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November 2022 Hope Newsletter

Story of Hope:

Dolly Parton's donation strategy: 'I just give from my heart'



By Glenn Gamboa - *Associated Press* - Friday, October 14, 2022

Dolly Parton laughs at the idea that she is some sort of secret philanthropist.

Sure, social media sleuths did piece together this week that the country superstar had been quietly paying for the band uniforms of many Tennessee high schools for years. And yes, it did take decades for her to reveal that she used the songwriting royalties she earned from Whitney Houston's version of "I Will Always Love You" to purchase a strip mall in Nashville to support the surrounding Black neighborhood in Houston's honor. Oh, and it did eventually come out that Parton had donated \$1 million for research that helped create the Moderna vaccine for COVID-19.

"I don't do it for attention," she told The Associated Press in an interview, shortly before she received the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy at Gotham Hall in New York City Thursday night. "But look! I'm getting a lot of attention by doing it.

One need Parton does focus on filling is fostering a love of reading in children. Her Imagination Library initiative sends a free book every month to children under five whose parents request them. Currently, Parton sends out about 2 million free books each month.

"This actually started because my father could not read and write and I saw how crippling that could be," she said. "My dad was a very smart man. And I often wondered what he could have done had he been able to read and write. So that is the inspiration. "To see and listen to her comments when getting the award, click on this link: <https://apnews.com/article/videos-6ef0fee8c41e4300a55fc53898f5f6c3>

To see and listen to a 4 minute video of the philanthropic work of Andrew Carnegie and the many organizations he helped start, including the Carnegie Medal of philanthropy, please click on this link and scroll down to the first video: <https://www.medalofphilanthropy.org/>

Hope-Filled Organization: Finding and implementing new ways to improve and measure wellbeing is the top priority of our readers. Gross National Product (GNP) and the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJI) related to the stock market are the two most commonly used measurements of how well the economy is doing. Supposedly, the higher both GNP and DJI are, the better off we all are. Most of the time, that is not true. There have been new indexes focusing on a broader base of measuring wellbeing at the national, state, and local levels around the world. Here is a link to an article on the Hope From the Bottom Up website which I published a short while back: https://hopefromthebottomup.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/Survey%20Results%20Article%2020_0.pdf

An organization on the west coast is working with individuals and organizations to use wellbeing as a tool to improve and measure wellbeing in their communities. The group is called Civic Wellbeing Partners. Here is some information about them.



WELLBEING MICROGRANTS

Funding people, purpose, & possibility with grants for action-oriented projects in Santa Monica and the West LA area.

Civic Wellbeing Partners is a startup project whose mission is to develop and promote civic innovation through engagement and partnerships. We harness data and create equity-focused solutions to improve the quality of daily life in Santa Monica and beyond.

Our work began within the City of Santa Monica's pioneering Office of Civic Wellbeing and transitioned out of city hall in June 2020.

We thank the Santa Monica Bay Human Relations Council, fiscal receiver for the Wellbeing Microgrant program, for ensuring the continued advancement of local community wellbeing outside of city hall.

To learn more about this group and their work, click on this link: <https://www.wellbeingmicrogrants.org/>

Story of Hope:

Ladders to the middle class

Nonprofit training programs give low-income Americans a step up by teaching job skills
Steve Lohr, Orlando Sentinel, Oct 5, 2022

For Amber Mitchell Ikpe, learning computer software skills was only part of the experience at Year Up, a nonprofit job training program.

The coursework, followed by a six-month internship at a company, included classes on speaking in public, teamwork, professional behavior and attire. There was a closet with men's and women's business clothes, and an ironing board.

Year Up also arranged help with basic needs including subsidized childcare, medical insurance and food assistance. When her car broke down, she got a grant to get it fixed.

"Without all that, I would never have finished," Ikpe recalled.

After graduating from Year Up, Ikpe landed a technology job with a near six-figure salary. Five years later, she is a homeowner in suburban Atlanta and considers herself upper middle class. She now works for an education and networking nonprofit for Black technology managers. To read more, click on this link:

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/orlando-sentinel/20221005/281784222983432>

Hope-Filled Organization: Here is some information about the organization referred to in the story immediately above.



Empowering Urban Talent to Reach Their Potential

Learn New Skills to Launch Your Career

Year Up's Job training is tuition free, and offers access to today's best companies, and a proven path to career success.

Three steps to a new job: Learn.....Intern.....Land a Job

To learn more, click on this link: [Job Training to Close the Opportunity Divide | Year Up](#)

Story of Hope:

Sameer Bhide: My experience as an immigrant and stroke survivor reveals the abiding good of a diverse America

By Sameer Bhide, Chicago Tribune, Oct 12, 2022



The topics of critical race theory and diversity have exploded in the public arena, causing further divide in our society between conservatives and liberals. I am not here to justify either point of view. As an immigrant, I just want to share my experience of our rich diversity.

We are indeed a divided country, but as a people, I am amazed at the ability of so many Americans to find ways of coming together. The diversity of America is what has always made it a "promised land" for so many. I want to share a positive reminder of the best this great nation can be.

Originally from India, I lived in the United States for more than 32 years. What I have always found fascinating is that most people could care less about another person's background, race or religion.

The beauty of this country is that everyone is judged as an individual who has something of value to contribute to society.

My health journey bears out this truth. Five and a half years ago, I had a massive stroke that changed my life. As I reflect on my life since that day, I am struck by joy in remembering the diversity of friends, caregivers and colleagues who aided in my recovery and saved my life.

They were of different races, ethnicities and religions, and many were immigrants. And each of them tirelessly helped me keep going and recover.

Coming together for the greater good, this is the real America. This is the country I am proud to call home.

How is this for a microcosm of America?

- My neurosurgeon was an Indian American.
- My intensive care unit doctor was from Slovenia.
- My rehab doctor and psychologist were white and born here.
- My internist was from Thailand.
- My neurologists included an Indian, an African American and an Iranian.
- My physiatrist was a Latina.

Racism and discrimination continue to be problems in America, but it is not too far gone. This country was built on people standing up for what they believe in and righting wrongs that may date back hundreds of years. No matter what the current challenges are, as an immigrant and a minority, I can say for the most part that America has lived up to its ideals of liberty, equality, justice and fairness for all. To read more, click on this link:

[My immigrant experience reveals the abiding good of America \(chicagotribune.com\)](http://chicagotribune.com)

Hope-Filled Organization:

STUDENT PLEDGE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE



The Pledge:

I will never bring a gun to school.

I will never use a gun to settle a personal problem or dispute.

I will use my influence with friends to keep them from using guns to settle disputes.

My individual choices and actions, when multiplied by those of young people throughout the country, will make a difference.

Together, by honoring this pledge, we can reverse the violence and grow up in safety.

The Student Pledge Against Gun Violence is a national program that honors the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence. This campaign against youth gun violence culminates each year on a Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence. The program provides a means for beginning the conversation with young people about gun violence. It refers teachers, counselors, and community

leaders to valuable resources, includes curriculum suggestions that can be integrated with existing academic programs, and contains information about how your school can participate.



Since 1996, over **10 million** students have signed the pledge! To learn more, click on this link: [The Pledge](#)

The Arts: Since we started this newsletter with a story about Dolly Parton, I thought I would include one of my favorite Dolly Parton songs: “Nine to Five.” Here is a link to a video of the song: [Dolly Parton - 9 To 5 - YouTube](#)

I had the pleasure of seeing Dolly Parton perform in person a number of years ago. She was delightful. She sang wonderfully, and she had a great sense of humor. While performing her show, she stopped once between songs to tell a short story about herself. She said that

“Sometimes people would come up to me and say, how come you look so trashy and cheap?”
She would tell them “It takes a lot of time and money to look this cheap.”

Closing Thought: These are challenging times in our country. There are deep divisions among us. But there are also many, many positive things being done by individuals and groups to overcome these divisions and bring healing and hope to all of us. I urge you, as I urge myself:

DON'T GIVE UP

Keep pursuing and creating TRUTH, GOODNESS, AND BEAUTY with LOVE any and every way we can.

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