



www.hopefromthebottomup.com

December 2022 Hope Newsletter

Hopeful Quote and Story of Hope:

**“I’m not foolish or prideful to think that I can change the world,
but I refuse to accept that I can’t help.”**

Jamario Farr, Sr.

Some well said words that capture what all of us can do to bring Hope From the Bottom Up for us, our families, our community, and the world as a whole. I found these words in the news story below.

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS: How six Racine men became 'THE REAL' to local youth

By Ryan Patterson November 28, 2022, Racine Journal Times



From left: Racine Unified Connectors Johnny Ford, Troy Collier, Joshua Mosley, Jamario Farr, Sr, Ishmael Perez, and Galen Horton. The men are liaisons between students, teachers, administrators, families, law enforcement, and community members who want to help students grow. Photo by Ryan Patterson

RACINE — Six men gathered earlier this year to determine principles crucial to their work.

They chose trustworthy, honest, empathetic, respectful, equitable, attentive and loving. The first letters of those words spell out the acronym THE REAL. As Racine Unified community connectors, authenticity is a key part of the around-the-clock job.

The role of community connectors defies easy description, but the men broadly assist students with life inside and outside of school. They are liaisons between students, teachers, administrators, families, law enforcement and community members who focus on gang diversion and disciplinary intervention at the middle school and high school level.

“We’re the bridge of services,” said Troy Collier, Mitchell K-8 school community connector. To read more, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/how-six-racine-men-became-the-real-to-local-youth/article_1c850590-5633-11ed-99d0-6f4e0ba9558a.html?utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fdaily-headlines&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8

Story of Hope:

Wisconsin woman cooked more than 4,430 meals this year — and gave them all away

By GAYLE WORLAND Lee Newspapers, Nov 24, 2022

FITCHBURG — If you’ve been tussling with a turkey and side dishes to serve to a Thanksgiving crowd and are happy that you only do it once a year, just think about Michelle Ogilvie.

Ogilvie, as a volunteer, cooks about 150 hot, full, hearty meals every week, then gives them all away.

They go to feed people who are experiencing homelessness, often serving it as their best meal of the day. Ogilvie does the meal planning, recipe-hunting, grocery shopping and all the cooking and baking in her Fitchburg home kitchen. On her days “off,” she volunteers for Meals on Wheels, delivering food and some human contact to people who are homebound.



Chocolate and corn muffins and mini pecan and sweet potato pies cool on a rack in Michelle Ogilvie's Fitchburg kitchen. Ogilvie, who baked the Thanksgiving treats for the nonprofit Housing Initiatives, regularly prepares some 150 full meals each week for people experiencing homelessness. AMBER ARNOLD, Lee Newspapers
Beef stew, meatloaf, chuck-roast chili, chicken pot pie: When Michelle Ogilvie brings a load of hot comfort food to the daytime homeless shelter at a Downtown Madison church, the word gets out.

“People will run up to me on the street and say, ‘I heard you were here today!’” she said.

“She cooks high volume like she would cook for her family. “Everybody loves Michelle’s food,” said Karen Andro, case manager and continuum care specialist for Housing Initiatives and a longtime advocate for people experiencing homelessness. To read more, click on this link: [Wisconsin woman cooked more than 4,430 meals this year — and gave them all away \(journaltimes.com\)](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/how-six-racine-men-became-the-real-to-local-youth/article_1c850590-5633-11ed-99d0-6f4e0ba9558a.html?utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fdaily-headlines&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8)

Hope-Filled Organization:



Who we are

A national project working to ensure that children and teens in foster care get safe, loving, permanent families.



AdoptUSKids educates families about foster care and adoption and gives child welfare professionals information and support to help them improve their services. We also maintain the nation's only federally funded photolisting service that connects waiting children with families.

Our Mission:

- Raise public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families for children in the public child welfare system
- Assist US states, territories, and tribes to recruit, engage, develop and support foster and adoptive families

Serving families: We help families with the adoption process—every step of the way.

Helping professionals: We provide an array of resources to caseworkers and agency managers and administrators

To read more about this organization, click on this link: [AdoptUSKids](https://www.adoptuskids.org)

To view and listen to three, separate, one-minute stories about AdoptUSKids families and children, click on these

links: <https://youtu.be/F4nMIEt1ALg> <https://youtu.be/AaW-ybG6oX0> <https://youtu.be/iaVvCePdoVc>

Story of Hope:

**Walden students lead the way,
donate 600 boxes of food and raise more than \$10K ahead of Thanksgiving**

By Alex Rodriguez, Racine Journal Times, November 23, 2022

RACINE — Students at Walden III collected over 600 boxes of food, and more than \$10,000, for the [Racine County Food Bank](https://www.racinecountync.org/food-bank).



Left to right: Walden III Student Government President Maren DeSonia, Racine Food Bank Executive Director Dan Taivalkoski and Racine Mayor Cory Mason hold up a handmade check to represent Walden's donation of \$10,927 to the bank. On the stage behind them are the 600 boxes of food Walden students collected for the Racine County Food Bank.

The students were joined Tuesday at the gymnasium in Walden III, 2340 Mohr Ave., by Dan Taivalkoski, executive director of the Racine County Food Bank and Racine Mayor Cory Mason in a celebration of their efforts — and to find out how much the students collected for the bank, 2000 De Koven Ave.

“Every year it amazes me that you’re able to do this again and again,” Mason said, “and provide tons of meals, literally tons of meals, to the community. So, it really makes a huge difference that you all do this ... I can’t tell you how inspiring it is, to me as your mayor, to see all of you working on what inspires you to be grateful to give back to your community.”

Walden III’s food collection is an annual event, with students spending the month of November collecting food for the food bank. This is the first time Mason has joined them for the celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic started. To read more, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/local/walden-students-lead-the-way-donate-600-boxes-of-food-and-raise-more-than-10k/article_e5ae2cee-6a83-11ed-b67c-a744a01bf4d6.html?utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8

Hope-Filled Organization:



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

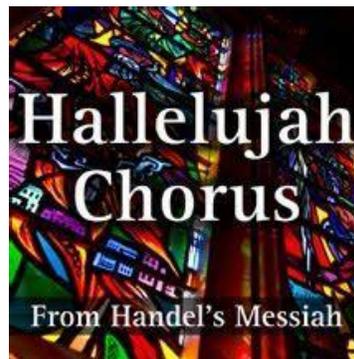
The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels. To learn more about the League of Women Voters, click on this link: [Home | League of Women Voters \(lwv.org\)](https://www.lwv.org)



Our members are passionate activists who support our work in all 50 states and in more than 700 communities.

Joining the League of Women Voters is a great way to get involved in your community and play an active role in our democracy. Click on this link if you are interested in joining a LWV member in a group near you [To become a League member, join one of the 700+ state and local Leagues.](#)

The Arts: Timeout for a beautiful and fun-filled seasonal favorite



Hallelujah Chorus Flash Mob in Philadelphia Mall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohagajJvzhU>

Story of Hope:

Her family survived the Holocaust. Now she's helping a Muslim refugee family start anew in Chicago, including hosting their first Thanksgiving.

By Angie Leventis Lourgos, Chicago Tribune Nov 23, 2022

The tables at the Littmann home in Evanston were set with turkey-themed place cards, handwritten with a mix of Jewish and Muslim names.

The final touches on the holiday feast were almost complete as the guests of honor arrived.

The Dil Mohamad family — Rohingya refugees who resettled in Chicago seven months ago — came to celebrate their first Thanksgiving dinner amid safety and freedom in the United States.



Nurzan Binti Zahid Hussin sits with her husband, Hussin Johar Bin Dil Mohamad, as he holds their 6-month-old son, Aiman, on Nov. 20, 2022, during a Thanksgiving celebration at the Littmann's Evanston home. (Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune)

The Rohingya people are a stateless, persecuted Muslim minority from Myanmar; more than a million Rohingya refugees have escaped violence in their home country since the 1990s, according to the [United Nations](#). The Dil Mohamads fled Myanmar years ago and had been living as refugees in Malaysia, until they started a new life here in April.

The Littmann family — descendants of Jewish refugees who survived the Holocaust — served as co-sponsors for the Dil Mohamads, forging a deep friendship between two households with disparate backgrounds but parallel stories of survival, immigration and resettlement.

The early holiday gathering held Sunday marked the first taste of turkey, sweet potatoes, stuffing and pumpkin pie for Nurzan Binti Zahid Hussin, 26, and her husband, Hussin Johar Bin Dil Mohamad, 42, who goes by the name Johar.

At one point, Johar looked up from his full plate and gave a thumbs-up sign, nodding his head in approval. Nurzan brought homemade dishes of curry shrimp and chicken in a masala sauce to share with her hosts.

“I am very happy to be here,” she said, through an interpreter.

Their 9-year-old son, Afnan, and 5-year-old twin boys, Aaryan and Aariz, made hand turkey drawings on construction paper before the meal.

“Gobble, gobble!” the boys chanted throughout the day.

In a highchair next to the dining room table sat the youngest son, baby Aiman, whose perilous birth six months prior had ignited a particularly profound connection between the mothers of both families.

Forty-seven-year-old Jessica Littmann was by Nurzan's side when she went into emergency labor due to preeclampsia, holding her hand and getting a first glimpse as the healthy boy — the first U.S. citizen in the Dil Mohamad family — emerged into the world. To read more, click on this link:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-refugee-first-thanksgiving-20221123-puoaohj4gbhwzh3rfy56yul5ie-story.html>

I wish that you and yours have a Holiday Season filled with Hope, Peace, and 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