



November 2023 Hope Newsletter

Hope-Filled Organization:

UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED



In 1887, a Denver woman, a priest, two ministers and a rabbi got together...
It sounds like the beginning of a bad joke, but they didn't walk into a bar;
What they did do was recognize the need to work together in new ways
to make Denver a better place.

Frances Wisebart Jacobs, the Rev. Myron W. Reed, Msgr. William J. O'Ryan, Dean H. Martyn Hart and Rabbi William S. Friedman put together an idea that became the nation's first united campaign, benefitting 10 area health and welfare agencies. They created an organization to collect the funds for local charities, to coordinate relief services, to counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and to make emergency assistance grants for cases that could not be referred. That year, Denver raised \$21,700 for this greater good (\$703,054 in 2023 dollars) and created a movement that would become United Way.

Since 1887, the United Way has grown to over 1,100 organizations in the U.S. and around the world. United Way is engaged in 95% of the U.S. and serves more than 1,100 communities across 37 countries and territories worldwide. We bring people together to build stronger, more equitable communities where everyone can thrive. With our 11.5M volunteers, 6.8M donors, 29K community partners and 45K corporate partners, we're strengthening **education, economic mobility, and access to health.**

To learn more about the United Way,

- Click on this link to view a 1 minute and 40 second video: <https://www.unitedway.org/about/history>
- Click on this link to connect with the United Way website: [United Way Worldwide | United Way Worldwide](#) and when you get to that page, scroll down to the first video and click on it.

There are many ways you can contribute your ideas, time, talent, and money to your community's well-being through your community's United Way. Check it out and make a positive difference.

Story of Hope:

Colleen Kujawa: Want a cure for cynicism? Try digging holes and planting trees.

By [Colleen Kujawa](#) *Chicago Tribune* Oct 13, 2023

I spent the last Saturday in September digging and standing in holes. I walked home sore, sweaty and happy. And buoyed against the naysaying that goes hand in hand with living in a complicated city.

Dozens of people showed up at Athletic Field Park in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood that morning for a mass tree planting. They picked up shovels and swung dirt to bring verdant new life to the parkways of the streets nearby. The old proverb is still true: It takes a village to make a difference. It takes people showing up.

My team of four, led by Openlands treekeeper Floyd, planted five trees in three hours. We hustled. We measured, we dug, we finessed. When we found ourselves planting in the shade, we celebrated our good fortune. When we moved on to the next patch of grass and had to labor under the sun, we quietly cursed. Or at least I did.

When you plant a tree, the hole you've dug has to have a flat bottom. Otherwise, the tree won't stand and grow straight, as my teammates and I learned from Floyd. That means you have to stomp the dirt with your feet. After three hours of work, I mastered the art of stomping Chicago parkway dirt flat.



Volunteer Maureen consults with Openlands treekeeper Floyd during a tree planting event Sept. 30, 2023, near Athletic Field Park in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood. (Colleen Kujawa/Chicago Tribune)

My teammates Maureen and Arsenio weren't tree planting newbies like Cristina and me, which I playfully declared gave us an edge over the other teams. We weren't competing, but still, five trees in three hours? Floyd looked at us like a proud papa.

Arsenio told us that he likes to check on one of the trees he planted in another neighborhood at a previous event. He drives by in his car to take a look. After committing my sweat and modest muscle power to this effort, I understood why. I became part of that investment — of so many people's time, as well as money, support and coordination from the organizations and leaders who make good things happen... We make a difference by showing up. If you'll forgive my bluntness, cynicism is for the lazy. I helped put trees in the ground because I am making a choice. To read more, click on this link: [Colleen Kujawa: Want a cure for cynicism? Try planting trees. \(chicagotribune.com\)](#)

Story of Hope:

Walden No Place for Hate Group continues positive work

Ryan Patterson, Racine Journal Times, Oct 8, 2023



Makenzie McKnight, No Place for Hate member, goes through a gift bag Thursday at Walden III High School, 2340 Mohr Ave. McKnight has faced discrimination, and now she is working to help people who have gone through similar ordeals.

RACINE — Makenzie McKnight has faced discrimination, and now she is working to help people who have gone through similar ordeals.

“As someone who’s once experienced hate, I want to be able to help other people that may be going through it,” McKnight said.

Makenzie McKnight, No Place for Hate member, goes through a gift bag Thursday at Walden III High School, 2340 Mohr Ave. McKnight has faced discrimination, and now she is working to help people who have gone through similar ordeals.

McKnight, a sophomore, is one of about 15 Walden III High School students in a No Place for Hate group recognized Thursday morning for its ongoing efforts to create positive school cultures by improving equity and combating bias and bullying.



For the second consecutive year, the group received a banner from the Anti-Defamation League.

“No Place for Hate strives to maintain an inclusive and equitable climate while working on building safe spaces and communities to empower adolescents to stand up against bias and embrace their background and heritage,” said senior Yasmeen Patrick, NPFH co-president. To read more, click on this link:

https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/walden-no-place-for-hate-group-continues-positive-work/article_f2586882-6218-11ee-a081-23a87c2274ac.html

Prayers and Spirituality: A good friend of mine and of many other people died recently. Below is a prayer which was circulated among us. It helps us recall what a wonderful person she was and how she will be remembered by us.

OUR GRIEF IS ACCORDING TO OUR BLESSING

God is the source of life, the fountain of all good.
Divine bounty has given us dear ones and we rejoice in their love,
grow strong through their care and are enabled by their influence.

This Love has also fixed an end for life and earthly companionship.
Ofttimes we cannot understand the purpose, yet we trust.
Though the longing within us seems more than we can bear,
we know that our grief is according to our blessing.

The sorrow of separation is the price of days and years of precious love;
tears are the tender tribute of a yearning affection for those who have passed away
but cannot be forgotten.

Death is not the end, the earthly body vanishes,
but the immortal spirit lives on with God.
In our hearts also our loved ones never die.
Their love and memory abide as a lasting inspiration
moving us to noble deeds and blessing us evermore.

In humble gratitude for their life and love and with steadfast faith,
let us sanctify God's name.

An Ancient Jewish Prayer

Story of Hope:

I THINK MY EARLIEST UNDERSTANDING OF WANTING TO WORK WITH WILDLIFE WAS PROBABLY WHEN I WAS SIX OR SEVEN, AND MY PARENTS HAD A GUEST VISITING FROM OUT OF TOWN.

**Following a Master Naturalist Path
Becky Sapper | Ashland, WI**



A story from "Love Wisconsin."

Becky Sapper has the perfect job — she is a nature lover who gets to teach volunteers all about Wisconsin's natural world. Growing up she was very interested in wildlife and had her trusty field guide to help identify what she found

in the woods. She has always loved the cozy feeling of being surrounded by trees. Today she lives up in the North Woods and runs the Master Naturalist program.

If you are not exactly sure what a Master Naturalist is – we weren't either before we talked with Becky. It is one of the many UW Extension programs quietly making an impact in every corner of our state. Master naturalists are the folks you see doing trail maintenance, prescribed burns, leading hikes in state parks, or doing citizen science to collect important data about birds, water quality, and invasive species.

You can find her story on The Love Wisconsin website at this link: [Following a Master Naturalist Path - Love Wisconsin](#) We hope you enjoy spending time with Becky and hearing from her why she really believes that people can make the difference.

Hope-Filled Organization:

HALO is so much more than a bed.



The Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization offers each person an opportunity to begin their journey from dependency towards self-sufficiency. We understand that each person that enters our shelter program comes with their own dreams, goals, and needs, and it is our goal to help them reach these goals safely.

Statement of Need: Homelessness is a very real issue for Racine County. Racine continues to have the highest unemployment rate and second highest child homelessness rate among Wisconsin cities. Last year, HALO served 700 individuals including 138 children, 58% under the age of six.

How HALO Helps: *Since opening in 2005, HALO has helped over 2,000 adults return to stable housing with enough income and savings to support themselves.* From day one, it was HALO's intent to not just shelter those in need, but to offer a clear path to self-sufficiency through individualized support.



The HALO residential and learning facility is a renovated factory building in Racine, WI

HALO is one of the few homeless shelters in Wisconsin offering Intensive Case Management paired with a comprehensive network of supportive services from 90+ area agencies, available for new intakes 24/7. Understanding that everyone comes to HALO with their own individual story is vital to our ability to help them. HALO Case Managers help individuals experiencing homelessness to overcome barriers, develop goals and foster human connections for a successful transition from homelessness to independent living.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO) is to provide a pathway to self-sufficiency and housing stability for those experiencing homelessness in Racine County.

Vision Statement

The vision for the Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization is that all homeless individuals and families in Racine County will be provided emergency food, clothing, shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and supportive services through a collaborative structure that effectively coordinates services, shares information, increases funding, and eliminates duplication and gaps in services.

To view and listen to a 3 and half minute video about Halo, click on this link: <https://haloinc.org/about>

The Arts:



With Thanksgiving approaching, I wanted to include some music appropriate for the season. There are many religious-themed pieces of music which are focused on being grateful for the beauty and goodness around us. But as I searched for a non-religious, Thanksgiving song, I came across This Thanksgiving Day written and performed by Ben Rector. I thought you might enjoy it. To see and listen to the song, click on this link: [Bing Videos](#)

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!