

THE BRIEF

FROM THE DESK OF GABE CONGER

Dear Friends,

If you've been blessed with children, you know the internal tug of war between principle and compromise, between truth and love. The impact may not be as far-reaching as the Founding Fathers' debates over the language of the United States Constitution, but for those we love, the stakes are indeed high.

When the Constitution was ratified in 1789, no one thought the debate had ended. The Founders disagreed sharply—not as much over the basic principles, but about how to apply them in light of history and the needs of the nascent republic. The ratification represented a compromise that immediately changed the course of history, yet most of those involved soon set out to amend our founding document, with the Bill of Rights appearing two years later.

Those first ten amendments set powerful and enduring restraints on government power, most of which have endured through countless challenges in court and the public square. The First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of expression and religion, however, is under incredible assault today. In their wisdom, the Founders strongly prohibited the notion of a state religion, but in their personal correspondence they just as strongly argued for the necessity of both freedom and virtue—religious virtue—if freedom would not be lost.

The Bradley Impact Fund's five guiding principles—Constitutional Order, Free Markets, Civil Society, Informed Citizens, and Donor Intent—reflect the necessarily ongoing process of defending both maximum freedom from coercion and the virtues of civil society and community that create the bonds that preserve freedom and prosperity. On the pages that follow, you'll find profiles of five Impact Fund grant recipients embodying those guiding principles and fighting strategically for freedom and restoration. Thank you as always for your membership and your friendship.

Onward,



Gabe Conger
President, Bradley Impact Fund



DID YOU KNOW?

Bradley Impact Fund Donors Gave
NEARLY \$47M IN GRANTS IN 2023



Our Annual Report has gone digital!

Scan the code to learn more
about what the Bradley
Impact Fund community
made possible in 2023.



BRADLEY
IMPACT FUND®
PRINCIPLED PHILANTHROPY

2023 IMPACT

We thank the members of our donor community for their support and their commitment to restoring, strengthening, and protecting America's founding principles and institutions. It is a privilege for all of us at the Bradley Impact Fund to partner with you in working toward that vision.

Learn more about how the Bradley Impact Fund made an impact during 2023 by reading the Annual Report.



 **1,687**
GRANTS MADE

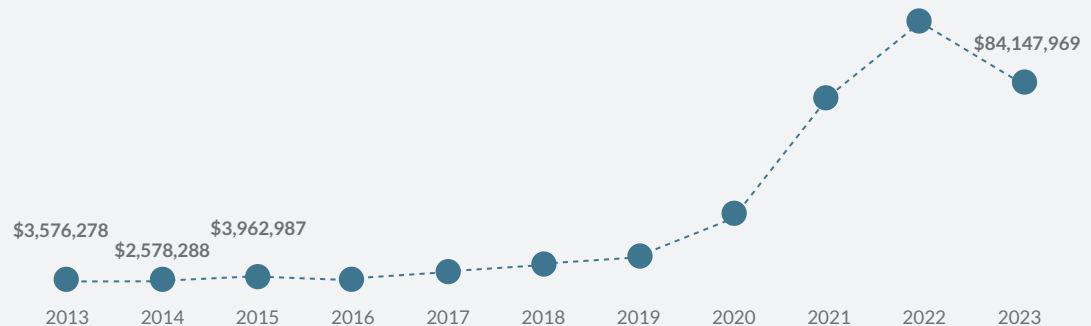
 **\$27,181**
AVERAGE GRANT

 **590**
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED

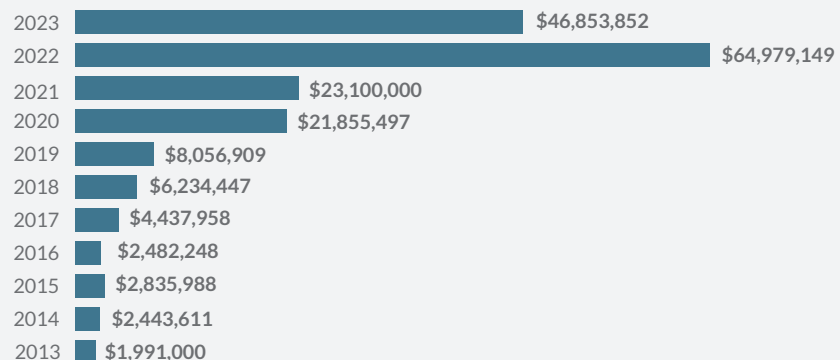
\$334,915
GRANTED FROM BRADLEY IMPACT FUND
Issue Funds to 13 organizations

American Institute for Economic Research
American Transparency's Open the Books
Do No Harm
Forge Leadership Network
Government Accountability Institute
Hope Street Ministries
Institute for Justice
Leadership Program of the Rockies
Network of enlightened Women
New Civil Liberties Alliance
RealClearInvestigations
State Financial Officer Foundation
Upper Midwest Law Center

Giving to the Impact Fund Over Time



Total Annual Disbursements



\$339,393,185
TOTAL GIVING TO IMPACT FUND
ACCOUNTS since 2013

\$185,270,659
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS TO
GRANT RECIPIENTS since 2013



INFORMED CITIZENS

Dedication to the formation of informed and capable citizens.



Foundation for
Excellence in
Higher Education

Established in 2012 as an independent, non-partisan, grant-making organization, the Foundation for Excellence in Higher Education (FEHE) funds and advises programs at elite universities where the next generation of cultural leaders are formed.

FEHE advances its mission of academic and cultural renewal through a network of twenty-eight programs and institutes at fourteen elite universities in the United States and the United Kingdom. One of the key impacts of this strategy is a rapidly growing network of young leaders who share a commitment to rigorous, civil, and open intellectual exchange across ideological differences.

In the 2022-23 academic year, FEHE's network sponsored seventy-five for-credit courses for over 3,000 students and hosted over 1,200 events for over 25,000 attendees. Since each was held in a venue where the open exchange of ideas is often under attack, participants are producing world-class

scholarship that challenges the mediocrity that is leading so many to despair of the future of higher education. And make no mistake: what happens on elite college campuses—good and bad—doesn't end there. Perhaps more so than any other institution, the academy shapes our culture and institutions.

FEHE's internal university programs are directed by select professors who teach for-credit courses and mentor students. Their external institutes draw scholars and students from their home universities, host academic programming and events, and support their internal programs. The model is based on the Witherspoon Institute, which was founded in 2003 by individuals associated with Princeton University's James Madison Program. Recognizing the need for similar programs to be well-resourced at other elite institutions, FEHE grew to support such programs as the Abigail Adams Institute (Harvard), the Houston Institute (Rice), the Zephyr Institute (Stanford), and the Elm Institute (Yale).

In line with the Bradley Impact Fund's commitment to developing informed citizens, FEHE is teaching rigorous scholarship, informed and civil debate, and intellectual courage. Fighting back against the Left isn't a battle won overnight. An investment in FEHE is about winning the battle of ideas over the long term.



CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER

Allegiance to the Constitution, with its principles of limited government, federalism, separation of powers, and individual liberties.

— THE —
FAIRNESS
— CENTER —

Hartford, Connecticut public school teacher John Grande isn't one to mince words. So when administrators asked John and his peers what they thought of the "diversity" course they'd just endured, his succinct reply spoke volumes.

"I was just man-bashed and white-shamed. I'm gonna sit here quietly."

In case the training leaders didn't get the point, John continued asserting his constitutionally-protected right to free expression in a follow up survey, opining that the degrading course was "part of the Superintendent's agenda to advance her career."

District policy was explicitly stated that such expressions of opinion are protected under the First Amendment. So, John was surprised to learn months later that an investigation had been launched without his knowledge, accusing him of creating "an unsafe and hostile environment." The investigation included three specific claims that John believed contained falsehoods intended to defame him.

As you can imagine, he didn't take that news lying down. He asked the teachers union to defend him against the falsehoods. When the union declined, John contacted the **Fairness Center** and sued the union for failing to live up to its obligation to do so. John won that case in the Summer of 2023, but he and the Fairness Center weren't done. In January, they filed suit against the school board and administrators because, as John puts it:

They launched a witch hunt against me and ran a kangaroo court to convict me for exercising my free speech rights. They threatened my career to silence me, but with this lawsuit, I'm leveling the playing field and forcing school officials to answer for trampling my rights.



Because of Bradley Impact Fund members like you, the Fairness Center (FC) was ready to stand with John and represent him without charge. In fact, FC has put dozens of public unions on notice: the days of abusing their members' rights are numbered. FC represents public employees and others who are defending their constitutional rights, facing union retaliation, fighting unfair representation, or demanding accountability for union officials' corruption.

The Fairness Center doesn't simply parachute in to make a constitutional argument or write an amicus brief. FC exists to ensure that a union follows the law and doesn't violate the rights of its clients. The Center has sometimes sued a union multiple times in a single year. FC also goes deep into the legal discovery process, uncovering criminality which is subsequently prosecuted. This makes the organization a unique and indispensable protector of constitutional rights.

With clients including teachers, firefighters, municipal employees, liquor store employees, public university professors, corrections officers, traffic agents, and others who have been hurt by public-sector union officials, FC offers free legal services in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York and to federal government employees (including class action lawsuits) wherever they work or reside.

Since its founding in 2014, FC has helped more than 150 clients whose cases often reverberate far beyond victory for the brave individual who steps forward. In fact, they've won decisions that had the effect of:

- Applying the US Supreme Court's 2018 Janus decision to Pennsylvania law;
- Forcing Pennsylvania's largest public-sector unions to abandon limitations on when their 50,000 members can leave the union; and

- Defending a Connecticut firefighters union's right to separate from a state union, exposing what a court called "questionable" financial practices, among many other victories.

The Fairness Center and other First Amendment-focused law firms have been a big part in the belated, but far from sufficient, pushback against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), which has now seen more than a dozen states pass or propose laws rolling back these unjust requirements at colleges and universities. In December, Oklahoma banned DEI at all state agencies. In blue states and many progressive institutions like public labor unions, this toxic ideology still has a hold. But

The Fairness Center epitomizes the Bradley Impact Fund's principle of defending the constitutional order that laid the foundations for the most dynamic society and economy the world has ever seen.

even many liberals have been harmed by DEI initiatives or have seen it cut away at their businesses' bottom lines, and they're losing patience with what they originally thought would help bring unity and equality to their enterprises.

By defending the rights of workers like John Grande against powerful public unions, the Fairness Center epitomizes the Bradley Impact Fund's principle of defending the constitutional order that laid the foundations for the most dynamic society and economy the world has ever seen.

A case defending a public school teacher's constitutional right to free expression might not make national headlines. But to John, his family, and hundreds of thousands of faithful workers just like him, this fight means the world.

FREE MARKETS

Commitment to free markets that allow for private enterprise, entrepreneurship, and voluntary exchange within the rule of law.



“In due time, the good fortune of the United States to have had such a man as Calvin Coolidge in just the years he filled that office will be more clearly realized than it yet has been.”

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, eulogizing President Calvin Coolidge, January, 1933

2023 was the centennial year of President Calvin Coolidge’s elevation to the highest office in the land. The Foundation dedicated to preserving our thirtieth president’s legacy and values made sure that the year didn’t pass without a proper celebration and the attention it deserved. Based in Silent Cal’s hometown of Plymouth Notch, Vermont, the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation was formed in 1960 by John Coolidge, the president’s son, along with a group of fellow Coolidge enthusiasts, to increase Americans’

knowledge of Coolidge and the values he promoted throughout his life.

Those values—civility, limited government, federalism, academic merit, and free enterprise—could hardly track more closely with those of the Bradley Impact Fund. Impact Fund donors support the Foundation’s key initiatives and platforming of economic history and inquiries into the philosophy of free markets.



The Coolidge Scholars Program is among the most competitive and generous undergraduate awards in America. “The Coolidge” is a full-ride, four-year, merit scholarship that can be used by recipients at any accredited college or university in the United States. Each year, thousands of Americans study President Coolidge’s time in office and read his autobiography through the course of applying for the scholarship.

Currently, three to four new Coolidge Scholars are selected annually after a rigorous review process that culminates with a finalist weekend in Woodstock and Plymouth Notch, Vermont. The finalist jury is chaired by James H. Douglas, former Governor of Vermont.

In addition to the full-ride awards, the top one hundred applicants each year are named “Coolidge Senators” and invited to participate in the Coolidge Foundation’s annual “Coolidge Senators Summit” in Washington, DC. Each of these students receives a modest scholarship as well. The Foundation is building an endowment to support further program expansion.

Recognizing the need to give talented, younger Americans an opportunity to shoot for the high ideals that President Coolidge exemplified, the Foundation also operates a national high school debate program, the centerpiece of which is the Coolidge Cup National Debate Championship. Beginning with tournaments in cities across the country, the winners of these tournaments are invited to compete for the Coolidge Cup on the Fourth of July, Coolidge’s birthday, in Plymouth Notch.

Through all Coolidge Debate tournaments, students learn about all sides of policy issues and develop critical thinking and presentation skills necessary to be successful citizens. Most importantly, the

Forming a new generation of defenders of free enterprise has never been more urgent.

students enjoy an encounter with President Coolidge and his timeless values. To date, nearly 2,000 students have participated in Coolidge Debate, hundreds of whom have come to Plymouth Notch on scholarships funded by the Foundation. In addition to the scholarship and debate programs, the Foundation organizes and hosts visits to Plymouth Notch for hundreds of students each year and organizes conferences, symposia, lectures, and public events both in Plymouth Notch and around the country.

Furthermore, the Foundation conducts original research examining President Coolidge’s policy ideas; publishes a periodical, *The Coolidge Quarterly*; maintains a website of Coolidge resources; and houses a collection of Coolidge papers and artifacts. True to his commitment to the free market and limited government, the Coolidge Foundation (unlike modern presidential libraries) receives no federal support. It is up to private citizens like us to ensure that the legacy and lessons of this underrated president remain alive for America’s next generation.

The Impact Fund’s and Coolidge Foundation’s shared interest in the prosperity brought by free markets has never been more timely. The market may, to a great degree, operate itself, but it doesn’t defend itself. Unjust government overreach remains a constant threat, even on the political right.

Forming a new generation of defenders of free enterprise—in union with the values that uphold human dignity—has never been more urgent.



DONOR INTENT

*The Bradley Impact Fund
shares with our members
a strong commitment to
donor intent and privacy.*

**PEOPLE
UNITED *for*
PRIVACY
FOUNDATION**



Founded in 2018, People United for Privacy Foundation (PUFPF) defends the rights of all Americans to come together in support of their shared values. Which seems like common sense, until you read developments in policy that have profound effects on donors and the causes they support.

Across the country, there's a growing call to force nonprofit groups—including some churches—to report the names and addresses of their donors to the government. Some of the proposed legislation would give the government power to post this information on a public website that anyone could see.

The reason activists want to see this private information is simple: they want to be able to target you for your personal beliefs. This isn't about donations to political candidates, which are already available online. Progressive activists want to force nonprofits to disclose donations to causes and groups that you support that are doing work in our communities or around the world. The goal, as we have seen in too many situations, is to expose donors to harassment or intimidation.

Donor privacy is vital to protecting donor intent. Erasing donor privacy will inevitably cost worthy organizations the funds needed to pursue their missions, and civil society will be gravely harmed. Indeed, we've already seen how such injustice would work.

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During the fight for Civil Rights, the state of Alabama tried to force the NAACP to report the names and addresses of their supporters to the government. The NAACP knew that if their membership list was made public, those people would be targeted for harassment, intimidation, and even violence. So, they fought to defend their privacy all the way to the US Supreme Court and won. The Supreme Court said that donations to private organizations like the NAACP—even if they take a position on political issues—can remain private so that people's safety is protected.

Often sold as an effort to “get dark money out of politics,” the elimination of donor privacy would have a much broader and more destructive impact. As appealing as this may sound . . .

To change our laws to subject people to the chilling effects of having their privacy invaded and their personal information compiled in government databases and Google searches is not the way our democracy should operate.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Commitment to the fundamental institutions of civil society that cultivate individuals capable of self-governance.



WISCONSIN INMATE
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

We are not just another number or statistic. We are not just our worst mistake. . . We are brothers, sons, uncles, and fathers. We are people who are loved and who love. . . We are people who seek forgiveness. We are people who learn from their mistakes.



The Bradley Impact Fund didn't just request permission to publish August White's remarkable 2021 address to his fellow Trinity College graduates and to the governor and other dignitaries because of its eloquence. Though it was indeed eloquent and an excellent fit for our annual Words of Impact feature.

We also published White's speech because of the unusual venue in which it was given—Waupun Correctional Extension, a maximum-level security prison some thirty miles northwest of Milwaukee. In July 2021, Wisconsin Inmate Education Association's (WIEA) inaugural class of twenty students graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical studies with a minor in psychology. For the first time in Trinity International University's



124-year history, every single student graduated with honors.

Among the many fascinating aspects of WIEA's Operation Transformation is that several of its students may never see the outside of the prison due to their length of sentence. Yet, these men are finding hope and purpose, having a positive impact on the inmates around them while serving as ministers or in other roles. Some graduates are on course to re-enter society with an entirely new outlook and prospects.

In Spring 2023, the Trinity campus moved to Fox Lake Correctional, a medium-level security facility west of Waupun. Pastor Robin Knoll and students have been edified by the response from officers in the facility, who regularly comment on how diligent the students are. One officer even commented on how polite and courteous students are compared with their peers in the general population. Mr. Knoll hastens to add that as welcome as such comments are, the goal isn't to help students be more polite—the goal is a transformation of spirit and restoration of hope. That such a transformation is evident in students' behavior is a welcome sign of the deeper work in progress.

WIEA's Operation Transformation is based in part on a seminary launched in New York's Angola Prison—a program that has been thoroughly studied by researchers with Baylor University, who found that:

- Significant change was achieved not through fear of punishment, but through embrace of an alternative identity that celebrates right behavior for the right reasons.

- Graduates and students report lower levels of disciplinary convictions, and participation in spiritual and morality related conversations was also related to lower levels of misconduct.
- Misconduct among inmates who participated in the program tended to decline or remain low over time compared to those who did not.

Baylor's researchers noted their surprise at many of these findings, given that most of the population studied had no prospect of returning to their community soon or ever.

Perhaps not often considered, prisons are in fact among civil society's vital institutions. How they operate and the outcomes of those who return to society matter. Volumes have been written on the

revolving door between America's most marginalized communities and prison, leaving many with the impression that the current corrections culture may be worsening many problems these facilities are intended to mitigate.

With such innovative and promising efforts as seen with WIEA, however, we see reason for hope. Changemakers committed to

proclaiming God's Word and modeling Christian virtue in an environment bereft of hope and trust can change a facility's culture. The Impact Fund community will continue watching developments at WIEA closely, including the possibility of bringing its model to other facilities.

Enriching civil society is a core value of the Bradley Impact Fund, and that is exactly what WIEA is doing through their work with incarcerated individuals.

Changemakers committed to proclaiming God's Word and modeling Christian virtue in an environment bereft of hope and trust can change a facility's culture.

2024 & 2025 EVENT DATES

**BRADLEY
IMPACT CONFERENCE**
OCTOBER 14-15, 2024
Kohler, WI

**BRADLEY
IMPACT CONFERENCE**
OCTOBER 13-14, 2025
Kohler, WI

*Watch your inbox
for more event
invitations to come.*



Bradley Impact Fund's Core Principles

Constitutional Order | Free Markets | Civil Society | Informed Citizens | Donor Intent

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