

20  
18

ANNUAL REPORT  
**Young Voices**





# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JUDDWEISS.COM

**Dear Supporter,**

From time to time, it can seem as if society is more divided than ever before. This past year saw the rise of extremist violence from both the far-left and far-right across the globe, from Charlottesville to Caracas. In the United States, partisanship is at a new high after the election of President Donald Trump. Meanwhile, trust in media is at an all-time low.

According to a 2016 Gallup poll, a mere 32 percent of the public trusts mainstream outlets “to report the news fully, accurately and fairly” – the lowest result since the survey started in 1997. With both sides of the aisle growing further apart from each other, there need to be sensible voices presenting educated arguments for liberty backed by research and principles. Without them, the public’s faith in the media and other important institutions of society will continue to decline.

Young Voices believes the solution is to cultivate pro-liberty perspectives by investing in what the Nobel Prize-winning economist F. A. Hayek called “secondhand dealers in ideas” – namely, individuals who popularize ideas in mainstream culture. Our staff finds these secondhand dealers, the best aspiring journalists and policy analysts under 30, and empowers them with the media mentorship and public relations services needed to spread the message of liberty in print and on the airwaves.

Recent academic evidence has underlined our approach. A study published in March by Yale University’s Alexander Coppock and the Cato institute’s Emily Ekins and David Kirby tested the effect that op-eds have on changing people’s minds through two randomized panel survey experiments.



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JUDDWEISS.COM

*continued*

The results were quite positive for those of us in the persuasion business. “[O]p-eds do change minds,” the team reported in a May 12 article for **The Washington Post**. “Even in today’s allegedly post-fact world, people are capable of considering new evidence and reaching new conclusions.”

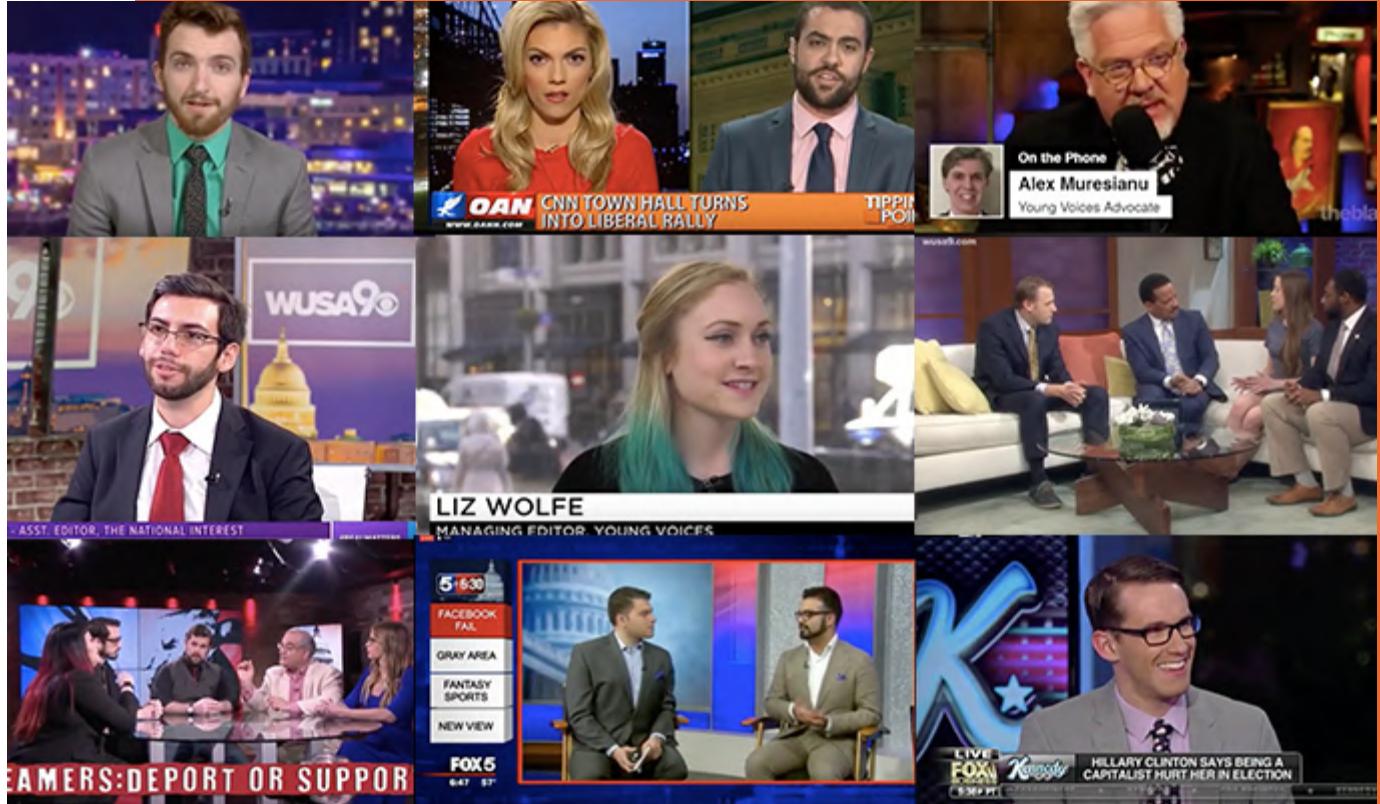
Young Voices has spent the past year tirelessly making the case for free markets and individual rights in the mass media. In the coming pages, you’ll read about how we’ve drastically expanded our TV and radio capabilities, reached out to college students fighting for civil discourse on campus, launched a new policy fellowship aimed at defending the fundamentals of a free society, and fostered new partnerships with notable organizations – new and old – like the American Media Council and the Reason Foundation.

None of this would have been possible without the support of donors and partners like yourself. From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much. With your help, Young Voices will identify and empower the best and brightest young journalists, policy analysts, and academics with the skills to renew society’s dedication to liberty.

Sincerely,  
**Casey Given**  
**Executive Director**

# PROGRAM REVIEW

## AN OVERVIEW OF YOUNG VOICES



### Advocate Program

#### 41 current Advocates

- 19 states and DC
- 10 females (24%)
- 31 males (76%)
- Average age: 25

more on next page

Young Voices' premier project provides op-ed editing and placement services to talented young writers under 30 knowledgeable in the classical liberal tradition. Our staff works as each Advocate's personal communications team, editing and pitching their work for publication and TV/radio opportunities. The past year has been a record-breaking one for the program on all fronts, with a new high in both op-eds published and broadcast interviews aired.



PROGRAM REVIEW  
**BY THE  
NUMBERS**

**379**

Op-eds published in **65** publications and **14** states. Outlets include:



**NATIONAL  
REVIEW**



**CITYLAB**

**THE STAR.**  
KansasCity.com

**87**

TV & radio hits across **33** outlet including:

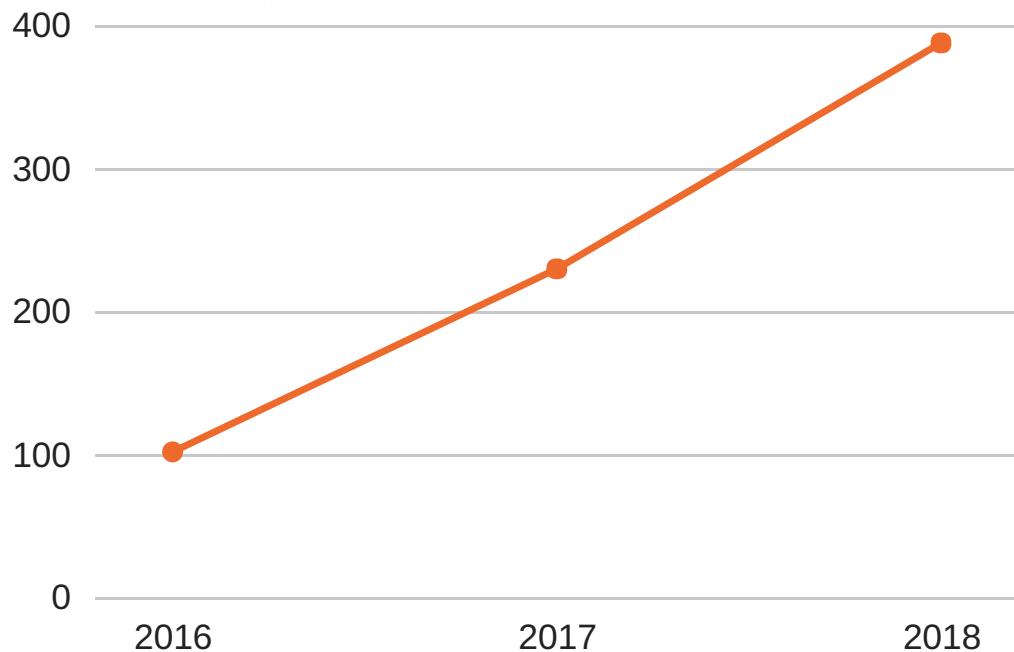
**WUSA 9**

**FOX BUSINESS**

**GLENN BECK**

**FOX 5**

**cheddar**





# PROGRAM REVIEW

Young Voices' long-term effectiveness, however, is not measured by placements or clicks, but rather on the impact that we have on the professional development of our young writers' careers. To this end, our success is seen most clearly in our list of 200 alumni, many of whom have gone on to become editors, CEOs, policy analysts, and academics at renowned organizations.

On this front, two stories of current Advocates highlight our success over the past year. Nolan Gray joined Young Voices in April 2017 as a graduate student studying city planning at Rutgers University. Young Voices worked with Nolan to tailor his writings on market urbanism to mainstream outlets, getting him published in **CityLab**, a division of **The Atlantic**. Thanks in part to our help, Nolan's profile quickly rose as one of the rising stars in his field. In June 2018 he announced his new job as a planner for the City of New York. He is also a finalist for The Young Voices Award, to be presented at the Reason Media Awards in July at FreedomFest. Nolan stands as Young Voices' strongest example of how our media mentorship can lead to potential real-life policy consequences.



**In two years I went from being an obscure voice writing on a personal blog to a recognized voice regularly publishing on some of the most respected outlets in my field. This was made possible by Young Voices. From the editorial guidance to the pitching and networking, being in Young Voices has been one of the most enriching experiences of my professional career.”**

**NOLAN GRAY**

**CITY PLANNER**

**NEW YORK CITY**



# PROGRAM REVIEW

John Dale Grover joined Young Voices in 2016 while working an entry-level job in at a nonprofit in the liberty movement. John's strong interest in foreign policy lended itself well for our staff to pitch him for media opportunities. Young Voices' staff was able to secure placements in notable outlets like **RealClearDefense**, **FoxNews.com**, and multiple appearance on **Fox 5 DC** and **WUSA 9** - after building his repertoire as a respected voice on foreign affairs,

John Dale was hired this spring as an assistant editor of **The National Interest**. John joins alumnus Jason Russell, contributors editor for **The Washington Examiner**, as the second Young Voices Advocate to secure a full-time position at a high-profile national media outlet thanks, in part, to our mentorship.



**I was hired as an assistant editor at *The National Interest* on the strength of my experiences, especially my articles and TV appearances through Young Voices. If it weren't for doors Young Voices opened, I wouldn't be where I am today.”**

**JOHN DALE GROVER**

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
THE NATIONAL INTEREST

# PROGRAM REVIEW

## CAMPUS PUNDIT SCHOLARSHIP

In the fall of 2016, Young Voices launched a new program expanding our op-ed editing services to current college students in the United States. Dubbed the Campus Pundit Scholarship, Young Voices rewards students for successfully placing articles in their campus newspaper on any pro-liberty policy. We use this program to identify new talent and to promote the ideas of liberty in an academic environment that is too often hostile to them. For the spring 2018 term, Young Voices awarded \$2,000 in scholarships to three recipients who wrote op-eds defending the Second Amendment at Georgetown University, Hillsdale College, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

## POLICY FELLOWSHIP

Looking to the future, Young Voices aims to hone our advocacy and target specific policy areas. We intend to do so by launching issue-specific fellowships where a select cohort of our Advocates will receive intensive training and mentorship from outside experts with the expectation of producing regular commentary in print and on radio/TV over the course of four months. Our first experiment with this model launched in November, called the Free Society Fellowship, messaging the fundamental policies of a peaceful and prosperous society (e.g. free speech, trade, rule of law) versus the danger of illiberal populism rising around the world. As of the program's conclusion in March 2018, the Fellowship produced 37 op-eds.

# FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS



## REASON FOUNDATION

In March, Young Voices and the Reason Foundation announced a new partnership aimed at highlighting excellent libertarian writers under 30: the Young Voices Award. Reason is giving away a \$2,500 award named in Young Voices' honor at their 2018 Media Awards in Las Vegas. As the publisher of the oldest continuously running libertarian magazine, **Reason**, the Foundation's recognition of our work is an absolute honor.



## AMERICAN MEDIA COUNCIL

Young Voices is also proud to partner with the newly formed American Media Council, a free market competitor to the Ads Council, to air a public service announcement in the coming months across the country. We'll be offering the public a free how-to guide to get an op-ed or letter-to-the-editor published. We hope our partnership can encourage civic engagement and civil discourse in these divided times, per our mission.

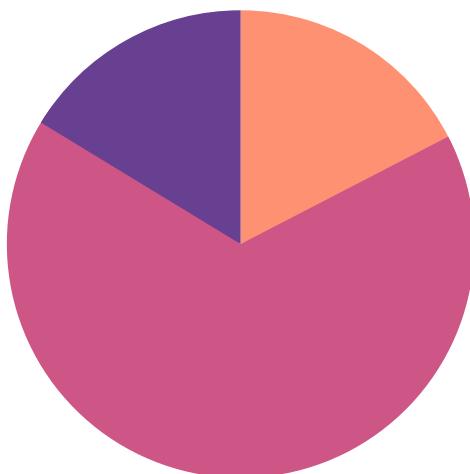


# FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2018: June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

**Corporations**

16%



**Individuals**

17%

## REVENUE

Individuals: 43,376.55

Foundations: 165,566.09

Corporations: 40,652.57

**Total: 249,595.21**

**Foundations**

66%

## EXPENDITURES

Development: 42,741.04

Operations: 41,072.97

Programs: 178,165.70

**Total: 261,979.71**

**Development**

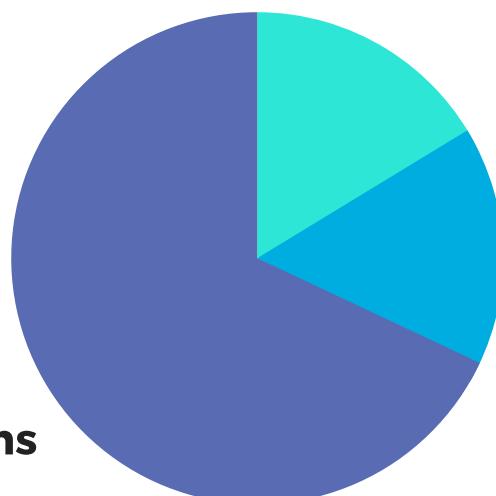
16%

**Programs**

68%

**Operations**

16%



# FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIALS

Young Voices' accounting is done on a cash basis. Our IRS Form 990's and independent financial reviews are available on our website at: [youngvoicesadvocates.com/donate](http://youngvoicesadvocates.com/donate)

## NET ASSETS

Cash: 64,951.78

Liabilities: 3,604.21

**Net Assets: 61,347.57**

## BY THE NUMBERS

**96**

donors

**\$100**

median donation



# THANK YOU



**You can invest in the next generation of thought leaders for  
liberty by making a tax-deductible contribution to Young  
Voices securely  
online at**

**[youngvoicesadvocates.com/donate](http://youngvoicesadvocates.com/donate)**

**or via mail addressed to**

**Young Voices  
1342 Florida Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20009**

