

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**America's Future
Foundation**





Community. It is vitally important, especially to young people. According to the Pew Research Center, Millennials value strong interpersonal networks—this desire to belong, to interact, and to form lasting relationships is what drives their behavior. And it is what will secure the future of freedom in America.

Eager to affect change and contribute to society, millions of Millennials graduate from colleges and universities across the country and enter the professional space every year. Wide-eyed and brimming with hope, these enthusiastic young people are thrust into an unforgiving world of bills, deadlines, and miscellaneous responsibilities, often without the strong support network they need. America's Future Foundation fills this need and provides the community and training for which these young professionals yearn. And last year, you were there to help us along the way.

In 2017, you reached more than 9,000 young professionals with the ideas of liberty. You grew the number of AFF chapters, from 22 in 2016, to 27, by launching new chapters in Boston, Jacksonville, Portland, Provo, and Rhode Island. You partnered with more than 40 free-market organizations to educate and train America's rising generation. All told, 2017 was AFF's biggest year to date, with revenue eclipsing \$1 million for the first time in the organization's history. This is in no small part thanks to you and your commitment to AFF's vision of a culture permeated with a love of liberty.

In the coming pages, you will read about some of the unique events hosted by AFF chapters—each one designed to build a stronger community, provide vital professional resources, and promote civil dialogue about contemporary issues facing young Americans every day. You will also learn more about the Buckley Awards, the Writing Fellows Program, and AFF's efforts to build partnerships to support its vast network of liberty-minded young professionals.

2018 certainly will be a year of transition, but it will also be one of tremendous growth. AFF has developed an ambitious plan to further support the leaders of tomorrow, today: by growing the number of chapters nationwide, by increasing AFF's digital presence to provide a platform for young writers and thinkers, and by increasing the amount of leadership development opportunities for young professionals across the country.

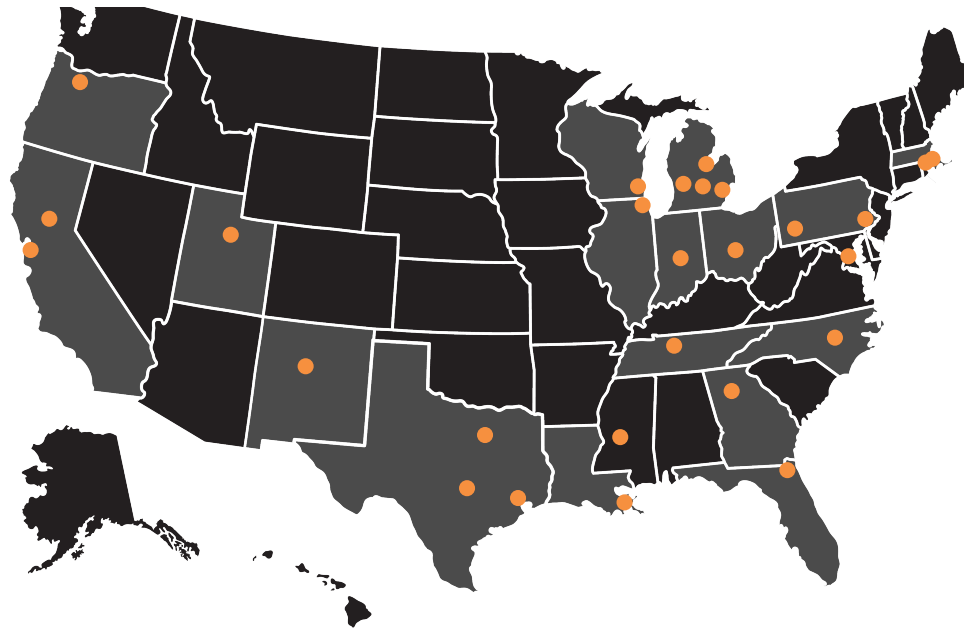
Thank you for investing in the rising generation of young ambassadors for liberty, those who are eager to keep America strong, and to preserve the freedoms we all hold dear. Together, we are building a movement of experienced, passionate, and principled leaders to advance our cause.

In liberty,

Cindy Cerquitella
Executive Director

AFF CHAPTERS ARE IN THE FOLLOWING CITIES:

ALBUQUERQUE, NM
ATLANTA, GA
AUSTIN, TX
BOSTON, MA
CHICAGO, IL
COLUMBUS, OH
DALLAS, TX
DETROIT, MI
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
HOUSTON, TX
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
JACKSON, MS
JACKSONVILLE, FL
LANSING, MI
MIDLAND, MI
MILWAUKEE, WI
NASHVILLE, TN
NEW ORLEANS, LA
PHILADELPHIA, PA
PITTSBURGH, PA
PORTLAND, OR
PROVO, UT
RALEIGH, NC
PROVIDENCE, RI
SACRAMENTO, CA
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
WASHINGTON, DC



MISSION

TO RECRUIT AND CULTIVATE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO BECOME LIFELONG, EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES FOR LIBERTY.

VISION

AN AMERICAN CULTURE PERMEATED WITH A LOVE OF LIBERTY, FOUNDED IN A SOCIETY THAT VALUES FREE ENTERPRISE, LIMITED GOVERNMENT, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.



FROM CHAPTER LEADER TO CHAIRMAN:

5 QUESTIONS WITH RICHARD LORENC

Richard N. Lorenc is the executive vice president of the Foundation for Economic Education, where he supports FEE's business unit leaders, supervises program measurement, directs artwork and corporate communications, and participates in fundraising and strategic planning. He serves on the board of directors of the Coalition to Reduce Spending, Inc. A dual American-Polish citizen, Lorenc serves on the advisory board of the Freedom and Entrepreneurship Foundation (Fundacja Wolności i Przedsiębiorczości). Lorenc is a graduate of both the Charles Koch Institute's Liberty@Work program and the Atlas Network's Leadership Academy, including the Think Tank MBA. His background includes service at the Illinois Policy Institute, America's Future Foundation, and Truth in Accounting.

When did you get started with AFF and in what role?

I had attended a couple of AFF events in Chicago, already, by the time my friend, Kate Piercy, recruited me to join her on the local chapter board in 2008. I saw that AFF was a group of likeminded professionals who organized intellectually stimulating events that were actually fun. When Kate's brother, Tim Campaigne, stepped down as the chapter leader, I stood up and worked in that role for four years. We built a great chapter that has since become recognized nationwide for great turnouts and for creative programming, including my all-time favorite event: "Free to Choose: The Game Show," conducted live before a studio audience, with a dynamic host and fun prizes.

How has AFF helped you grow, as a professional and as an advocate for liberty?

Leading AFF's Chicago chapter was my first real experience leading a team of people. This, of course, is a valuable skill to develop professionally and something I continue to hone. Through AFF, I also developed an interest in throwing "parties" that people actually want to attend—not that we wish they would attend. We would constantly ask in Chicago, "What are people discussing, and how can we make this fun?" This is something I've applied directly in my current work leading the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE).

You now generously support AFF—why?

I support AFF because I believe in the immense power of personal relationships in advancing a person, personally

and professionally. I tell people all the time, when they ask how to advance in their careers, "It's all about who you know." AFF is a key factor in connecting likeminded people in every city where we have a chapter.

Where do you see AFF going in the next five years, and how can our supporters help?

I am so excited to see the team's vision come to fruition: an influential national group that gives liberty a great name. I'm excited for the focus on AFF members, both living their values locally (e.g., participating in civil society and philanthropy) and bringing in new people into the community of liberty-lovers. Our supporters contribute their resources generously and make introductions to people who need to know the awesome work happening in 27 cities nationwide. If a supporter is in a city with an AFF chapter, I would ask them to email 10 people who need to know about the valuable AFF community in his or her own backyard.

When you think of AFF, what does it mean to you?

AFF is the training ground for rising leaders in the liberty movement nationwide. AFF members, today, are cutting their teeth in leadership, journalism, and in creating exceptional social events—these members will, in 30 years, be at the top of their professional games. We need to support them with the ideas of liberty, and we need to work on connecting them meaningfully, so that we can call on them for the important jobs that lay ahead.

COMBATTING MEDIA BIAS WITH AFF

EMPOWERING YOUNG WRITERS TO EFFECTIVELY ADVANCE FREEDOM IN THE PRESS



It is no secret that American media overwhelmingly support Big Government. According to The Center for Public Integrity, a progressive media watchdog organization, 96% of all political donations made by journalists, reporters, editors, news personalities, and media executives ended up in Hillary Clinton's campaign coffers in 2016. It should come as no surprise, then, that only 41% of Americans trust that the media will report the news "fully, accurately, and fairly," per a 2017 Gallup poll.

Last year's news coverage has given us the clearest indication yet of just how disconnected and untrustworthy the mainstream media actually has become. Thankfully, you are addressing media bias directly by supporting America's Future Foundation and its mission to inspire Millennials, America's largest demographic, with the ideas of freedom.

In 2017, you trained 46 freedom-friendly writers from across the country, both in-person at the *Washington Examiner* offices and remotely via a digital webcam component. AFF Writing Fellows attend weekly sessions for six weeks, where they workshop ideas for op-eds and hear from speakers, like: Stephanie Slade, managing editor of *Reason* magazine; Tim Carney, commentary editor at the *Washington Examiner*; and Ginger Gibson, Washington correspondent at *Reuters*.

In providing this opportunity, you equipped them with the skills they need to follow in the footsteps of alumni like Jason Russell, who now oversees the program. As contributors editor at the *Washington Examiner*, Jason leveraged his experience in AFF's Writing Fellows Program to jump-start his career. He reports:

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for AFF's Writing Fellows Program. Thanks to a connection I made while networking in the program, I was hired as a commentary writer at the *Washington Examiner*. Within two years, I was promoted to an editor's role. AFF's Writing Fellows Program helped me develop the skills and confidence necessary to write better, more persuasive pieces."

In 2017, alumni of AFF's Writing Fellows Program published more than 1,000 articles in 44 distinct outlets, including *Forbes*, *National Review*, *Harvard Crimson*, *New York Post*, *Reason*, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *Orange County Register*, *USA Today*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Examiner*, and *The Washington Post*. One of last year's graduates, Davis Richardson, even appeared on *Tucker Carlson Tonight* on the Fox News Channel, where he discussed Antifa violence in Boston and political polarization.

This year, because of a generous grant from the Rising Tide Foundation, as well as continued investment from the Ronald A. Krieger Charitable Foundation and supporters like you, AFF's Writing Fellows Program will expand to offer more sessions for even more young professionals. Long-term, this means that you will train more aspiring journalists, like Jason and Davis, to promote the principles of a free society in media outlets across America.

AFF Writing Fellow, Davis Richardson (pictured, left), appeared on *Tucker Carlson Tonight* on the Fox News Channel to discuss Antifa violence and political polarization in August of 2017.

BRAVELY STANDING FOR LIBERTY

**YOU HONOR FIVE YOUNG LEADERS FOR THEIR
WORK AT THE ANNUAL BUCKLEY AWARDS**



**“A CONSERVATIVE
IS A FELLOW WHO IS
STANDING ATHWART
HISTORY YELLING ‘STOP!’”**

William F. Buckley, Jr.'s words are now more poignant than ever. In the name of progress, the American Left openly endorses a future in which the government grows, and your freedoms shrink. To counteract this, we need more young people to embrace our message of freedom and inspire their peers to do the same.

That is why you gathered more than 160 young leaders in Washington, DC for the annual Buckley Awards. Originally founded and organized by the Young Conservatives Coalition from 2010-2016, the Buckley Awards recognize outstanding young professionals for their above-and-beyond service to the liberty movement.

The award is in honor of William F. Buckley, Jr. who, before the age of 30, became the leader of the early conservative movement by championing “fusionism”—a philosophy that brought together various strands of our movement to work together to achieve political success and conserve America’s founding principles.

Last year’s winners represented just a small percentage of the young professionals you empowered to stand athwart history and yell “Stop!”



ASHLEA FRAZIER is director of programs for Hillsdale College's Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship. She directs the development of the Kirby Center's programs, with a focus on bolstering the pedagogical mission of the college in Washington, DC. Additionally, Ashlea advises students and young professionals on career development. Prior to joining Hillsdale College, Ashlea worked for The Heritage Foundation's Center for American Studies as program manager.



ADAM JOSEFCZYK is the co-founder and executive director of Forge Leadership Network. Forge mentors, trains, and connects young conservatives to lead in politics, culture, and business. Prior to launching Forge, Adam served, at the age of 24, as a vice president of a leading public policy organization in Ohio. In 2013, he also co-founded Ohio Conservative Review, a web platform for conservative ideas to be discussed, debated, and promoted in the Buckeye State.



KERRI KUPEC serves as legal counsel and communications director with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), where she oversees media communications for ADF, as well as all Supreme Court public-advocacy operations. She has appeared on ABC, CBS, CNBC, FOX News, FOX Business, and NPR, and has been quoted in many national print and online news publications. Prior to joining ADF, Kerri served as a law clerk to the Hon. William G. Petty of the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

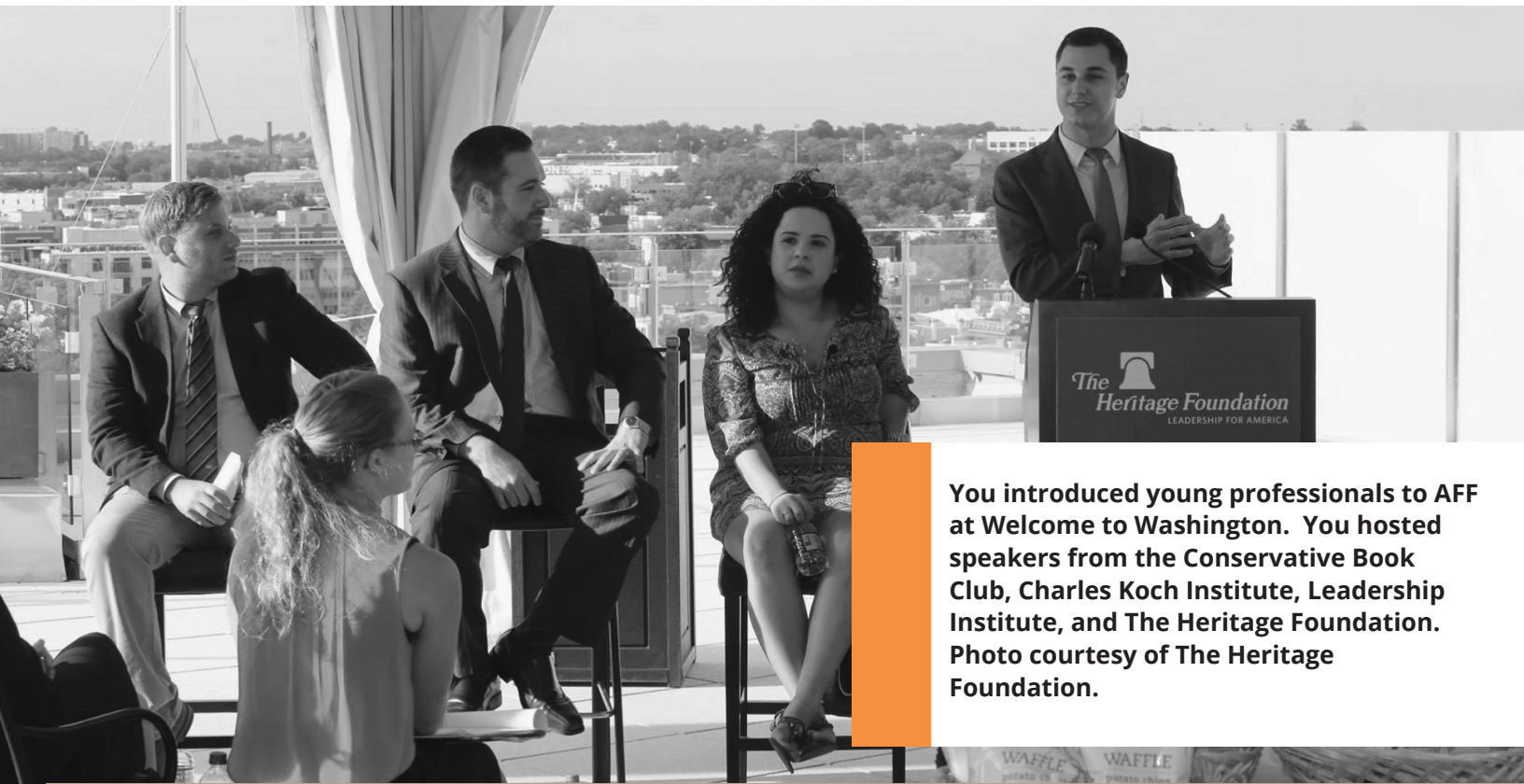


CHRISTOPHER MALAGISI is the editor-in-chief of the Conservative Book Club. For eight years, Christopher served as president of the Young Conservatives Coalition. Prior to working at the Conservative Book Club, he served as CPAC director and director of external relations at the American Conservative Union. He also trained more than 5,000 conservative candidates and activists as the Leadership Institute's director of political and new media training and taught History of the Conservative Movement at American University as an adjunct instructor.



RUSS VOUGHT is the deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Notably, Russ displayed tremendous courage at his confirmation hearing, when he was attacked by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) for his religious views. Before his work at the OMB, Russ spent seven years as the vice president of grassroots efforts at Heritage Action, working with thousands of conservative activists across the country. Before working at Heritage Action, he spent over 12 years working on budgetary issues on Capitol Hill, serving as the policy director for the House Republican Conference.

YOU EASE THE TRANSITION AND PROVIDE THE NEXT STEP



You introduced young professionals to AFF at Welcome to Washington. You hosted speakers from the Conservative Book Club, Charles Koch Institute, Leadership Institute, and The Heritage Foundation. Photo courtesy of The Heritage Foundation.

Have you ever moved to a new city, where no one knew your name? Do you remember your first day of school, or the first day of your first job?

New beginnings can be intimidating. Just ask the thousands of liberty-minded young professionals who flock to Washington, DC in droves every summer. Abandoning their comfort zones, these young people come to our nation's capital as interns, Capitol Hill staffers, and entry-level employees. Their transition from college to the professional world is a difficult one. But thankfully, you are there to help.

Last year, you hosted more than 400 liberty-minded young leaders at the Welcome to Washington series, AFF's triannual event for young professional newcomers in Washington, DC. Programs like Welcome to Washington ease the difficult transition for recent college graduates by offering them a place to meet new friends and network with like-minded peers.

While Welcome to Washington is unique to AFF's chapter in Washington, DC, events like it can be found across the country because of your continued investment. For example, 65 young professionals gathered in San Francisco last summer for an event called "Depolarizing Politics," where AFF partnered with the Charles Koch Institute and the Pacific Research Institute to host T.K. Coleman, education director of Praxis. T.K. provided invaluable insight into navigating a divided and oftentimes rancorous world. In particular, attendees discussed ways to transcend political divisions to inspire their peers with the ideas of liberty.

By supporting AFF, you are providing liberty-minded young leaders with unique opportunities that will lead to lifelong and effective advocacy for liberty. Thank you for easing their transition and empowering them to take the next step.

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS, TODAY



Most lawyers understand that they will never argue before, or even work on, a case that has been accepted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

AFF alumnus Wen Fa is not most lawyers, however. And earlier this year, his case,

Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky, was heard by the Supreme Court.

An attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation, Wen has always had a passion for promoting and defending liberty. From his days as an undergraduate student in Dallas and his time studying under Chandran Kukathas in London, to his earlier legal work at the Institute for Justice, Wen's commitment to our principles has never wavered.

When Wen left the Institute for Justice in Texas to join the Pacific Legal Foundation in California, he identified a major problem with Sacramento's fledgling liberty movement: the individual pieces were in place, but there was nothing to connect them.

That is when you came into the picture. You helped Wen launch AFF-Sacramento in September of 2015. Since then, the chapter has grown, providing a unique community in the capital of one of America's most liberal states. Wen, who now serves on the board of AFF-Sacramento, writes:

"AFF is an extremely important organization for young liberty-minded individuals to connect with each other and share their ideas. AFF-Sacramento, in particular, helps grow the liberty movement to counteract the largest state bureaucracy in the nation."



Rhode Island is a state burdened by regulations and big government programs. According to our friends at the Cato Institute, Rhode Island is the 7th least-free state in the U.S.

It should come as no surprise, therefore, that last year, young leaders from the Ocean State turned to AFF for help. In June of 2017, AFF-Rhode Island opened its doors by hosting Rep. Blake Filippi, Minority Whip of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. Fifty-one young professionals attended the event, where Rep. Filippi, a Millennial himself, spoke about the importance of building a grassroots movement for liberty.

Quickly, AFF-Rhode Island became one of AFF's busiest chapters. In the second half of 2017, AFF-Rhode Island hosted seven events that reached 364 young professionals—that is an average of 52 Millennials per event! Speakers included:

Stephanie Slade of *Reason* magazine; Sen. Thomas Paolino of the Rhode Island State Senate; and Mike Stenhouse, founder and CEO of the Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity, Rhode Island's state-based think tank.

Grant Van Eck is the chapter leader of AFF-Rhode Island. Professionally, he serves as senior development director at the Boy Scouts of America. Grant knows that AFF's work in Rhode Island is only possible because of your support, reporting:

"Every month, we get together to network, socialize, and most importantly, discuss the big issues challenging our home state. AFF gives us a place to go. We're proud to have empowered hundreds of young professionals with the important ideas of freedom. We have covered the issues that mean the most to my generation, particularly free speech, the sharing economy, and school choice. The support you provide means that we have the strong footing we'll need to build a solid foundation for liberty, which will guide Rhode Island toward a prosperous future."

ENCOURAGING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE STATES

All of us are born with the entrepreneurial spirit—it is what gave us the electric light bulb, the microwave, the airplane, the personal computer, and the smartphone. It propelled us to unforeseen economic prosperity, and it cultivated dreams of unlimited possibilities.

Last year, you celebrated this spirit by hosting local entrepreneurs for intimate discussions in cities across the country. In Milwaukee, for example, you partnered with the Badger Institute, Wisconsin's free-market think tank, to host Ave Bie, managing partner of Quarles and Brady and member of the board of directors of the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League (NFL). Ave shared her professional journey and urged attendees to embrace the opportunities they encounter, to take calculated risks when the circumstances warrant decisive action.

Wisdom, like that shared by Ave, is vital in ensuring a prosperous future. It must be passed from generation to generation, to keep the American Dream alive and well. But we cannot stop with Millennials, if we want the ideas of freedom to flourish long into the future.

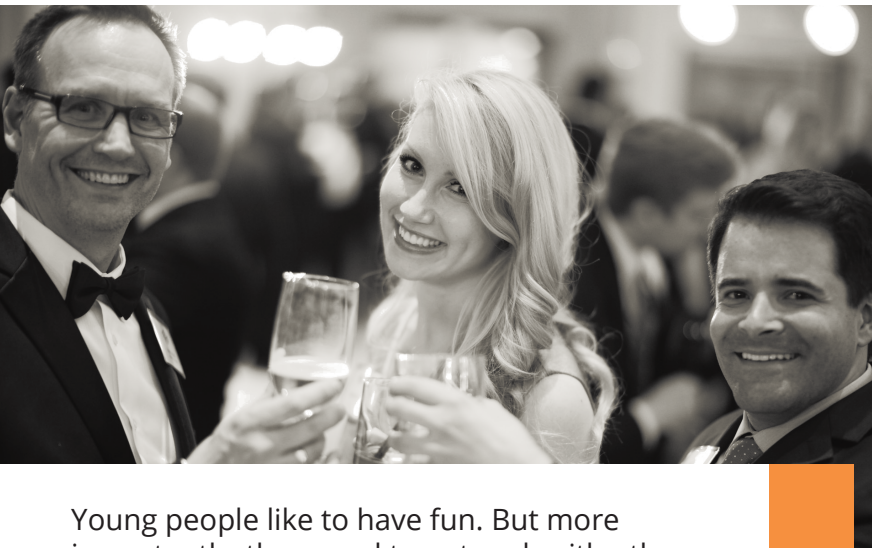
That is why you partnered with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and Junior Achievement of Michigan to celebrate entrepreneurship with future liberty-lovers at the Detroit Children's Business Fair last May. Several young entrepreneurs were given cash prizes to support the burgeoning notion of enterprise in the Motor City.

Events like these, through which chapter members volunteer their time to incubate in children a passion for entrepreneurship, are an important component of building a movement for freedom that will last for generations to come. Thank you for making this possible.



GAINING GROUND IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

YOUR INVESTMENT ENSURES THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM



Young people like to have fun. But more importantly, they need to network with other young professionals. To share ideas, to foster collaboration, and to build relationships that can last a lifetime. Their futures depend on it. The future of freedom depends on it.

That is why you host AFF's annual gala, where the future leaders of our movement convene to have fun, network with like-minded peers, and celebrate the growth of AFF nationwide. And last year, there was much to celebrate, as 2017 was AFF's biggest year to date.

You inspired 25 liberty organizations to sponsor this last gala, including the American Enterprise Institute, DonorsTrust, The Fund for American Studies, The Heritage Foundation, Institute for Humane Studies, Young America's Foundation, and many others.

With more than 220 young people in attendance, last year's gala was a testament to everything you accomplished by supporting AFF. With tremendous growth and strong organizational partnerships, you have positioned AFF to advance liberty for generations to come.



BUILDING A MOVEMENT:

COLLABORATING TO EXPAND YOUR SUPPORT

2017 was one for the record books. You launched five new chapters, reached more than 9,000 Millennials with the ideas of freedom, and hosted prominent speakers, like:

- 🕒 Robert Shibley, executive director at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), who spoke to young leaders in Atlanta about free speech;
- 🕒 Bill Schuette, Michigan's Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate (pictured, top), who spoke to members of AFF-Midland about the threats to liberty in the state of Michigan;
- 🕒 Matt Kibbe, president of Free the People, who spoke to young leaders in Raleigh about the state of liberty in America and what the next generation can do to advance our message; and
- 🕒 Larry Reed, president of the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), who hosted an intimate discussion in Albuquerque about the need to effectively communicate the inherent value of liberty.

What was most impressive about 2017, however, was the level of collaboration your support generated throughout the year. Because of you, AFF partnered with more than 40 leading conservative and libertarian organizations in 2017. In fact, more than half of AFF events involved collaboration with a partner. Highlights included:

- 🕒 Your partnership with Taliesin Nexus and the Charles Koch Institute to sponsor SmashCut CineFest in Washington, DC, where more than 250 young professionals and AFF donors gathered to view six award-winning short films that celebrate liberty (pictured, middle);
- 🕒 Two events with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, in Detroit and Atlanta, where Lily Tang Williams recounted her escape from communist China (pictured, bottom);
- 🕒 A creative endeavor in which AFF-Midland partnered with the local Chamber of Commerce to address more than 200 young professionals in the area; and



- 🕒 Five events held in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Liberty, in New Orleans, Detroit, Chicago, Albuquerque, and Jackson, where young professionals were provided an academic setting in which they intimately discussed important contemporary issues with established scholars and experts.

YOUR PARTNERS IN GROWING OUR MOVEMENT NATIONWIDE

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



NATIONAL THINK TANKS

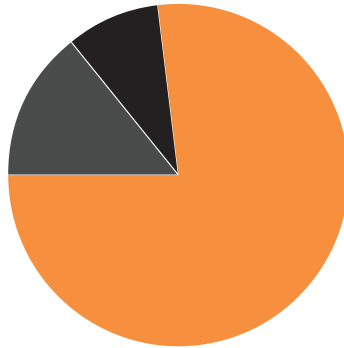


STATE THINK TANKS



JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017

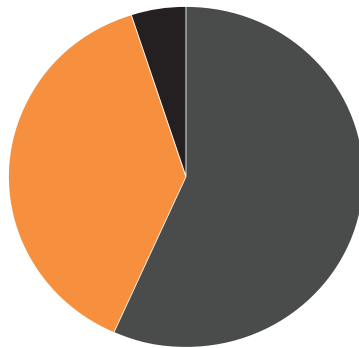
EXPENSES



- DEVELOPMENT: \$132,009**
- ADMINISTRATION: \$80,815**
- PROGRAMS: \$707,040**

TOTAL: \$919,864

REVENUE



- FOUNDATIONS: \$610,400**
- INDIVIDUALS: \$410,936**
- PROGRAMS: \$53,716**

TOTAL: \$1,075,052

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