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June 2023 Hope Newsletter

Story of Hope:

Golden Apple Award winners full of emotion receiving cheers from students: 'My heart cannot hold all the love'

By Zareen Syed Chicago Tribune, May 10, 2023 at 5:53 pm



Helen Chan



Rick Coppola

Immediately after being “surprise bombed” with a Golden Apple Award on Wednesday, South Loop Elementary School fourth grade teacher Helen Chan, tried her hardest not to get choked up.

“I really don’t want to start crying,” Chan said, with tears halfway down her face. “I want to thank you for all the support that I have received, especially from my students. I feel like you guys give me 100% every single day and you’re like my little cheerleaders every day.”

Chan and her co-worker Rick Coppola, a seventh grade teacher at South Loop Elementary, were among the 10 Illinois recipients of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Alan Mather, president of the Golden Apple Foundation, said it was a first for the foundation to have two teachers from the same school win the same year. The winners were awarded \$5,000 and a free spring sabbatical provided by Northwestern University.

Coppola said when he switched to a career in teaching, one of his mentors was a past winner.

“I was like, oh, seems like a good goal. Maybe one day – I’ll set that as a star to reach,” Coppola said.

Since 1985, the Golden Apple Award has been given to educators who have shown dedication to their students and school communities. This year, more than 570 fourth- to eighth-grade teachers were nominated for the prize, according to the Golden Apple Foundation. At the surprise school visits, the foundation gathers the winners’ friends, families and colleagues to share in the celebration.

To read more about these two teachers and the Golden Apple awards, please click on this link: [Golden Apple Award winners full of emotion receiving cheers from students: ‘My heart cannot hold all the love’ - Chicago Tribune](#)

Sharing Ideas:

The first full week in May was National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Who was one of the best teachers you had in elementary, high school, college, or graduate school?

Why were they one of the best teachers you had?

I had many, many wonderful teachers throughout my years of formal education. But one who always comes to mind first is Brother James Daniel, a Christian Brother who taught me English Literature in my sophomore year in high school.

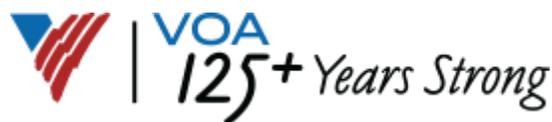
The first image I have in my mind when I think about him, is him walking into the classroom carrying a novel in his hand. He would then sit down at his desk and open the book at a page in the middle of the book and then read three or four pages. He was an excellent dramatic reader, so he held our attention completely. Me and the entire class just sat spellbound as he read the several pages of the book. When he got to a part of the story that left us all wondering what was next, he closed the book. He said "The name of the book is Moby Dick. If you want to know what happens, the book is in the library." Most of us could hardly wait to get to a library to borrow the book.

He was a wonderful teacher. He loved the subject he was teaching, English Literature. Because he loved it so much, we always wanted to hear and learn more about what he loved and enjoyed. And we learned to love literature. He was also very attentive to what we as students were saying and thinking. I could go on and on but will stop here.

Thank you, Brother James Daniel, and all of the many other wonderful teachers I have had over the years.

Please click on this link to share a story about a favorite teacher:
<https://hopefromthebottomup.com/news/your-favorite-teacher>

Hope-Filled Organization:



VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

About Us We help 1.5 million people a year and counting. Volunteers of America is one of the nation's largest, established comprehensive human services organizations with 16,000 mission-driven professionals, dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. Founded in 1896, the faith-based nonprofit has programs in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, serving more than 1.5 million people a year.

Our Mission Volunteers of America is a movement organized to reach and uplift all people and bring them to the knowledge and active service of God. Volunteers of America, illustrating the presence of God through all that we do, serves people and communities in need and creates opportunities for people to experience the joy of serving others. Volunteers of America measures its success in positive change in the lives of individuals and communities we serve.

Our Vision A world where all people in our communities live with social, emotional and physical well-being, spiritual fulfillment, justice and hope.

To learn more about VOA click on this link [Home Page - Volunteers of America \(voa.org\)](https://www.voa.org) When you arrive at the link, scroll down to the second item on that page which is a four minute Fox News video interview of Jatrice Martel Gaiter, the Executive VP of Volunteers of America

Quotes:



Story of Hope:

Inspired by lessons his mom taught

Probation officer hits 50 states in superhero guises for sick kids, homeless
Chicago Tribune, 28 May 2023, By Hunter Lee



Yuri Williams, wearing his Mandalorian costume, is a deputy juvenile correctional officer in Orange County, California. Williams dresses in superhero costumes when visiting sick children and homeless adults.

When Yuri Williams was 8 years old, his mother sometimes took him with her to work at the Los Angeles County’s Central Juvenile Hall when she couldn’t find a sitter. Lynda C. Hubbard worked there, with troubled children and young adults as a juvenile correctional officer, for more than three decades.

“There was this one big guy banging on the walls in his room,” Williams recalled, who is now 46 and lives in Signal Hill.

“My mom walked in and asked him what was going on and he just started crying and she was holding this much bigger person in her arms.”

Williams ended up following in his mother’s footsteps, becoming a deputy juvenile correctional officer for the Orange County Probation Department. Over the years, he sought guidance from his mother, who told him how to speak with those in custody, how to help the boys and girls.

When Hubbard died of cancer in 2009, Williams fell into a deep depression for five years.

“One day I was just sitting there and tried calling her phone and just started crying,” Williams said. But his mom’s lessons inspired him.

In 2017, Williams began donning the costumes of superheroes and other iconic figures to raise the spirits of others who are fighting their own battles. A year later he launched his nonprofit, A Future Superhero and Friends, to try and cover the costs of such things as donations and his travel. If he lasso big donors, he wants to create an after-school program of some sort.

“My mom always told me when you do something, try to do it different from others,” Williams said. “I figured by wearing a costume it could be a distraction, because it was rare that people see others in costume coming out to help.”

His started off locally, visiting families and children’s hospitals in Southern California, dressed as characters such as SpiderMan, Deadpool and the Mandalorian. In February, Williams rolled in three large bins of plush toys – Santa Clauses, unicorns and others – through the doors of the Cherese Mari Laulhere Children’s Village in the Long Beach Medical Center. Because of the coronavirus, he was in street clothes – not able to visit the children in costume as in previous years.

“Yuri has been amazing,” said Rita Goshert, director of the center’s Child Life Program. “He’s been partnering and collaborating with us for several years. He just surprises us with these donations and it just makes all the difference in the world.

“It brightens their day, makes them forget they’re in the hospital and keeps their minds busy,” she said.

To read more, click on this link: <https://www.pressreader.com/usa/chicago-tribune-sunday/20230528/282522957844132> To watch a 3 and ½ minute video, click on this link: <https://afuturesuperhero.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/177-LBPOST.mp4>

Prayers & Spirituality: Here is a prayer I say every morning. I wrote it myself.

Good Morning God, Thank you for this day.

Thank you for the many wonderful people and things I have in my life.

Thank you for the chance to do meaningful work.

Thank you for reasonable health for an old guy.

Please send your Holy Spirit into my heart and mind and into the hearts and minds of my wife, children, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and their children, the people I work with on a regular basis and those with whom I will interact in many ways today.

Please send your Spirit of wisdom to all who are in leadership positions in business, government, and not-for-profit groups at home and around the world.

Help us all see what is best for the common good as well as our individual good.

Help us all grow and develop to be authentic and flourishing human beings as you created us to be.

Story of Hope:

An act of kindness, a sign of hope

A recent spring walk took me past a park where a group of children were playing a game of kick ball. The children of varying ages, genders, and abilities took turns kicking, pitching, and fielding the ball.

Noticing that the younger kids didn't know when or where to run, an older boy took himself out of the line up and named himself "first base coach." He spent the rest of the game teaching the younger children how to play the game.

This boy inspires me to invest in the common good, to rise above individualism, and to be a witness to hope.

How can you bring the spirit of this boy into our world today?

Hope to see you soon at Siena!

Claire Anderson

Claire is the Executive Director of the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI <https://www.sienaretreatcenter.org/>

The Arts:

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy”



[Porgy & Bess "Summertime" - Bing video](#)

Summertime and the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high
Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is good lookin'
So hush little baby, don't you cry

One of these mornings, you're goin' to rise up singin'
Then you spread your wings and you'll take the sky
But 'til that mornin', there's nothin' can harm you
With daddy and mammy standin' by

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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