

Annual Report



Strengthening D *One Class*





CRFC Keeps Kids

Letter from the Chairman and the Executive Director



Benjamin Ghess



Nisan Chavkin

This year brought some great news to Illinois. In August, Governor Rauner signed House Bill (HB) 4025 into law which requires that Illinois high school students complete a semester-long civics course.

The law focuses on what students will learn and how they will learn it in a way that CRFC has championed for many years. In addition to government institutions, the course must include “the discussion of current and controversial issues, service learning, and simulations of the democratic process.” The most inspiring and intellectually challenging forms of civic education will no longer be limited to students in honors or elective programs—but will reach all students regardless of their academic level. While each school district will define the particular content for their students, the law establishes that this civics course, like the democracy it serves, is designed to bring the best we know to every student.

CRFC will work closely with the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition to support the implementation of this legislation over the coming years. The new law builds on what CRFC has been doing for over four decades. We encourage young people to think through a problem and open their minds to different perspectives and positions. We challenge students to apply this knowledge through case studies, mock trials, and interactive discussions in the classroom with practicing lawyers, judges, law students, community advocates, civic and business leaders, and elected officials. We support students so they can put ideas into action and experience the frustrations and the triumphs of self-government. We help them learn firsthand what it means to live in and be part of our democracy.

CRFC is grateful to all those who help us realize this work: the hundreds of teachers who have welcomed us into their classrooms; the hundreds of attorneys who travel to classrooms throughout the city and suburbs to engage and challenge young minds; the many partners who have generously given their time, attention and expertise to the thousands of students we have reached; and the individuals and law firms, corporations and foundations, agencies and coalitions who provide financial support for our mission.

We are responsible for helping the next generation to learn what government of the people, by the people, for the people truly means. Real civics requires opportunities for students to understand, deliberate, and address the issues that face our democracy. They need our support so they can build the America of the future.

Thank you for working with CRFC to meet the needs of tomorrow’s citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Ghess".

Benjamin Ghess
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nisan Chavkin".

Nisan Chavkin
Executive Director



Our Mission

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) promotes democracy by providing quality education and learning about the Constitution. CRFC is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit and nonpartisan organization. CRFC provides classroom-tested programs and materials that address rights and liberties. CRFC is an independent

Democracy must be learned anew by each generation. The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) has engaged diverse cultures, races, and socioeconomic status to explore the most important questions that affect their lives. Through its programs, CRFC provides elementary, middle, and high school students with opportunities for democratic life. CRFC brings people together to decide for themselves what it means to live in a



CRFC Makes

- **CRFC AND STUDENTS**

CRFC provides elementary and secondary students with information about the Constitution to prepare them for the future.

Funders & Contributors

Thank you to our supporters, without whom CRFC could not do its vital work. Your investment ensures that children and teachers have access to high-quality civic education that strengthens democracy one classroom at a time.

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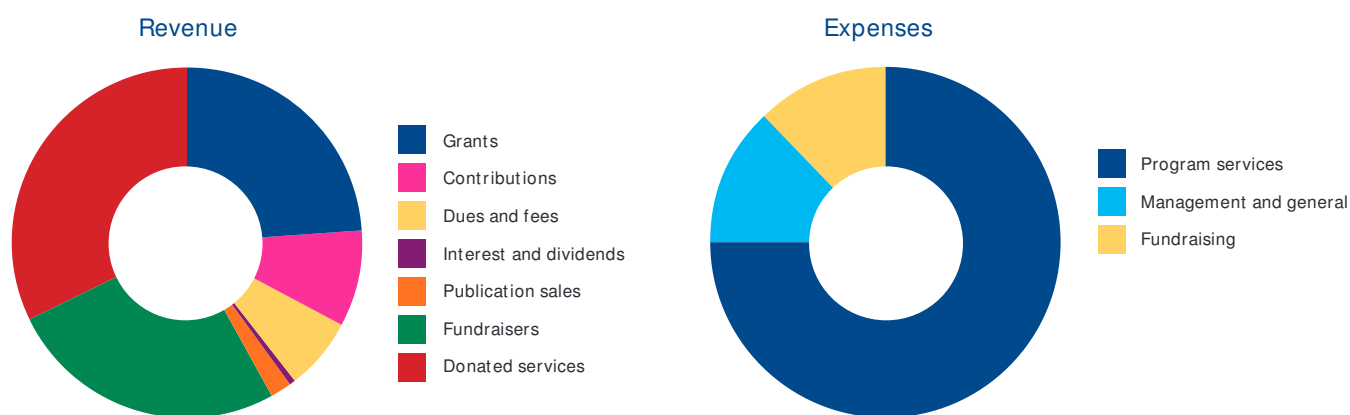
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If we have inadvertently omitted your name, let us know and please accept our apologies.

Statement of Activities (Years ended December 31, 20 14 and 20 13)

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago	20 14			20 13		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue						
Grants	—	\$232,100	\$232,100	—	\$335,563	\$335,563
Contributions	\$83,374	1,475	84,849	\$32,728	—	32,728
Dues and fees	63,081	—	63,081	82,988	—	82,988
Interest and dividends	97	—	97	142	—	142
Publication sales	3,369	—	3,369	1,286	—	1,286
Fundraisers	250,368	—	250,368	219,599	—	219,599
Donated services	308,950	—	308,950	285,600	—	285,600
Miscellaneous income	—	—	—	1,646	—	1,646
Net assets released from restrictions	320,002	(320,002)	—	316,158	(316,158)	—
Total Support and Revenue	1,029,231	(86,427)	942,804	940,147	19,405	959,552
Expenses						
Program services	923,339	—	923,339	833,177	—	833,177
General and administrative	153,233	—	153,233	265,590	—	265,590
Fundraising	151,092	—	151,092	144,621	—	144,621
Total Expenses	1,227,664	—	1,227,664	1,243,388	—	1,243,388
Revenue over (under) expenses	(198,433)	(86,427)	(284,860)	(303,241)	19,405	(283,836)
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	24,424	27,220	51,644	49,689	57,038	106,727
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(174,009)	(59,207)	(233,216)	(253,552)	76,443	(177,109)
Net assets						
Beginning of year	546,729	946,542	1,493,271	800,281	870,099	1,670,380
End of year	\$372,720	\$887,335	\$1,260,055	\$546,729	\$946,542	\$1,493,271



These financial statements were abstracted from the organization's December 31, 2014 financial statements, which were audited by Ringold Financial Management Services. Because the information does not include all disclosures required by the U.S. generally accepted accounting principals, it does not purport to present the organization's financial condition or results. A copy of the audited financial statements will be provided upon written request to the organizational office.

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