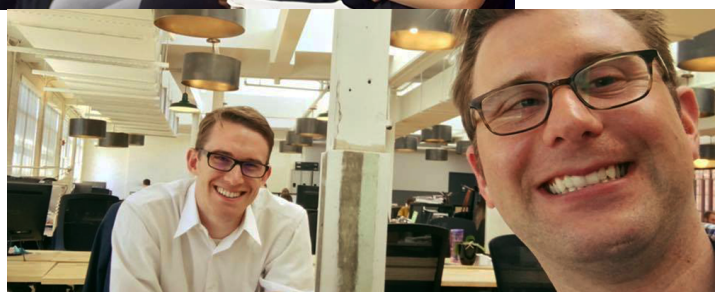
YOUNG VOICES







FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

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Letter from the Executive Director

June 28, 2017 —

Dear Friend of Young Voices,

Milton Friedman educated a whole generation of Americans in the ideas of liberty as a columnist for *Newsweek* and host of *Free to Choose* on PBS. Presenting a friendly face to the masses, the Nobel Prize-winning economist harnessed the power of popular media to help change the political narrative from collectivism to liberty.

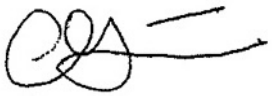
I often ask myself, "Who will be the Milton Friedman for the 21st century?" At Young Voices, our mission is to cultivate the next generation of pro-liberty thought leaders in policy, journalism, and academia. We're looking to identify the next rising stars and empower them with the media training and placement services to develop their expertise and build their brand as public intellectuals.

Young Voices has been doing just that for four years now, providing rigorous article editing and placement services for students and young professionals around the world free of charge. However, 2016 saw a major change in our operations. Our parent organization, Students For Liberty, offered me the opportunity to spin the project off into an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization to broaden our mission, and I eagerly accepted.

Twelve months later, Young Voices has just finished our first fiscal year, expanded our staff from two to four, more than doubled our average monthly article placements, and has ambitious growth plans with radio and TV.

This first annual report details our programmatic successes over the past year. With a newly expanded capacity to identify and empower the next generation of pro-liberty thought leaders, the sky is the limit for Young Voices.

Sincerely,



Casey Given
Executive Director

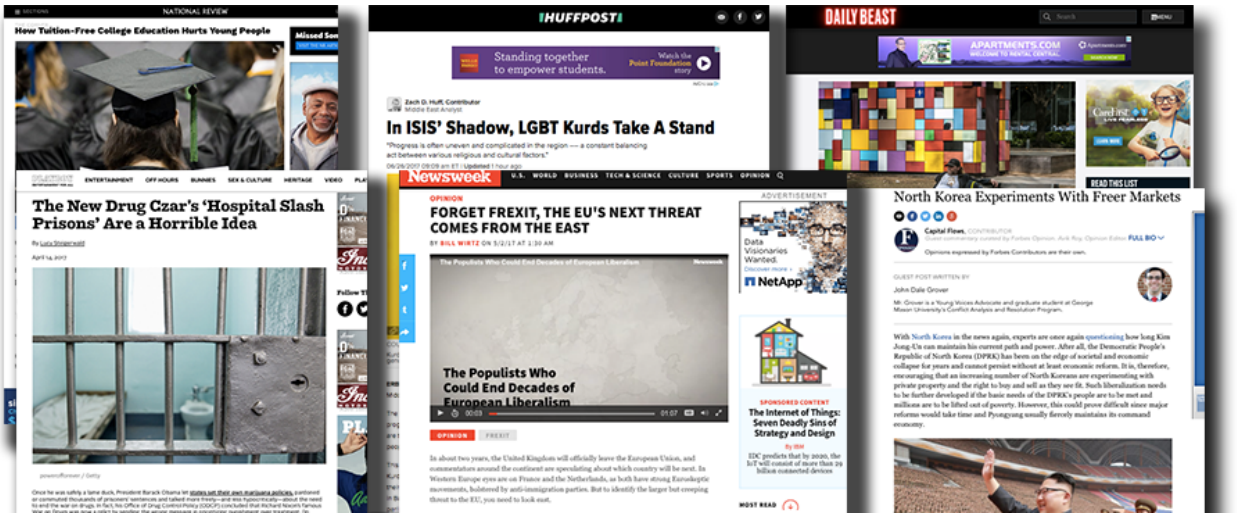


Program Review

Advocate Program Review

The Advocate Program is the cornerstone of Young Voices' operations. A rigorous application process helps our staff identify the brightest rising stars in the liberty movement. Upon acceptance into the program, each new "Advocate" has access to Young Voices' staff of editors and public relations experts. We act as their nonprofit PR agency, editing and pitching their articles to top publications as well as scheduling interviews in broadcast media.

Since incorporating as an independent nonprofit, YV has had a major uptick in our article placements, more than doubling from an average of 9 article placements a month to 19 over a twelve period. In total, YV has placed 230 articles since the beginning of our fiscal year in June 2016... and it's not just the number of articles that have improved, but the prestige of outlet placements as well. YV's Advocates has been published in, mentioned by, or interviewed by major media outlets including The Daily Beast, Forbes, The Glenn Beck Program, National Review, Newsweek, Playboy, Teen Vogue, SiriusXM, Sky News, USA Today, and VICE.



Campus Pundit Program

It's no secret that there's a crisis on college campuses these days. From Berkeley to Evergreen State and beyond, many students now see free speech as an archaic and even oppressive. To combat this disturbing trend, Young Voices launched our Campus Pundit Program in August 2016, offering students a small monetary reward for successfully publishing an op-ed defending the First Amendment in their student newspaper or local publication. In total, Young Voices' team helped successfully publish 18 articles at notable universities including Clemson, Swarthmore, Michigan, UT-Austin, and William & Mary.

Advocate Profiles

Young Voices uses several metrics to measure our success — articles placed, interviews scheduled, podcasts produced. However, the true power of our programming is not captured in any single number, but rather in the individual journeys of our Advocates.

Bill Wirtz is a Luxembourger law student attending the Université de Lorraine in Nancy, France. In the lead-up to the French presidential election of 2017, Bill wrote numerous pieces about the rise of populism in Europe that Young Voices helped publish in outlets like FEE.org, CapX, and Newsweek. Bill established himself as an expert on the election, allowing Young Voices to successfully pitch him to numerous notable broadcast interview outlets. Bill appeared on The Glenn Beck Program a few days before the election. Then, on election night, he delivered live commentary from Paris on Sky News. He attributes Young Voices' editing and public relations skills to his success.

> Young Voices has **empowered me to become a better writer and speaker** for the ideas of liberty. The staff is always reachable and does **rigorous work when it comes to editing and pitching**. I'm now published in outlets I could have never reached on my own.
>
> -Bill Wirtz



Natalie Le is a recent graduate of the College of Charleston and current graduate student at Harvard studying government. As a libertarian student activist, Natalie has been continually disappointed by the dismal state of free speech on college campuses. So, she has utilized Young Voices' programs to fight for liberty over the past year. In the fall, Young Voices helped her edit an op-ed through our Campus Pundit Program, drawing attention to the Red Light free speech rating the College of Charleston received from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. Upon entering Harvard in the spring, Young Voices again helped Natalie edit two op-eds that were was published in *The Harvard Crimson*, drawing attention to the broken promises of free speech and toxic climate of political correctness at one of America's most prestigious schools. Natalie thanks Young Voices for our help in her professional development.



> Young Voices is an amazing organization. **Their team is experienced, knowledgeable**, and incredibly patient in helping me to become a better writer and speaker. Their feedback is **invaluable** to my growth as a liberty advocate.
>
> -Natalie Le

YOUNG VOICES

NATIONAL REVIEW

"How Tuition-Free College Education Hurts Young People"
By Julian Adorney — April 21, 2017



Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren recently proposed the College for All Act, which promises to make public universities free for most students. A similar bill just became law in New York, and support is building for tuition-free public universities in other states as well.

Unfortunately, the senators' proposal would hurt the very Millennials it aims to help, by reducing economic growth.

Median wages have stagnated for decades precisely because of the mismatch between the skills workers have and those businesses need. So while wages in some sectors — for example, the IT industry — continue to rise, young people without marketable skills are being left in the lurch.

This includes many college graduates. While defenders of college-for-all proposals point out that a college degree improves a graduate's lifetime earnings in the aggregate, not all majors are created equal. According to a new paper by Jaison Abel and Richard Deitz of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, over half of graduates in many liberal-arts majors work a job they don't need their degree for. The problem isn't just that too many students seek a degree in an obscure subject, either; it's that too many graduates lack the ability to think critically or write clearly. In a recent survey, only 39 percent of managers said that students were ready for the work force.

In short, colleges are producing some workers who can contribute skills the economy needs and some who are completely unprepared for the work force.

Making college free is unlikely to fix this state of affairs. For one thing, the looming specter of debt incentivizes students to pick more economically viable majors: When facing future student-loan payments, we're more likely to major in, say, chemical engineering than in sociology. For another, when students pay their tuition, they understand that they're going into debt in return for an opportunity, and are thus more likely to study hard and make the most of that opportunity.

Making college free, by contrast, will ensure that students graduate with fewer skills and are less prepared for the workforce. And by driving up the number of students who enroll, it will also increase the number of graduates with a specific skill set, driving down wages and increasing underemployment as more graduates chase fewer jobs in which they can use their expertise.

It should go without saying that this mismatch will only deepen our economic stagnation. When businesses can't find the talent they need, they can't develop new products or expand their operations. Fewer web developers means fewer apps and software programs. Meanwhile, there may be plenty of over-educated baristas, but their economic contribution is fairly small.

This stagnation hurts Millennials twice: once as job-seekers, and once as consumers who cannot benefit from innovations that aren't created.

Attending college isn't a bad decision when compared with doing nothing, but the opportunity cost is substantial. Millennials could be spending those years learning more marketable skills with the help of alternative educational institutions.

Coding bootcamps, which help students learn web development and programming in a few months, boost graduates' earnings at their first post-graduation job by an average of $26,021 — more than the difference between a high-school graduate's earnings and the earnings of many college graduates. Praxis, an entrepreneurial-apprenticeship program, delivers graduates an average salary of $50,000. Other options, such as the technology-education service Treehouse, also help customers thrive. These institutions are successful because they erase the gap between skills students have and skills businesses need. They help both their workers and the economy as a whole more than many college programs.

Unfortunately, making college free would crowd out these alternatives. When students spend four years cultivating knowledge of art history or geography, they have less time to spend at institutions that offer more tangible value.

Many commentators argue that my generation is struggling under the weight of our student loans, but the median monthly student-loan payment in 2017 is only $203. We don't need a bailout; we need an economy that works — and free-college proposals promise to deliver the opposite.

Julian Adorney is a Young Voices Advocate. His writing has appeared in The Freeman*, Fox News's* The Nation*,* The Federalist*, and Lawrence Reed's anthology,* Excuse Me, Professor.

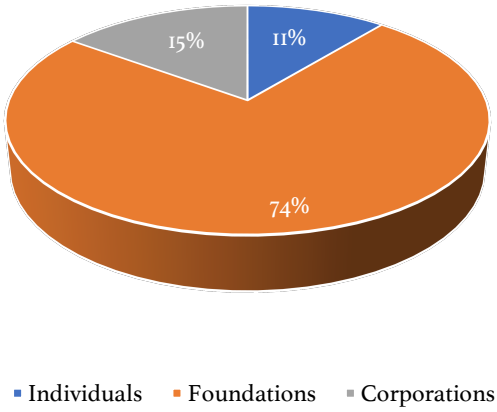


YOUNG VOICES

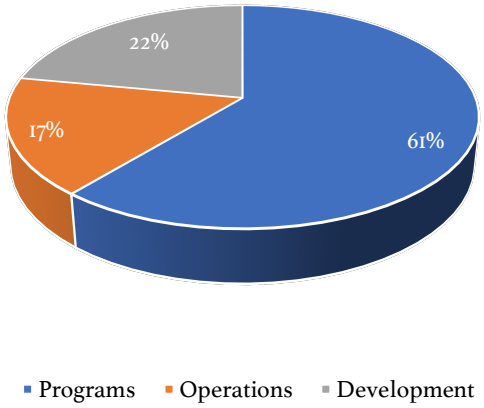
FY17 Financials

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Revenue	**216,880**	**100**
Individuals	23,547	11
Foundations	159,820	74
Corporations	33,515	15
Accounts Receivable	**120,000**	
Expenditures	**137,714**	**100**
Programs	84,049	61
Operations	23,037	17
Development	30,628	22
Net Revenue	**79,165**	
Liabilities	**1,338**	
Net Assets	**197,827**	

Revenue by Source



Expenditures by Source





Make your investment in the next generation of pro-liberty writers at youngvoicesadvocates.com/donate.