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August 2022 Newsletter

Summertime And Beauty Surrounds Us...Enjoy It!



“Summertime and the livin’ is easy”



Porgy & Bess by George and Ira Gershwin
[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

SHARING IDEAS

BAD NEWS VS. HOPE

By Robert Beezat

Sometimes, when I sit down at my computer to put together the monthly Hope From the Bottom Up newsletter, I think to myself: Isn't this just a waste of time?

There are never-ending stories of mass gun murders.

There are continuing threats to how our democracy works and questions about whether or not we can continue to have a democracy in our country as times move forward.

There are more frequent environmental disasters (floods, hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, rising sea levels displacing more and more people, etc.) which take a toll on individuals, families, communities, and nations.

Instead of promoting Hope From the Bottom Up, shouldn't I be spending more of my time directly confronting these problems which negatively influence the quality of our lives, our families, our neighbors, our communities, our country, and the world as a whole?

And my answer to myself is "Keep up spreading good news and hope." To read more, click on this link <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/news/bad-news-vs-hope>

HOPE-FILLED ORGANIZATION



Corporate Social Responsibility Meets Meetings & Incentives

Today more than ever before, companies are looking for new ways to motivate employees, increase employee engagement *and* give back to the community. Impact 4 Good, a corporate team building company created specifically for the meetings and incentives industry, offers clients the opportunity to participate in meaningful and worthwhile community service-oriented activities with a unique twist: *we bring community service to our clients at hotels and resorts across the country and abroad, and even to the virtual world!*

Impact 4 Good has facilitators in cities across the US, and a worldwide network of partner community service organizations. Our teambuilding activities are portable and can go wherever your meeting will be based! *What sets us apart from other corporate teambuilding companies?*

- ! We are a team building company offering community service programs built by staff that actually spent time in the non-profit/community service world!
- ! We offer a more personalized service, working closely with you to customize your event around your team's requirements.
- ! We offer a unique selection of activities and beneficiary organizations.
- ! Our team works across the country and abroad, within your budget.
- ! Most programs are 2 hours or less, and we can accommodate any size event, from 10 to 10,000!
- ! Can't meet in person? Our VIRTUAL options can engage dispersed teams in a meaningful manner and make a difference in communities that need it most.

By maintaining close ties to local, national and international non-profit organizations, Impact 4 Good ensures activities benefit both participating employees and the community at large, while integrating core business objectives. When possible, Impact 4 Good leverages existing client relationships with non-profit partners to make for more meaningful community service experiences. To read more, click on this link: [Impact 4 Good – What Difference Will You Make Today?](#)

STORY OF HOPE

From 'Public Nuisance' to Public Servant: A Nonprofit Group Helps Previously Incarcerated Firefighters Secure Careers

By Eden Stiffman, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, May 11, 2022



Photo by Ed Kashi of TALKING EYES MEDIA

Firefighters from the Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program in the Angeles National Forest.

For years California, Florida, Oregon, Washington, and other states have relied on prisoners to fight wildfires. These men and women are trained to perform grueling work while earning just a few dollars, sometimes as little as \$2 a day.

As wildfires have become more frequent and intense, the U.S. Forest Service has struggled with staffing shortages due in part to low pay. Incarcerated workers who serve as volunteer firefighters have helped contain and combat the blazes.

Nonprofits like the American Civil Liberties Union have advocated for increasing wages and protections for these workers. And now philanthropies are backing another approach to support this labor force: efforts to help incarcerated people who have been trained as firefighters secure careers in the profession once they leave prison.

Navigating the hurdles to a steady firefighting job isn't easy. Brandon Smith knows those challenges firsthand. In 2012 he was at Wasco State Prison, near Bakersfield, Calif., about eight months into his sentence for nonviolent charges, when his prison counselor suggested he move to a fire camp. He would be able to live there and learn to fight fires while earning the same certifications as California's seasonal firefighters.

At Bautista Conservation Camp in Riverside County, about 100 miles southeast of Los Angeles, Smith came to love firefighting. It was one of the first times he was out in nature, and he was good at what he did. He became the leader of his hand crew, wielding a chainsaw at the front of a team that cut back flammable brush and trees to create perimeters that contain fires.

"When you're incarcerated, you have this stigma of being a public nuisance, but being a firefighter provided an opportunity for me to give back to the community and also give myself a sense of pride," Smith said. "It was something that I wanted to continue as a way of giving back to the community once I came home."

But after completing his sentence in 2014, the pathway to a firefighting job wasn't clear. The certifications he received while incarcerated didn't count, and he couldn't even apply for some positions due to his criminal record. To read more, click on this link: [From 'Public Nuisance' to Public Servant: A Nonprofit Group Helps Previously Incarcerated Firefighters Secure Careers \(philanthropy.com\)](https://www.philanthropy.com/article/From-Public-Nuisance-to-Public-Servant-A-Nonprofit-Group-Helps-Previously-Incarcerated-Firefighters-Secure-Careers)

HOPE-FILLED ORGANIZATION



***Join others from around our world in a pause for Peace every day at noon.
Let us make Peace Day every day***



WHO WE ARE: Pathways To Peace (PTP) is an International Peacebuilding, Educational and Consulting organization dedicated to making Peace a practical reality through both local and global projects. Incorporated in 1983, PTP is an official Peace Messenger of the United Nations and has Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and works with the U.N. Centre for Human Rights, U.N. Centre for Human Settlements, UNESCO, UNICEF and other agencies. PTP is a tax-exempt, Social Profit, Non-partisan 501(c)(3) Corporation, (tax exempt ID# 68-0015625).

WHAT WE DO: Pathways To Peace works locally and globally to promote Peacebuilding, Education and to collaborate with other organizations in initiatives that help further our Culture of Peace Initiative (CPI). Our founder Avon Mattison developed CPI with then-Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Robert Muller in 1983. The annual highlight of this initiative is the International Day of Peace (Peace Day), held annually on September 21. To learn more about Pathways to Peace, click on this link: [Pathways To Peace – Together, Building a Sustainable Culture of Peace Along Diverse Pathways](#)

STORY OF HOPE

Young Racinians take to the air, thanks to volunteer pilots and a community policing mindset

By Dee Hölzel, Racine Journal Times, July 5, 2022

RACINE — It all began over Thanksgiving dinner.

Sue Schwaab, who was a pilot with United Airlines for more than 30 years, was talking about how recent research determined that only approximately 10% of commercial airline pilots are women and approximately 7% are of minority descent.

She is now retired and promoting aviation — especially for women — with her program Wings to Fly.

Officer Travis Brady, a COP House officer, was at the table listening to his aunt talk about giving women and minorities opportunities in commercial aviation.

As she spoke, Brady wondered, "What would it take to bring Wings to Fly to Racine?" Within months, it was Brady (and others) who pulled it off.



Pilot Kenny Mejia-Cruz pins wings on Melanie Figuereo-Colon. Meijia-Cruz felt so passionate about the project that he rented a plane in order to take a teen flying. (photo by Dee Holzel)

After months of extensive planning, on June 4, members of the Racine Police Department and Racine Unified School District escorted eight young people to the Batten Airport for a day in the sky, accompanied by lessons on the physics that make flying possible. To read more and see more pictures, click on this link: https://journaltimes.com/news/local/young-racinians-take-to-the-air-thanks-to-volunteer-pilots-and-a-community-policing-mindset/article_80d1199a-fa20-11ec-b1f9-97bc45869a68.html?utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fdaily-headlines&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8

STORY OF HOPE/A TEACHER OF HOPE

This past April, I was part of a program at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI. The program was sponsored by the Wisconsin Character Education Partnership <https://wicharacter.org/> WCEP promotes character education as a key to student success in and out of the classroom and in their communities.



The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Michele Borba.

Dr. Borba is an educational psychologist, best-selling author, and TODAY show contributor who has spoken to over one million participants on five continents and to countless media about child development issues. She blends 40 years of teaching and consulting experience with latest science to offer sound, realistic advice to parents, teachers, and child advocates about helping children thrive. Her most recent book is Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine. To read more, click here: [Michele Borba, Ed.D.](#)

One of the topics she discussed at Alverno is **Mentally strong kids understand the value of hope**

Research shows that hopefulness can dramatically reduce childhood anxiety and depression. Hopeful kids have an inner sense of control. They view challenges and obstacles as temporary and able to be overcome, so they are more likely to thrive and help others.

Yet despite its immense power, hope is largely excluded from our parenting agendas. The good news? Hope is teachable. One of the best ways to increase this strength is by equipping children with skills to handle life's inevitable bumps.

Here are nine science-backed ways to help kids maintain hope — especially during tough times. To read more, click on this link: <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/04/psychologist-shares-the-top-skill-that-sets-mentally-strong-kids-from-those-who-give-up-easily.html>

STORY OF HOPE AND HOPE-FILLED ORGANIZATION

While in prison, Derrick Seay Sr. turned his life around. Now, he's a Credible Messenger for Racine's youth

Holzel, Racine Journal Times, Jul 16, 2022



Derrick Seay hands a meal to man on the morning of April 30, 2020, at the Styberg COP House on Anthony Lane. Three hundred meals were given out that day...through a collaboration between the Racine Police Department, Mt. Pleasant Police Department, SC Johnson, and Malicki's Piggly Wiggly.

RACINE — Derrick Seay Sr. was 13 years old when he started dealing drugs and running with the Vice Lords on Racine's north side in the early 1990s.

He was 14 years old when he was charged with homicide as a party to a crime for a shooting that occurred following a clash between the Vice Lords and a south-side gang where a bystander was shot. Seay did not pull the trigger, but he was with the gang when the shots were fired. He later received another prison sentence on drug charges.

Seay knows a lot about street life, juvenile crime and finding the way forward when there is no one to show you the way. In the time between his last prison sentence and now, 13 years, he has worked steadily mentoring youth.

"I truly believe that God took me out of there for this, what I'm doing now," he said of his transition from street life to prison to mentoring at-risk youth.

He is one of three Credible Messengers employed by Racine County. They work with young people in the youth justice system, hoping to guide them out of trouble.

Maurice Horton, who manages Racine County Credible Messenger, explained that each of the other two mentors also fell into the criminal justice system, but now have turned their lives around and are working to guide the next generation.

The Credible Messenger model, which pairs justice-involved youth with mentors who have a shared, lived experience, was [first used in New York City](#) and is now being adopted in other U.S. cities — like Racine.

Credible Messenger, Seay explained, is not a program. It does not have a beginning or an end. It's a movement to enhance restorative justice for at-risk youth. To read more, click on this link: [While in prison, Derrick Seay Sr. turned his life around. Now, he's a Credible Messenger for Racine's youth | Local News | journaltimes.com](http://www.localnews.journaltimes.com)

QUOTE An engaged and activist friend of mine closes all her emails with the following quote which always inspires me to keep working for a better world. Helping bring about positive change usually takes longer than I would like. But I have seen quite a bit of positive change happen in my 80 years of life, starting with Rosa Parks in the 1950's and many other steps forward in a broad range of areas of life.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Let's all be "thoughtful and committed citizens" however and whenever 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:



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