CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION Educating Tomorrow's Citizens



2004 ANNUAL REPORT

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION Mission Statement

Constitutional Rights Foundation seeks to instill in our nation's youth a deeper understanding of citizenship through values expressed in our Constitution and its Bill of Rights and educate young people to become active and responsible participants in our society. CRF is dedicated to assuring our country's future by investing in our youth today.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION



Louis P. Eatman, President

n informed, committed, and active citizenry is vital to our democracy. Public schools were created to prepare our nation's youth to become engaged and informed citizens.

Since 1962, Constitutional Rights Foundation has offered educational programs and materials designed to provide young people with a deeper understanding of citizenship, raise an awareness of their constitutional rights and responsibilities, and equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to become effective participants in our democracy.

This ongoing mission has provided CRF with a clear and unwavering agenda. CRF programs and materials reflect decades of planning, implementation, and evaluation that ensure we address the challenge to educate tomorrow's citizens.

Recent studies reveal that this challenge has never been greater. A *Civics Report Card for the Nation*¹ found that only 25 percent of tested students understand how American democracy works. A second study, the *Civic Mission of Schools*², found that young Americans are substantially less likely to vote than their predecessors, while a third report, *The Future of the First Amendment*³, tells us that three-fourths of the high school students they interviewed believe that the First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.

These findings have stimulated us to action, to address the civic-education needs of our nation, our schools, and our young people. We know the road; we've been committed to the challenge for over forty years.



Todd Clark, Executive Director

In 2004, CRF's 28 staff members were guided by a 68-member board of directors and underwritten by a \$3.7 million budget which enabled CRF staff to plan and implement many new and existing programs and publications. We launched three new programs: *Deliberating in a Democracy*, an international exchange program on civil discussion; *Youth News, Views, and Action*, a CRF web site designed for and by young people; and *Educating for Democracy, The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools*, which seeks to strengthen civic education in California's public schools.

Also in 2004, CRF's Youth Internship Program continued to place scores of qualified inner-city students in law firms, businesses, government offices, and non-profit organizations. CRF's California State Mock Trial Competition involved 8,500 students and 2,000 lawyer and teacher volunteers while our newsletter, *Bill of Rights in Action*, continued to provide 32,000 American educators with a variety of classroom lessons in four issues each year. Our dynamic web site (**www.crf-usa.org**) attracted 1.5 million page hits in 2004, up from 848,000 in 2003.

With your help, CRF will continue to pursue its mission to prepare our young citizens to assume positive roles as active citizens.

¹ National Assessment of Educational Progress, 1998.

² Carnegie Corporation of New York and The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 2003.

³ John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, 2005.

What is CRF?

Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization dedicated to helping our nation's young people become engaged and participatory citizens and understand the rule of law, the legal process, and their constitutional heritage.

Established in 1962, CRF is guided by a dedicated board of directors drawn from the worlds of law, business, government, education, and the media. CRF's professional staff includes teachers and educators, lawyers, designers, editors and writers, and youth development specialists. Additionally, volunteers provide vital support for many CRF programs and activities and serve as adult role models for our youthful participants. To accomplish its goals and objectives, CRF applies its resources in seven major areas:

1. LAW AND GOVERNMENT

CRF offers programs and materials that focus on the issues, institutions, people, and processes that shape our laws and government.

Mock Trial. In 1980, CRF introduced a statewide mock trial program to help California students learn about our judicial system. Each year, CRF develops and distributes a new mock trial case to participants in 36 California counties. CRF administers the Los Angeles County and

statewide mock trial competitions. In 2004, CRF's mock trial program involved over 8,500 students and 2,000 lawyer and teacher volunteers.

"Mock trial taught me about the legal system and inspired me to consider law school."

"Mock trial helped me with presentations and taught me about law and teamwork."

CRF's Summer Law Institute (SLI). This week-long immersion program offers workshops and classes on the First Amendment, capital punishment, using law to create social change, and how the media affects our justice system. Co-hosted by the UCLA, CRF's 2004 Summer Law Institute reached over 50 high school students. The majority of them were awarded scholarships to attend SLI.

"I learned to see different sides of an argument."

"I really feel like I gained a lot of knowledge and insight into my future."



2. U.S. AND WORLD HISTORY

CRF offers programs and curricular materials that enable students to develop a deeper understanding of the people, events, trends, and issues that make history and the role they play in shaping contemporary society.

History Day. Moving far beyond names and dates, History Day students research historical issues, ideas, and people and apply what they have learned

to their own research papers and displays, media productions, performances, and web pages. In 2004, CRF's History Day program reached 40,000 students from 31 California counties.

"Since I participated in History Day, I view history in a totally different light."

"History Day provides its children with determination, thoroughness, analysis, creativity, curiosity, and a love of history."

Teaching American History. This content-based, professional-development program provides curricular materials and teaching tools and strategies to fifth-, eighth-, and eleventh-grade history teachers in Los Angeles.

"[The TAH program] entices me to make American History more interesting for the students. I want to bring to my students what you brought to us through these trainings."

3. CIVIC PARTICIPATION

These CRF programs bring to life the rights and responsibilities of active citizenship by challenging young people to explore their communities and develop projects to address community needs.

CityWorks. This standards-based, local government curriculum offers a civic-engagement component, involving students in projects



that address community issues they care about. Here, students-usually working in groups-choose and research a community problem, examine policies dealing with it, and plan and implement a service-learning project to address it. Students also document and evaluate their experiences.

"Since I'm in this [CityWorks] classroom, if I think something's wrong in my neighborhood, I know where to go." –CityWorks student

"Half the kids don't listen when you're reading out of textbooks. But when you have to get involved, it's a different story." -CityWorks student

Civic Engagement Training & Technical Assistance (CETTA). Since 2001, CRF has been working with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to provide citizenship training and technical assistance for a broad range CNCS-funded civic-engagement programs.

"[CETTA] moves well from general ideas about citizenship to a hands-on project.-CETTA Trainee, Des Moines, Iowa

After participating in this [CETTA] workshop, I am encouraged in my abilities to present this information to our members.—CETTA trainee, Little Rock, Arkansas

4. YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The development of youth leadership lies at the core of CRF's mission to educate young people to become active and responsible participants in our society.

Youth Internship Program. This CRF program places qualified inner-city students in law firms, businesses, government offices, and non-profit organizations. YIP empowers young people to serve as school and community leaders while they gain valuable work experience.

"I gained confidence and the ability to communicate with professionals."

"I gained the most from the seminar where we learned about ourselves; exploring prejudice and racial issues. The debate was great!"

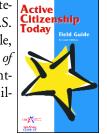
Youth Leadership for Action (YLFA). CRF's leadership development program for young people is committed to initiating positive change in their communities. YLFA emphasizes the importance of active citizenship by implementing a series of leadership programs and activities including the Los Angeles Youth Forum. Here, YLFA participants gather at Los Angeles City Hall to interact with local leaders from business, government, and non-profits. Together they identify and explore community problems and develop project plans to address them.

"The most interesting experience was meeting the [Los Angeles City] Council members and having the opportunity to address my concerns."

> "I learned how to focus efforts on a realistic project, use outside resources and how to contact city officials."

5. PUBLICATIONS

CRF develops and publishes educational texts and materials on law and government, civic participation, U.S. and world history, and current issues. For example, CRF's acclaimed quarterly curricular newsletter, *Bill of Rights in Action*, reached 32,000 educators. Our constantly evolving web site (**www.crf-usa.org**) attracted 1.5 million page hits in 2004, up from 848,000 in 2003.



"I have been receiving Bill of Rights in Action for years. Thank you for publishing such timely and useful materials."

"Thank you for your Election Central site dealing with the [2004] election. It will be a big help in my American Government classes!"

"The CRF web site is a great resource that I use frequently in my American Government and U.S. history classes."

7. PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL EVENTS

CRF offers professional development workshops and technical assistance in service learning and law-related education. They also plan and administer local and statewide special events including California History Day and a wide variety of Cops and Kids conferences, workshops, and trainings. Cops and Kids conferences are built around a Police Patrol simulation activity that puts students in the roles of citizens needing police assistance and as officers responding to their calls. Law enforcement officers act as resource people, working with students to explore due process, profiling, stereotypes, and the role of police in society.

"We have to treat each other with respect. Let's face it, [cops and kids] need each other's help." -Cops and Kids officer participant

"Before this, I used to think most [cops] were bad because I really didn't know them."-Cops and Kids student participant

6. EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

In 2004, CRF launched an exciting new initiative designed to draw from and strengthen CRF's diverse array of democracy-education programs and materials while it promotes civic education in California. Convened by CRF in collaboration with the Center for Civic Education, *Educating for Democracy, The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools* seeks the



support of education, business, law, veteran, labor, parent, and service groups around the state to promote civic education in California.

"It's great to see that our future isn't doomed...there are many smart and active students [who] will make a difference." –Youth Committee member

"This is a wonderful start to a campaign that is essential to our democracy." –Adult Campaign participant



Statement of Unrestricted Operational Revenues and Expenses

For the Year Ending December 31, 2004

REVENUES

EXPENSES

GRANTS		
Government	1,365,057	37%
Private	709,223	19%
CONTRIBUTIONS		
General Contributions	184,976	5%
Events (net of expenses)	741,761	20%
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	310,717	8%
MATERIAL SALES	133,110	3%
PROGRAM FEES	286,834	8%
OTHER SOURCES	<u>2,978</u>	<u>0%</u>
	\$ 3,734,656	100%
PROGRAM SERVICES		
Law and Government	1,492,635	43%
Civic Participation	1,034,193	30%
Publications	421,730	<u>12%</u>
FUND RAISING	292,637	8%
ADMINISTRATION	243,652	<u>7%</u>
	\$ 3,484,847	100%

The above data is audited. A complete audited financial statement is available upon request.

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Constitutional Rights Foundation accepts stock donations.

Making a donation of stock today will provide an ongoing gift to educate children throughout the United States. The donation of stock is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

For more information on making a gift to Constitutional Rights Foundation, please contact Jo Ann Burton at (213) 316-2102.

Endowment Builders

E ndowments ensure the future of a non-profit organization. Since 1990, CRF has been fortunate to receive a number of endowments given by people who share the passion that our mission to *educate tomorrow's citizens* is crucial to a civil society.

CRF acknowledges with enormous gratitude past presidents who established endowments at CRF: Jerome C. Byrne, James A. Cobey, and Alan I. Rothenberg; to past board members, Jack Stutman and Robert Rosenstiel; and to Phyllis and Robert Henigson for their continuing Life Income Gifts.

We also recognize Dr. Jama Laurent and the board of directors of the Creative Kids Foundation who have established an endowment allowing CRF to place students as interns in arts organizations in Los Angeles. Finally to our champion of champions, Lloyd M. Smith, who throughout his life embodied the highest ideals of American democracy and believed in the importance that all young people be educated about their constitutional heritage. It was Lloyd who established the CRF Endowment Builders Program, ensuring that CRF's mission continue long into the future.

To all of our champions and to those people who have indicated that they will remember CRF in their will or by bequest: We thank you for the generosity and trust you have given us, but most of all, on behalf of the students of tomorrow who will have opportunities to learn about and celebrate our Constitution and its Bill of Rights for generations to come.



Jerome C. Byrne



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