

Educate. Participate. Empower.

# Empowering young people for college, career, and civic life.







Peter B. Morrrison *Chair* 



Marshall Croddy President

### **Our Mission**

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 to 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.

# 2019 Annual Report

### From the Chair and President

Since 1962, Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) has educated and empowered young people for college, career, and civic life. Through publications, direct programming, teacher professional development, and online delivery of high-quality curricular resources and programs, CRF reaches tens of thousands of teachers and millions of students each year. In 2019 alone, over three million unique people visited CRF's website to learn about CRF's broad range of civic programming, including its Civic Action Project, its Educating About Immigration program, Mock Trial, Expanding Horizons Internships, Cops & Kids, and much more. All of CRF's programs promote CRF's mission to help young people become informed and engaged participants in our democratic society.

In 2019, CRF's highly regarded programming continued to have a national impact:

• **Civic Action Project (CAP)** This nationwide, cutting-edge program for civic learning is used in all 50 states and many countries. CAP students, many of whom live in low-income communities, learn civics by addressing real issues and problems in their communities that matter to them, seeing the connection between those issues and public policy, and taking meaningful civic actions to directly affect the public policies that will have an impact on resolving the issues. Students work with government officials and community agencies to achieve real policy change, from improving public transportation to instituting anti-bullying policies at schools to helping communities understand the dangers of toxins from disposable batteries.

We launched a new partnership with Empower the People, founded by two students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Sari Kaufman, a senior at Douglas High School, and Casey Sherman, now at Duke University, began leading a new national CAP Youth Board. Together and in partnership with Duke's Fuqua School of Business, they planned and hosted our first Citizen Debate event in 2019 where policy-makers and experts shared different perspectives on gun safety to have civil dialogue with CAP students around the nation. Hundreds of CAP students from Durham, North Carolina; Los Angeles, California; Spokane, Washington; and Longmont, Colorado joined the conversation.

• **Cops & Kids: Working Together for Peace on the Streets** is CRF's partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, with generous funding from the Morrison & Foerster Foundation, in which we provide an innovative program to open lines of communication and build understanding between officers and middle school youth. The Cops & Kids simulation model has helped over 3,000 students in the greater Los Angeles area better understand the daily demands of police work

and interact with police in a positive learning environment. Based on pre-and post-surveys, both officers and youth come away with new insights about each other. "Whether a young person or a seasoned officer," says LAPD Chief Michel Moore, "both come away from Cops & Kids with a better understanding of and appreciation for each other. Attitudes changed. Lives changed."

Working in partnership with the Los Angeles Police Museum, we started the development of a new high school youth and police program focused on a simulation of a police commission hearing.

We piloted a new curriculum focused on domestic violence prevention that we developed with doctors, nurses, and social workers from Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, and Jenesse Center.

- Our flagship curricular publication, *Bill of Rights in Action*, with motivating and interactive lessons for U.S. government, U.S. history, and world history classrooms has over 41,000 print and electronic subscribers across the country.
- In CRF's signature **California Mock Trial** program, 8,000 high-school and middle-school students in Los Angeles and throughout California compete as courtroom participants in a simulated criminal trial. Presided over by real judges and attorneys in real courtrooms, California Mock Trial builds confidence, critical thinking, collaboration, and presentation skills while leading many participants to pursue legal or public-service careers.
- For over 20 years, our **Expanding Horizons Internships** program has provided intensive civic learning and college preparation seminars, along with work experience in professional settings, to over 1,800 of Los Angeles's most deserving and underserved youth. Each summer, students are selected to experience this truly transformative and research-validated educational program that uniquely prepares them for civic life, college, and career.
- **Project LEAD** is our partnership with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, in which elementary schools learn refusal skills and other delinquency-prevention measures as prosecutors adopt classes and teach over 20 lessons developed by CRF. In 2019, we welcomed Marlton School in Baldwin Hills, a school for hearing-impaired children, with a DA facilitator who signed the lessons with the students.
- From our **Civics for All** partnership with the NYC Department of Education, to our **Content, Literacy, Inquiry, and Citizenship (CLIC) Project** collaboration with the Sacramento County Office of Education, to our **Challenge of Democracy** curriculum library funded by the Keck Foundation, CRF has provided thousands of teachers with high-quality professional-learning opportunities from coast to coast.

All of this vital work is made possible by the critical support of our donors, the commitment of our Board of Directors, the energy and talent of our staff, and the dedication of our volunteer judges, lawyers, and business professionals. We gratefully thank them all.

By working together we will continue to educate and empower each new generation of America's young people.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Morrison Board Chair

Manball Ceoddy

Marshall Croddy President



## What is CRF?

onstitutional Rights Foundation is non-partisan educational nonprofit dedicated to helping our nation's young people understand their rights and responsibilities as members of our democracy and helping them become well-informed, engaged, and active citizens. 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, writers and editors, and youth development specialists. Volunteers also provide vital support for many CRF programs and activities and serve as adult role models for youthful participants. To accomplish its goals and objectives, CRF applies its resources in the following areas:

**Civic Action Project.**In 2019, CRF continued to expand Civic Action Project (CAP), an innovative web-based program that provides a dynamic, civic-education experience for students by challenging them to explore the connection between social issues, government, and public policy. Through CAP, students choose an issue that matters to them and complete "civic actions" to address the issue by engaging their peers, policymakers, and other community stakeholders to initiate positive change. CAP features a 15-lesson curriculum linked to state standards; teacher professional development and support; and student project-planning tools. CAP provides numerous opportunities for teachers to address Common Core State Standards through the use of CAP lessons and resources in their classrooms.

On CAP's website students from around the nation are able to discuss, publish, and share a variety of media describing their issues and projects. The CAP Youth Board, which consists of CAP student alumni, act as peer coaches for new students currently engaged in developing their own projects. During 2019, CRF staff provided a variety of virtual and face-to-face professional development sessions for teachers resulting in another record year of registrants to CAP's online platform for a total of over 5,000 registrants spanning all 50 states and five continents, including Africa, Australia, Europe, and South America. Evaluation data of CAP's implementation this year once again demonstrated high levels of teacher satisfaction and improved civic capacities among students who participated in the program.

**Cops & Kids: Working Together for Peace on the Streets.** Thanks to the generous support of the Morrison & Foerster Foundation, CRF's Cops & Kids program provided over 3,000 students from communities throughout greater Los Angeles with the opportunity to have positive interactions with police officers; learn about police work; and share ideas to improve police-community relations and public safety in their communities. The Cops & Kids website is designed to enable schools from around the country to provide the same experience for youth and police in their communities.

CRF launched Cops & Kids locally in 2018 with a citywide spring conference at the LAPD Academy. The conference in 2019 involved the participation of over 300 students and 40 officers representing the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LACSD), Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD), and the Compton Unified School Police Department (CSPD). In addition to students and officers, over 30 volunteers from L.A.'s legal, corporate, and entertainment fields were present to facilitate 15 separate Police Patrol sessions, which is the featured activity of every Cops & Kids event. In addition to the citywide spring conference, CRF worked closely with officers from LAPD community stations throughout the city to provide a Cops & Kids experience for an additional 1,800 students representing communities from throughout greater Los Angeles.

Amplifying Youth Voice. In 2019, CRF began working in partnership with Empower the People (EtP) to pilot an effort to amplify the voices of young people in socialjustice issues that matter to them and to close the civic opportunity gap that exists between more and less affluent youth. EtP was founded and is run by Sari Kaufman and Casey Sherman, both from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, with a mission that CRF shares to increase youth awareness and engagement in our government and society. In November 2019, we held our first joint national Citizen Debate with EtP, in which 25 students from Durham, North Carolina, high schools attended in-person at Duke University, and at least 70 students representing 3-5 CAP Youth Board classes from California, Colorado, and Washington attended via Zoom to work with two professors at Duke to debate and also deliberate on gun safety and different interpretations of the 2nd Amendment.

**California Mock Trial.** CRF's Mock Trial is an educational competition that teaches young people about law, the Constitution, and the trial process in a realistic simulation. Young people develop analytical, critical-thinking, and presentation skills that promote their success on their college and career paths. Supported by hundreds of dedicated judges, lawyers, and teachers as volunteers, over 8,000 students from 37 California counties participated in the 2019 statewide competition, and 150 middle and high school teams took part in the Los Angeles County competition.

**Expanding Horizons Internships.** For 25 years, our Expanding Horizons Internships program has provided intensive civic learning and college preparation seminars and work experience in professional settings to over 1,800 of Los Angeles's most deserving and underserved youth. Each summer, students are selected to experience this truly transformative and research-validated educational program that uniquely prepares them for civic life, college, and career.

**Content, Literacy, Inquiry, and Citizenship (CLIC) Project.** With funding from the California Department of Education, CRF created high-quality professional learning resources aligned to the new state Framework for history-social science educators. Focusing on the four shifts in the Framework, reflected in the title of the project, CRF collaborated with the Sacramento County Office of Education to design and launch a new web page and video on classroom approaches to civic education to help teachers teach active citizenship at all grade levels. The CLIC Project also afforded CRF staff numerous opportunities to share their expertise in professional learning workshops for California teachers. **Project LEAD.** CRF has established this law-related education program in partnership with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to teach children that the choices they make today can affect their lives forever. The 20-week curriculum brings prosecutors into the classroom to teach lessons on social and legal consequences of juvenile crimes, such as truancy and illicit drug use, and includes lessons about conflict resolution, tolerance, and respect for diversity. The culminating mock trial gives students a hands-on experience of America's criminal justice system. The program is being implemented nationally and has been translated into French and expanded into schools in Québec, Canada. During the 2018-2019 school year, the program reached 98 classrooms and 2,000 students.

**Publications.** CRF's data-collection instruments estimate that CRF materials and publications reach nearly 2.5 million students annually. CRF's signature periodical, *Bill of Rights in Action*, reached over 40,000 educators with four new issues to help teachers and students with content-rich, standards-based curriculum on U.S. history, world history, U.S. government, and current issues. Among the topics covered in 2019 were Remembering John Brown, The Census in U.S. History, Haiti's Slave Revolt and War for Independence, Ida Tarbell and the Muckrakers, the Anglo-Zulu War and British Imperialism, The Arab Spring and the Challenge of Nation-Building, What is Treason? The Aaron Burr Case, and Suppressing the Vote.



In 2019, CRF's websites attracted close to 3.1 million visitors to access programs, buy materials from our online catalog, and download free lesson plans and classroom materials. Educators access our websites for Civic Action Project, Educating About Immigration, Educating About Intellectual Property, The California Three Rs Project, and Project LEAD, among others, for online resources for the social studies and civic education. CRF continued adding lessons to our latest website feature Civics on Call, a onestop page for classroom-ready lessons on issues of the day. Among the lessons added in 2019 were "Will the Mueller Probe End With a Constitutional Crisis?," "The Crisis in Venezuela," and "What is Nationalism."

CRF continues to raise its profile on social media, with a steady growth of page likes and followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

**Civics for All.** The New York City Department of Education's Civics for All initiative invited CRF to lead workshops in 2019 for NYC teachers to strengthen civic education and engagement throughout the nation's largest school district. In the "Fostering Civil Discourse in the Classroom" workshops, teachers from all five boroughs practiced CRF's Civil Conversation strategy and participated in civic scenarios and simulations in order to better support their students' skills and knowledge for and about democracy. And CRF will continue working with these teachers in 2020.

**Educating About Immigration.** CRF developed this teacher-friendly set of lessons and web resources to spark students' knowledge and interest about this crucial topic. Designed for accessibility in the classroom and home, the website provides lessons, information, and a place for everyone to share their personal or family immigration story. Constructive lessons on current issues are a hallmark of Educating About Immigration's online resources.

**Judges, Courts, and the Law.** Since 2010, CRF has partnered with the Judicial Council of California to create Judges, Courts, and the Law, a website providing a rich set of resources to extend civics-based learning about the third branch of government to more and more classrooms. The site also features *Courts in the Classroom*, a lively, animated feature geared toward students and teachers alike.

**Lawyer in the Classroom.** Two CRF programs provide students throughout Los Angeles County with a deeper understanding of the judicial system and its processes by connecting them with members of the legal community.

*Courtroom to Classroom* brings judge and attorney teams to middle or high school classrooms where they engage students with materials designed to support U.S. history and U.S. government courses.



In the traditional program, attorneys and judges visit a local classroom. The program has expanded to include school visits to the United States District Court for the Central District of California where middle-school students learn about what it's like to be a federal judge, U.S. marshall, assistant U.S. attorney, and federal public defender. Students then participate in a moot-court activity with help from volunteer attorneys and judges. In 2019, the program served 841 students.

*The Appellate Court Experience* (ACE) provides students with an opportunity to observe oral arguments in a criminal appeal, meet with presiding justices at the California State Court of Appeal, and engage in content- rich classroom activities. The ACE program serves students in Los Angeles County and, in 2019, impacted 348 students from Los Angeles, Ventura, and Sacramento Counties.

**California Three Rs Project.** CRF administers this project to educate California's teachers and administrators about fostering rights, responsibility, and respect in teaching about religion and rights of conscience in our public schools with the First Amendment's establishment clause and free-exercise clause serving as guides. The project's advisory council and planning committee are comprised of partners from county offices of education, nonprofit groups, and religious studies scholars. In 2019, CRF staff presented professional-learning for educators focusing on teaching about religion using the new state Framework and facilitated workshops for pre-service teachers, current classroom teachers, and administrators on California's Fair Education Act.

In 2019, CRF's 18 staff members were able to plan, develop, and deliver new and ongoing materials and programs, guided by a 71-member board of directors and underwritten by an approximately \$2.7 million operation.

# **Constitutional Rights Foundation**

Statement of Unrestriced Activities

For the Year Ending December 31, 2019

### Revenues

GRANTS					
Government	62,843	2%			
Private	393,609	13%			
CONTRIBUTIONS					
General	122,387	4%			
Events (net of expenses)	556,830	18%			
Donated materials, services, and facilities	618,879	20%			
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	809,041	27%			
MATERIAL SALES	11,579	-1%			
PROGRAM FEES	436,538	14%			
OTHER SOURCES	14,381	1%			
	\$ 3,026,086	100%			

## Expenses

PROGRAM SERVICES	2,143,128	79%
ADMINISTRATION	407,650	15%
FUND RAISING	166,601	6%
	\$ 2,717,379	100%

The above data has not yet been audited. The data is audited annually and a complete audited financial statement will be available upon request.

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## Securing the Future for Generations to Come

### **Endowment Builders**

Since 1990, CRF has been fortunate to receive a number of endowments given by people who share our passion for civic education and support our mission, teaching young people how to be engaged citizens in our democracy.

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 our long-time supporters Phyllis and Robert Henigson for their continuing Life Income Gifts. We would also like to recognize Dr. Jama Laurent and the board of directors of the Creative Kids Foundation for establishing an endowment allowing CRF to place students as interns in arts organizations in Los Angeles. To all of you, a very special thank you. Most of all, we would like to send out a loud cheer and celebrate 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 friends, supporters, and donors, and to those people who have indicated that they will remember CRF in their will or by bequest: We thank you for your generosity and for the trust you have given us. Most important, we thank you 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.



Lloyd M. and Edith Smith\*





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We acknowledge with enormous gratitude those who have pledge to include CRF in their estate planning.

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