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ENGAGING YOUTH IN DEMOCRACY

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
Annual Report 2004 - 2005



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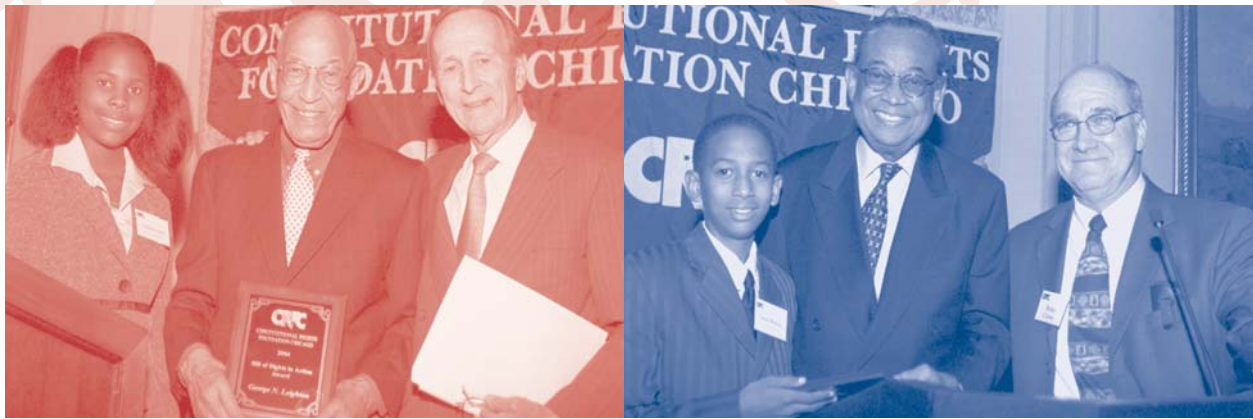
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CRFC

MISSION & HISTORY

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) works with elementary and secondary schools to develop critical thinking skills and engage in responsible civic action. For over 30 years, CRFC has been a national leader in the design and implementation of quality law-related education (LRE) programs for local, national, and international projects. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, CRFC was founded in 1974 as part of the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles and became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1990.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago's staff and board begin the 2005-06 academic year with a sense of expectation, satisfaction, and optimism. Expectation because we offer a strong, diverse program menu to teachers and students in grades K-12 throughout Chicago and Illinois, across the United States and around the world. Satisfaction because of the extraordinary partnerships we have cultivated with educators, the legal community, the business community and government. And optimism because studies show that students who take classes and participate in CRFC's programs are more likely to understand the core principles of American democracy and be engaged, responsible citizens.

For more than three decades, through six Presidential administrations and five Illinois governors, CRFC has been fortunate to attract the resources necessary to develop a wide variety of partnerships and programs. The results are as important as they are exciting.

Program highlights from last year

- High school students took on the roles of Supreme Court Justices and Illinois legislators to explore whether mandatory drug testing of all students engaged in competitive extracurricular activities is constitutional and/or good public policy (*Equal Justice Under Law*);
- We received a \$1 million dollar grant renewable for four additional years from the U.S. Department of Education to have high school students deliberate common issues with their peers in former Soviet bloc countries (*Deliberating in a Democracy*);
- A dedicated teacher in Englewood and her 6th grade students worked to improve their school bathrooms and received national recognition for their efforts (*Project Citizen*);
- High school students and policymakers explored mandatory voting, the USA PATRIOT Act and same-sex marriage (*2005 Illinois Youth Summit*);
- Over 10,000 students in 32 states participated in a Teach-In about important legal and political issues (*Youth for Justice*);
- Students in grades 2-8 learned about their rights and responsibilities under the law from attorney volunteers who visited their classrooms (*Lawyers in the Classroom*);
- Students deliberated issues such as whether or not the government should compensate African Americans for slavery and its consequences (*Teaching American History*);
- We developed a new curriculum to support middle school teachers and students as they prepare for their U.S. Constitution test (*A More Perfect Union*).

Each program is unique but all serve a central purpose: equipping teachers with reliable resources and opportunities to motivate their students so that the democratic principles that underpin our constitutional heritage can be understood and practiced.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan perhaps said it best as she stood before students representing high schools from across the state at the 2005 Illinois Youth Summit: "One doesn't have to look further than the students participating in this Summit to learn what it takes to be a good citizen. By learning about the issues facing our country, challenging policymakers and making their voices heard, these students are taking an active role in shaping the future."

Democracy remains hard work, and we are heartened by how many of our students are already showing that they are up for the challenge.

Carolyn Pereira
Executive Director

Alexander Dimitrief
Chair



We the People
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for
Action. All legislative

Our PROGRAMS

CRFC offers programs for elementary and secondary schools field-tested in Chicago and Illinois and spread nationally and internationally.

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE

Lawyer in the Classroom

Attorney volunteers partner with teachers to help students understand their rights and responsibilities under the law using CRFC's curricula in Chicago and the greater metropolitan area.



In 2004-2005, over 200 attorneys worked with over 100 teachers and approximately 3,000 elementary students at 45 Chicago Public Schools.

Project Citizen

The Secretary of State's Office hosted the 2005 Statewide Project Citizen Showcase involving hundreds of middle school students—from Waukegan to Dongola—who identified, analyzed, and addressed local problems.



A More Perfect Union

This interactive curriculum teaches seventh and eighth grade students about the U.S. Constitution to meet Illinois Public Law 195 and includes the help of outside resource people.

VOICE

Now in 22 states, fourth and fifth grade students are introduced to how our government works through lessons in law-related education, mediation, and service learning. Primary VOICE extends the program into the lower grades using powerful literature to increase students' understanding of governance, responsibility, and service.



SECONDARY

Illinois Youth Summit

The 2005 Summit, "The Role of the Citizen in the 21st Century," focused on the student-chosen issues of Mandatory Voting, Gay Marriage, and the USA PATRIOT Act and culminated with a teleconference between state and national policymakers. Over 1,300 students participated, with student service projects reaching another 8,000 students, parents and community members.

Equal Justice Under Law

Students from the city and suburbs deliberated a recent Supreme Court case about drug-testing in schools. Students acted as both justices and legislators to analyze constitutional issues and relevant public policy in Illinois with experts from the legislative, executive and judicial branches.



Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

A nonpartisan Coalition of schools, foundations, government, non-profit organizations and the private sector are working together to help high schools prepare students to become engaged citizens. Illinois high schools that offer multiple opportunities for civic engagement will be recognized by the Coalition and Illinois elected officials as "Democracy Schools."

Brown v. Board 50 Years Later

In cooperation with the Illinois Humanities Council (IHC), CRFC marked the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* by developing a curriculum and interactive website to help high school students understand the history and meaning of the historic decision. Over 700 high school students convened for a reenactment and discussion of the landmark case and its legacy.



NATIONAL

Youth for Justice (YFJ)

CRFC is a founding member of this national consortium of law-related education (LRE) organizations, supported by the U.S. Department of Justice. CRFC works directly and in collaboration with a network of state LRE centers in all 50 states to strengthen and expand law-related delinquency prevention programs across the country. This year, over 10,800 students in 32 states participated in CRFC's National Teach-In, a program for students to teach other students about tensions that arise between safety, liberty, justice, and equality using lessons posted on CRFC's website.

INTERNATIONAL

Deliberating in a Democracy (DID)

Thanks to the U.S. Department of Education, students in the U.S. and emerging democracies in the former Soviet bloc deliberated issues representing tensions between liberty, equality, and safety with each other and with policymakers. Throughout this five-year program, students will continue to exchange ideas online and via videoconferences, thanks to the U.S. Embassies and the U.S. District Court of Northern Illinois.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CRFC sponsors an extensive array of professional development opportunities for teachers throughout the year to support CRFC's programs. Highlights include:

Annual Illinois Law-Related Education Conference

The 2004 conference, attended by over 200 educators was entitled "Democracy on Trial." Two "Teachers of the Year" were also named.

Teaching American History

CRFC participates in four of the prestigious Byrd grants, partnering with universities, libraries and local school districts including Chicago Public Schools, District U-46 (Elgin), and Evanston Township High School to improve the teaching of American history.

For more information about CRFC programs and materials, visit our website at www.crfc.org.



These financial statements were abstracted from the organization's December 31, 2004 financial statements, which were audited by Altschuler, Melvoin & Glasser LLP.

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 request at the organizational office.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES – Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

	2004			2003		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue						
Grants	\$719,226	\$88,200	\$807,426	\$660,833	\$79,750	\$740,583
Contributions	12,278	8,150	20,428	11,711	5,000	16,711
Dues and fees	42,274	1,400	43,674	31,679		31,679
Interest and dividends	7,630		7,630	8,910		8,910
Publication sales	4,289		4,289	1,804		1,804
Indirect cost reimbursement	110,561		110,561	88,768		88,768
Fundraiser	171,225		171,225	143,300	11,950	155,250
Donated services	54,034		54,034	49,500		49,500
Net assets released from restrictions	88,073	(88,073)	–	63,670	(63,670)	–
	<u>1,209,590</u>	<u>9,677</u>	<u>1,219,267</u>	<u>1,060,175</u>	<u>33,030</u>	<u>1,093,205</u>
Expenses						
Program services	930,056		930,056	829,070		829,070
General and administrative	197,488		197,488	189,639		189,639
Fundraising	34,246		34,246	38,269		38,269
	<u>1,161,790</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,161,790</u>	<u>1,056,978</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,056,978</u>
Revenue over expenses	47,800	9,677	57,477	3,197	33,030	36,227
Unrealized & realized gain (loss) or investments	5,440	–	5,440	10,303	–	10,303
Increase in net assets	53,240	9,677	62,917	13,500	33,030	46,530
Net assets						
Beginning of year	396,640	112,229	508,869	383,140	79,199	462,339
End of year	<u>\$449,880</u>	<u>\$121,906</u>	<u>\$571,786</u>	<u>\$396,640</u>	<u>\$112,229</u>	<u>\$508,869</u>

Our PARTNERS

Our progress and programs are built on the active participation and support from volunteers across the spectrum of the legal profession, generous donors, a dedicated board of directors, and a talented and committed staff. We couldn't do it without you. Our thanks, our appreciation, and our hopes for continuing to work together in the years to come.

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