Chicago. (Antonio Perez/Chicago Tribune)

There hasn't been a single day since May that Samantha Oulavong is not thinking of the migrants who stay at the police station in her neighborhood in the South Loop. The children, she said, remind her of her younger self, when her parents made their way from Laos seeking asylum in the Chicago area when she was 5 years old.

Of course, in more than one way, their story is not the same, she said, "but our heart is."

"They come to this country with a dream," she said.

Oulavong has been visiting the 1st District police station almost every day since May, when the first families began to seek refuge at the station near her home. She drops off food and clothes and, most recently, has begun to teach basic English to the migrants and their children regardless of a language barrier — she doesn't really speak Spanish — in the bleachers of a basketball court across from the South Loop station.

"Most want to know how they can ask for a job," she said. "'Busco trabajo,' I tell them to say, meaning, 'I'm looking for a job.'"

Oulavong is just one of the many [Chicagoans who have stepped up to provide more than just food and donations](#) for the thousands of asylum-seekers who have arrived to the city since August of last year, filling a void as state and city officials grapple to create more temporary housing for the migrants.

The volunteers have celebrated birthdays with migrants, taken them to baseball games, given them haircuts, provided professional therapy — and now are teaching them English. To read more, click on this link: [Woman teaches English to migrants on a Chicago basketball court \(chicagotribune.com\)](https://www.chicagotribune.com)

Story of Hope

Hiring workers from the South and West sides is a win-win for Chicago

By Bob Karr, Chicago Tribune, Published: Jul 23, 2023

Bob Karr is the senior vice president of administration and chief legal officer at Blommer Chocolate Co.

Can a job stop a bullet? For a city struggling with gun violence, it's an important question.

There is no doubt much of our crime has its roots in economic distress. People without opportunity in the legal economy will resort to the illegal economy if only to eat, pay rent and feed their families.

For several years, Blommer Chocolate has been hiring from communities on the South and West sides of Chicago where gun violence is an everyday occurrence. Some of our employees have come to us through the violence prevention program Chicago CRED.

We first learned about Chicago CRED at an event in the Englewood neighborhood where Arne Duncan, CRED's founder and a former U.S. secretary of education, was speaking. Duncan talked about growing up on the South Side and losing friends to gun violence in his teenage years. He talked about the pain of returning to Chicago after serving in Washington only to experience heartbreak at the level of gun violence. And he vowed to do something about it.

CRED works with young people at the highest risk of being gun violence victims or offenders. They get a lot of help from CRED, but the one thing CRED can't provide is a job.

That's where we come in.

Over the years, we've hired more than a dozen Chicago CRED graduates. We are one of more than 40 companies in 17 industries that have hired CRED grads, and we will keep hiring them because they are hardworking, talented and hungry to succeed. They are desperate to do something with their lives.

Blommer's original and oldest operating factory is in downtown Chicago. Since it is not as fully automated or modernized as our other factories around the world, we can recruit and develop many of the young men coming out of Chicago CRED. On average, they earn \$20 to \$24 per hour, not including overtime.

One of them is Brendan Taylor, who is among the first graduates of Chicago CRED. Brendan began working in the mailroom at Deloitte in 2018. He was a model employee and was training to become a paralegal when he was shot and wounded in a drive-by incident near his South Side home.



Brendan Taylor, among the first graduates of Chicago CRED, at his job at the Blommer Chocolate factory on July 20, 2023. (E. Jason Wambsgans/Chicago Tribune)

Brendan's co-workers supported him through his recovery, visited him in the hospital and extended the kind of love and support any one of us would need in a similar crisis. We got to know Brendan and offered him a job. Today, he's an environmental health specialist earning a respectable salary, plus health and retirement benefits.

Some employers may justifiably ask why they would take on the challenge of hiring young people with limited work experience and troubled backgrounds. My answer is this:

This is our community. This is our city. Pretending that young men like Brendan don't exist will not make them go away. Just because most of the gun violence happens away from our homes or businesses does not mean we don't have a responsibility to help address it. We can all be part of the solution. To read the entire article, click on this link: [Op-ed: Hiring workers from the South and West Sides is a win-win for Chicago \(chicagotribune.com\)](https://chicagotribune.com)

Hope-Filled Organization



Long-term, one-on-one tutoring. Entirely free of charge.

That's Tutoring Chicago. For nearly 60 years we've been connecting economically challenged students with volunteer tutors who care.

Our difference is our approach, which pairs individual 1st through 10th grade students with a single adult volunteer for the duration of the school year. Students receive all the benefits of regular, weekly instruction combined with the advantages of a steady, supportive relationship.

Because as any experienced teacher will tell you, information is only one part of the learning experience. Just as important is a human connection. Trust, confidence, being understood. It all makes a big difference in how much effort a student is willing to put into schoolwork.

It's this understanding that makes Tutoring Chicago unique. Strong connections make better students. It's that simple.



<https://www.tutoringchicago.org/>



A collective voice for the Illinois human services sector

We are leading efforts to fully fund human services to ensure that all Illinoisans reach their full potential and have access to a sector that is equitable, sustainable and speaks with a collective voice.

Our Mission: Protect and support our state's most important resource—the residents of Illinois—by creating a stronger and more stable human services sector.

Our Vision: Illinoisans have access to quality of life supported by a human services sector that is collaborative, efficient, effective and sustainable.

How do we achieve this?

- By leading statewide efforts to fully fund human services
- By increasing awareness of the value human services deliver to society: from early childhood/childcare and after school programs; care for older adults; homeless and housing support; and job training and workforce development
- Through the guidance of a diverse and insightful Board of Directors
- With the expertise and dedication of our team, coalition partners, business/civic leaders, and key stakeholders
- Through innovative research

To learn more about this partnership, click on this link: <https://illinoispartners.org/>

The Arts: Music: This music video has been in a Hope From the Bottom Up newsletter before. It always makes me smile. I thought you would enjoy it again 😊



Click on this link: <https://www.jiveaces.com/bring-me-sunshine>

Bring me sunshine in your smile
Bring me laughter all the while
In this world where we live there should be more happiness
So much joy you can give to each brand new bright tomorrow

Make me happy through the years
Never bring me any tears
Let your arms be as warm as the sun from up above
Bring me fun bring me sunshine, bring me love

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:



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