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January 2023 Hope Newsletter

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**May it be full of fun, sunshine, and love!**

**To start off the new year with some singing and dancing, click on the link:**

[The Jive Aces present "Bring Me Sunshine" \(Morecambe & Wise theme\) - Bing video](#)

**Story of Hope:**

**This CNN Hero upcycles old computers to open new worlds for young Kenyans**

By Allie Torgan, CNN, Thu July 14, 2022



Growing up in poverty in rural Kenya, Nelly Cheboi watched her single mother, who had only completed fifth grade, work tirelessly so Cheboi and her three sisters could attend school.

From an early age, Cheboi realized that her family, along with others like hers in their village, was stuck in a cycle that left them little hope.

“She was working really hard, and I was still going to bed hungry. I was still sent home for tuition. I was still living in a house that was flooding,” said Cheboi, now 29. “Looking at the poverty in the household, looking at the community and suffering, it just became so clear that I needed to do something.”

Cheboi attended college on scholarship in the United States, worked odd jobs to support her family, and discovered her passion for computer science. She credits computer literacy for her ability to find job opportunities and make money doing what she loves. She knew she wanted to share it with her community back home.

Today, she’s giving 4,000 kids the chance for a brighter future through her nonprofit, TechLit Africa. The organization, whose name is short for Technologically Literate Africa, uses recycled computers to create technology labs in schools in rural Kenya.

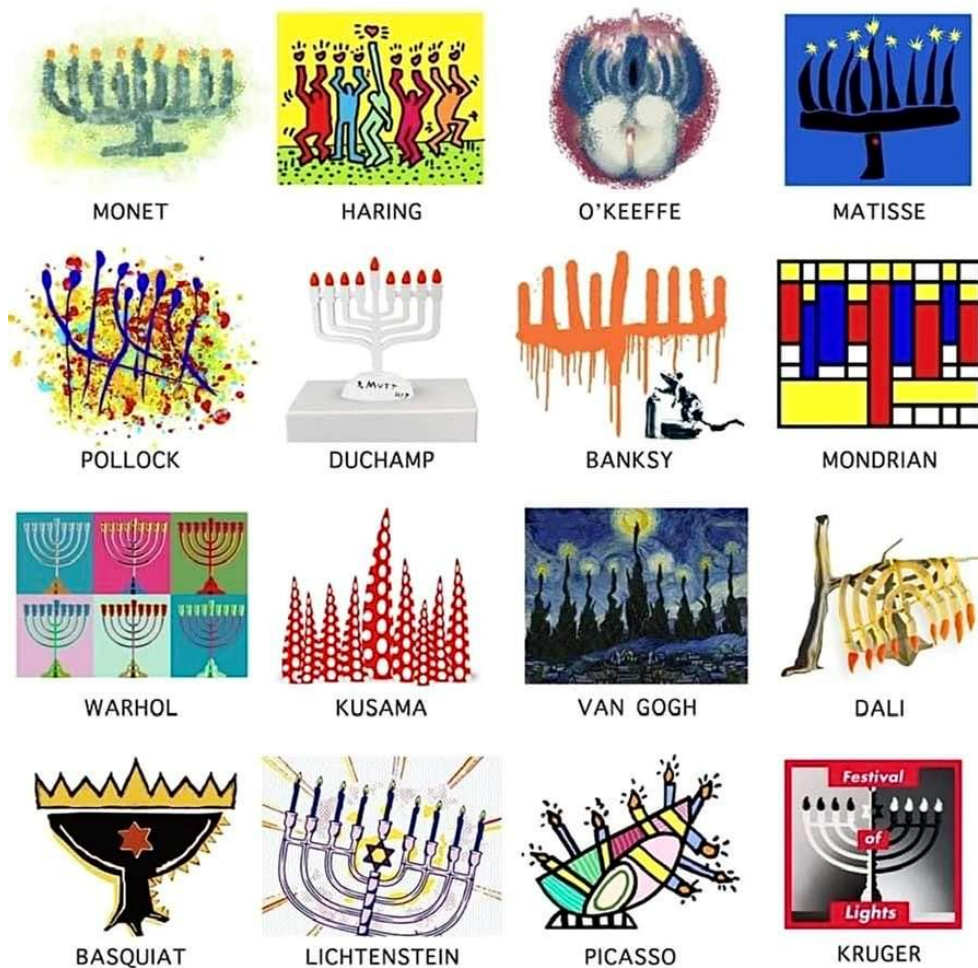
“I know the pain of poverty, and that’s why I feel so passionate about it,” said Cheboi, a software engineer who splits her time between the US and Kenya. “I never forgot what it was like with my stomach churning because of hunger at night.”

In 2012, Cheboi received a full scholarship to Augustana College in Illinois and began her studies with almost no computer experience. She handwrote papers and struggled to transcribe them on a laptop. She said she never felt comfortable using a computer until her junior year when she took a Java course required for her mathematics major. To read more, click on this link: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/14/world/education-technology-recycling-kenya-poverty-cnnheroes/index.html>

To view a 4 minute video about Nellie and her work, click on this link: [CNN Hero: Nelly Cheboi - Bing video](#)

**The Arts:**

As a precursor to the first night of Hanukkah, which fell on December 18, 2022, Brooklyn artist Allison Garber, in the spirit of John Atkinson’s "Art of the Christmas Tree," created her own rendition, illustrating how famous artists might interpret a menorah!



Allison Garber

**Story of Hope:**

**The pioneer woman: Oswego’s Julianne Sitch makes history at University of Chicago:**

By Matt Le Cren, Aurora Beacon-News, Dec 09, 2022



*Julianne Sitch, head coach for the University of Chicago men's soccer team, oversees training at Stagg Field in Chicago on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022. (Anjali Pinto/The New York Times)*

As a player, Sitch starred at Oswego, DePaul and with the Chicago Red Stars. Since that part of her career ended in 2014, she had been an assistant coach for the U. of C. women's program and an assistant coach with the Red Stars.

Athletic director Angie Torain hired Sitch on April 20 to coach the men's team, which reached the national semifinals in 2021. It was an opportunity Sitch couldn't pass up.

"I really loved Chicago's athletics outside of the fact that it's just a phenomenal university," Sitch said. "A big shout out to Angie Torain, who took a chance on hiring me. That was a potential risk, right?"

It actually proved to be a safe bet. The Maroons (22-0-1) thrived under Sitch, who is one of only two women currently coaching a Division III men's team and set a program record for wins.

Junior forward Ryan Yetishefsky, the team's leading scorer who converted the final goal of the season with 16 seconds left in the championship game, said the transition to Sitch was seamless.

"First of all, Sitch is an amazing person in general," Yetishefsky said. "She's really easy to talk to, gets along with all the players on a personal level, but also, she has a fantastic knowledge of the game.

"Her skills with managing different personalities on the team, giving the team a clear identity to follow during the season and tactics during the game, are all incredible. It's been a pleasure getting to learn from her." Sitch, 39, returns the praise. To read more, click on this link: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/aurora-beacon-news/sports/ct-abn-wso-sitch-st-1213-20221210-4leobjhqzbxniakmq5gnaigm-story.html>

### **Story of Hope:**

## **Racine's Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin to receive \$250,000 grant from the Green Bay Packers**

Journal Times staff , Dec 6, 2022

RACINE — Green Bay Packers Give Back announced this week the organization has awarded a \$250,000 Veterans Impact Grant to Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin, the Racine nonprofit that operates the Yout Street tiny home village for veterans at risk of homelessness.



Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin’s mission is to assist primarily homeless and at-risk veterans as they strive for normalcy, providing them with resources such as food, clothing, shelter and other basic human needs.

“The Packers are pleased to support Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin and their critical work providing much-needed assistance to those who have served our country,” stated Mark Murphy, Packer’s president/CEO. “We look forward to seeing how the grant will help this deserving organization grow as they work to ensure veterans in need have access to resources, community and a place they can call home.” To read more, click on this link:

[Racine's Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin to receive \\$250,000 grant from the Green Bay Packers](#)

**Hope-Filled Organization:**

## Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin



Based in Racine, WI, Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin (VOW) works to make a difference in the lives of at-risk Veteran households in every community across Wisconsin. We were founded by community members who recognized a need and took action. What began as a group of volunteers in 2013 has blossomed rapidly into a growing organization. Our program expanded in 2017 to include a village of 15 tiny homes, a food market, and trauma-informed programming. We are looking to expand our services in Racine and serve Veteran households in Milwaukee.

As the first and most successful project of its kind in Wisconsin, VOW has been recognized nationally as a model for other communities. Our Milwaukee expansion will be a village of 42 tiny homes, a 10,000 sq ft community center, and a complimentary Veterans Food Market. Located at 6767 N. 60th Street, the Milwaukee development will emulate the programming services offered in Racine. Working with collaborative partners will increase capacity across our service network to care for our local heroes and their families. Our holistic approach to recovery is a blueprint for how communities can come together and support our heroes in need.



**Tiny Homes Veterans Village**



**The Veteran Market**

To learn more about the Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin, click on this link: <https://vovillages.com/>

### Story of Hope:

## New greenhouse gives a boost to cooks in training at St. Coletta's

By Jeff Vorva, Daily Southtown, Dec 28, 2022

Amy Quinn already has her dream job.

What could make it better? How about a greenhouse?

The culinary arts teacher at the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy School for Exceptional Children at St. Coletta's of Illinois will welcome the January opening of a greenhouse on its Tinley Park campus.

Quinn said this will open some new avenues of learning for her special needs students, ages 6 to 22.

"We are able to start a farm and table program," Quinn said. "The students will learn to grow their own plants and we'll start from seeds.



*Kennedy School students at St. Coletta's in Tinley Park display some of the cupcakes they made for their first commercial order, from the Atlas Putty Production Company. (St. Coletta's of Illinois)*

“After everything starts growing and we get all of our herbs and vegetables, they will learn to cook them and clean them and make a meal with them.”

Quinn has 54 students in her classes and having them learn to cook for themselves is a boost to their self-esteem but could also come in handy for those who want to enter the working world.

“The special needs students with higher functions will go out into the work force — we prepare them so they can work in a restaurant or grocery store,” Quinn said. “Aside from preparing food, they learn mock interviews, preparing resumes, working on deliveries unpacking, cleaning kitchens and other skills.

“They get the whole overall experience. They do all of those things because there is so much going on around here.” To read more, click on this link: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/ct-sta-st-colettas-greenhouse-st-1229-20221228-bayqlknywbbctfjg6lexetbrb4-story.html>

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Hope From the Bottom Up website link: <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/>

Or send me an email ([robert@robertbeezat.com](mailto:robert@robertbeezat.com)) with the name and email address of the person you think would be interested. I will then contact them.

**Thank You**