

2019

FREEDOM & VIRTUE INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT



Committed to individual liberty, human dignity & self-reliance



Dear Friends,

As we present to you this annual report, I am reminded that this coming March we celebrate our tenth anniversary. What began as a dream, as a small effort started at the height of the economic crisis, has flowered to an organization now active in six states and one foreign country. This would not have been possible without the generosity of your support.

Donors, partners, volunteers and staff have had a major impact in the success of the Freedom & Virtue Institute. I thank the Lord for such blessings and for all of you. Let's get ready for the next ten years and the many ways ahead to advance the cause of liberty and the dignity of every individual as a moral agent and creative being. It is to that vision of a community that loves the poor and loves liberty and that sees the poor as active participants instead of as passive recipients of magnanimity that we commit ourselves.

With immense gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samuel Herwandy".

Executive Director

2019

FREEDOM & VIRTUE INSTITUTE

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Generous donations from our supporters, in the forms of time, talent and treasures, have lead to significant achievements for the Freedom & Virtue Institute from 2016 to present!



STAFFING

2015: Dr. Mark Wardell was hired in a full-time capacity as the Director of the Self Reliance Clubs

2016: Angeli Chin was hired in a part-time capacity as the Director of Public Relations & Marketing

MARKETING

2016: Refreshed logo and website

2016: Updated all social media platforms and inception of newsletters

2017: Branded Self Reliance Clubs, Effective Compassion Training and Dignity of Work Initiative

2017: Published the Self Reliance Clubs manual (digital and print)

2018: Golf Classic renamed the Daniel D. Wright Golf Classic in honor of the first chairman of the board and his dedication to FVI

2019: Updated logo for 10th anniversary

SPECIAL EVENTS

2017: Golf Classic moved to The Club at Grandezza

2017: Hooley at the Heights held at the Heights foundation

2018: Inaugural Pro Freedom Tennis Exhibition held at Sanchez Casal

2018: Inaugural Young Entrepreneurs Fair held at Flea Masters Fleamarket



WWW.FVINSTITUTE.ORG

THE MISSION OF THE FREEDOM AND VIRTUE INSTITUTE IS TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, SELF RELIANCE, AND HUMAN FLOURISHING.

We believe in leading initiatives that recognize the human capacity for self-realization and treat the poor as active participants instead of passive recipients of magnanimity. When systems of support reflect the nature of the human person as intelligent and creative, people prosper. Presently, the Freedom & Virtue Institute conducts two unique causes: Self Reliance Clubs and Effective Compassion Training programs.

Core Beliefs:

Individual Freedom: As historian and writer Lord Acton stated, liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought. Having the necessary space to act freely enables people to fulfill their duties in life. People are free when, moved by an internal conviction of what they ought to do, they use their autonomy to recreate their environment for the good. For that space of freedom to exist we need government to be limited and the law to protect that freedom.

Human Dignity: Human beings have certain natural special capacities such as reason, which helps us to know and discover, and volition, or the capacity to choose. These potentialities allow individuals to know the truth and do the good, completing in this way the full measure of their dignity. In other words, human beings are moral agents. Our institute promotes initiatives that value and enhance human dignity by promoting good character, self-worth, creativity, entrepreneurship, and well-being.

The Greatness of Work: Human beings are called to flourish. They are not called to become passive recipients of magnanimity. Instead, their dignity calls for their active participation in lives built by themselves. Similarly, we are not called to manage their poverty or “save” them (There is one savior and it is not you!). We are instead called to suffer with them, to walk alongside those who fight for their lives. The best instrument in building lasting and positive change in our community is by

“The Self Reliance Club has been an invaluable partner as we educate students to develop their abilities to accept challenges, envision goals, and take action to



realize those dreams. Our students have taken an empty, weed-filled field and have begun to transform it into a garden that currently grows tomatoes, broccoli, beans, and collards, with the guidance of our Freedom & Virtue Institute (FVI) associates. FVI has provided the majority of materials, including soil, plants, an automatic irrigation system, and advice on how to plant and care for our produce. I certainly appreciate all that the FVI has done to aid us in producing valuable future citizens, as well as crops!”

~ Mr. John Scheller: Formerly of Edgewood Academy Elementary School, and now at Varsity Lakes Middle School



“Thanks to the Freedom & Virtue Institute for supplying the culinary resources to Caloosa Middle School’s National Junior Honor Society students. Our students are

learning a life-long skill that is not offered in our everyday curriculum, and through the planning and instructional efforts of Mr. and Mrs Mark Wardell, our NJHS students are becoming self reliant in the kitchen where they showcase their talents often to their peers, teachers, and family members.” ~ Mr. William Koerick: Caloosa Middle School



“FVI provides multiple opportunities for students at Varsity Lakes Middle School that encourage the development of good character, strong work ethic, and

financial literacy. FVI has partnered with me to provide the materials needed for students to work on unique projects that teach them new skills like: candle making, carpentry, and gardening. In addition, students are given the opportunity to participate in the Entrepreneur’s Fair each year to sell the products they have made in class. Students that work at least 40 hours are rewarded with a trip to the bank to open an account with a financial-reward-for-achievement provided by FVI. This year, FVI is partnering with our school to give students the opportunity to go on a trip overseas to serve underprivileged and impoverished children. I believe this trip will be a life-changing experience that directly aligns with my mission as a teacher – to inspire students to discover their gifts, develop leadership skills, and empower them to use their voice and actions to change the world.”
 ~ Ms. Kim Cabrera: Varsity Lakes Middle School

“Trafalgar Middle has participated in the Self Reliance Club for about 5 years. Students work in our large garden, distribute food, grow trees (moringa and papaya) and participate in community service. The values the students learn by the hands on lessons, cooperation, problem solving, and self motivation are important to each person’s growth. We thank Freedom & Virtue for helping to provide this opportunity.” ~ Mr. Alvin Piotter: Trafalgar Middle School



creating avenues for people to use their talents in creative ways to find solutions to their problems.

Self Reliance: Human persons, as moral agents capable of changing their lives by their choices, are called to work, to activity, to put in motion their endowments. That is, we use the gifts God gave us to recreate our environment and produce positive outcomes for ourselves, our families, and our community. It is because we act that we can then cooperate with others, as we are called to communion! Our Institute encourages replacing the attitudes of entitlement and dependency by teaching individuals that they must become accountable for their own lives and well-being.

Our Programs

Our signature model project is called the **Self Reliance Clubs (SRC)**. Through these clubs, students at public and private schools and other organizations engage in all sorts of entrepreneurial initiatives to earn money and satisfy their educational needs. In the process, they receive financial literacy instruction and develop the sound character and virtues needed to become responsible and successful adults. Students work, learn, earn, and meet their needs. The clubs operate at public and private schools and at community centers at these 11 SW Florida locations

- Bonita Springs Charter
- Bonita Springs Middle School for the Arts
- Caloosa Middle School
- Cape Coral High School
- Edgewood Academy Elementary School
- Franklin Park Elementary School
- The Heights Foundation
- The Sanibel School
- Summit Christian School
- Trafalgar Middle School
- Varsity Lakes Middle School



The clubs have expanded beyond SW Florida into several other states:

Milwaukee, WI

- Milwaukee Lutheran High School
- St. Marcus Elementary School
- Jacarrie Kicks For Kids Community Outreach

Hammonton, New Jersey

St. Joseph Regional Elementary School in Hammonton, NJ. This is our first Self Reliance School, with 300 students involved.

Virginia

- Williamsburg, VA – Made to Flourish Network
- Roanoke, VA – The Hill Church & School

Indiana

- Collaboration with Morgan County Community Foundation and local non-profits

Pennsylvania

- Truth Baptist Church and other inner-city partners

Dominican Republic

Our effort in the Dominican Republic centers on entrepreneurial initiatives throughout the Barahona Province, one of the poorest areas in that nation. In collaboration with the ministry Children of the Nations, we assist 155 students. Two of our clubs are at community schools, Don Bosco and Pueblo Nuevo. These schools are populated primarily by students of Dominican descent. The other three schools are within communities called “batey.” A Batey is a settlement of people of Haitian descent located within sugar plantations.

- Algodon
- Altigracia
- Don Bosco
- Los Robles
- Pueblo Nuevo

“BSMCA chapter of NJHS has enjoyed working with the Freedom & Virtue Institute for several years. Our students



have loved the experiences at Achieva Credit Union - they love learning about the vaults and the technology behind baking. Several of our students have enjoyed helping at the annual golf tournament and speaking with the folks. This year we had a few students who were able to participate in the entrepreneurial fair. We are currently attempting to see if we can start a small garden area and hope they will be able to share insights with us.” ~ Ms. Charndra Carias & Ms. Paige Mell: Bonita Springs Middle School for the Arts



“My students have learned so much from the Self Reliance Club; they have learned to be resourceful, responsible, and generous. They continue to learn new

ways in which they are able to create opportunities for themselves using talents that they each have been blessed with. They are discovering self worth, and learning to apply what they know in real life situations.” ~ Ms. Jean Frankel: Summit Christian School





2018: Five schools participated: Caloosa Middle School, Cape Coral High School, The Sanibel School, Trafalgar Middle School, and Varsity Lakes Middle School.

2019: Eight schools participated: Bonita Springs Charter, Bonita Springs Middle-Center for the Arts, Caloosa Middle School, Cape Coral High School, The Sanibel School, Summit Christian School, Trafalgar Middle School, and Varsity Lakes Middle School.

Total students: 90 each year

Total parent participation: 40 each year

Monies raised: individual schools raised between \$50 and \$1,500

Clubs Scheduled to Start in 2020:

- Miami, Hope for Miami
- Naples, FL, Grace Place
- Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico Club
- Dayton OH School District
- Detroit, MI – Made to Flourish Network
- New York City (various sites)
- Williamsburg, VA

1,500+ students involved in 6 states and 1 foreign country!

In Florida, the average number of bank accounts opened each year is approximately 40, and the average number of students participating over multiple years is 40.

The Young Entrepreneurs Fairs

An important addition to our Self Reliance Clubs is the Young Entrepreneurs Fairs. Started in 2018, these are events where students belonging to our Self Reliance Clubs bring their products to the marketplace. After working on ideas and creating products at their school sites they bring these to the general public and taste what it means to become an entrepreneur. On that day, they “run their business” by interacting with clients and learning the basic ins and outs of business. The purpose is to help young people know how it feels to be free, to be your own “boss”, and to cooperate with others in a business enterprise. In SW Florida, our main fair events are hosted by Flea Masters on Martin Luther King Boulevard. However, these fairs can happen anywhere and at any time. Hosting a fair can be surprisingly inexpensive. For a small fair, all you need is a small yard or some green space, a few donated card tables, and some excited and determined young entrepreneurs.

Effective Compassion Training:

People need knowledge of first principles and of practical ways of serving others in a dignified way. Our training helps people to think carefully before acting. Having the right intentions is important

but it is not enough. Our training is an intensive one-day exploration of the foundations of service with staff, volunteers, and leaders of organizations that offer services to poor and under served communities. At the heart of the reason for our existence is the belief that the poor are to become the protagonists of lives built by themselves and not destined to remain as scenery in the drama of our good intentions.

Cities where training has been offered:

- Chicago, IL
- Milwaukee, WI
- Mequon, WI
- Fort Worth, TX
- Holland, MI
- Wilmore, KY
- Steubenville, OH
- Indianapolis, IN
- Dallas, TX
- Miami, FL
- Bridgeport, NJ
- Orlando, FL
- Minneapolis–St. Paul, MN
- Detroit, MI
- Naples, FL (multiple organizations)
- Fort Myers, FL (multiple organizations)
- Cape Coral, FL
- Bonita Springs, FL
- Vero Beach, FL
- Jacksonville, FL
- Tampa, FL
- Orlando, FL
- Joplin, MO
- Hammonton, NJ
- Louisville, KY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Arecibo, PR
- San Juan, PR
- Barahona, Dominican Republic
- New York, NY
- Washington, DC





- Tucson, AZ
- Grand Rapids, MI
- Williamsburg, VA
- Roanoke, VA
- Austin, TX

Over 5,000 individuals trained!

Special Event Presentations, Short Trainings & Events:

As part of our mission, we host or participate in events that both spread the ideas of a free and virtuous society and bring about awareness of our services and programs. From 2016 to mid-2018, these included:

- Milwaukee Club Lecture, WI
- Samford University, Birmingham, AL
- Acton University, Grand Rapids, MI
- Virginia Made to Flourish Network, VA
- Miami Made to Flourish Network, FL
- Minneapolis–St. Paul Made to Flourish Network, MN
- Ave Maria University, FL
- Hope College, Holland, MI
- Wingate University, NC
- Palm Beach Atlantic University, FL
- Eagles for Liberty, Florida Gulf Coast University, FL
- University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
- Towards a Free & Virtuous City Conference, Detroit
- Towards a Free & Virtuous City Conference, MN
- Towards a Free & Virtuous City Conference, Milwaukee
- Towards a Free & Virtuous City Conference, New York
- Towards a Free & Virtuous City Conference, Virginia
- Towards a Free & Virtuous City Conference, Newark
- Heritage Foundation, DC
- Cato Institute, DC
- Catholic University, Barahona, Dominican Republic
- Twin Cities Legatus, Minneapolis, MN
- Concordia University, WI
- Franciscan University, OH
- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY
- Convention of States, Jacksonville, FL



Our first event in 2017 was our “Hooley at the Heights”, featuring the Screaming Orphans from Ireland. This St. Patrick’s event had specialty cocktails, live music and dancing for our guests. The evening raised approximately \$13,000, which assisted our Self Reliance Clubs.



Under the direction of Mark Wardell, PhD, in 2017, FVI started the Freedom Pro Tennis Exhibition at Sánchez-Casal Academy (ASC: Academia Sánchez-Casal). It is named after Emilio Sánchez and Sergio Casal, who teamed up to win 44 ATP men’s doubles tournaments, including two grand slams from 1985-1995.

- ATLAS Network, Miami
- Community Foundation, Morgan County, IN
- SW Florida Community Foundation, FL
- First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, FL
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs, FL
- Emmanuel Communities, Naples, FL
- Collier & Lee Republican Clubs
- Rotary Club, The Village, FL
- Achieva Credit Union Annual Gathering, Tampa, FL
- Prudent Charity Event, Lindenwood University, MO
- Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
- Acton Special Event Lecture, Chicago
- Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Wyoming, MI
- Providence Catholic Academy, Minneapolis, MN

Partnerships:

The Freedom & Virtue Institute values partnering with like-minded organizations. For the last two years, we have cultivated close relationships with a good many institutions, including the following:

- Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty
- Community Foundation of Morgan County, Indiana
- Achieva Credit Union
- The Moorings in Naples
- The Harper Foundation, FL
- Emmanuel Lutheran Communities, Naples
- First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs
- Rising Tide Foundation, Switzerland
- Cape Coral Community Foundation, FL
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- St. Columbkille Catholic Church, Fort Myers
- Price Foundation, Fort Myers
- Gallagher Foundation, Chicago
- ATLAS International Network
- Children of the Nations
- Foundation for Economic Education
- Foundation for Government Accountability
- Made to Flourish Network
- Hope for Miami, FL
- Florida Gulf Coast University Economics Department, FL

They formed a tennis academy in Barcelona, Spain in 1998 that has since expanded to three other international locations; one here in Naples, Florida (2007), another in Nanjing, China (2016), and most recently in Atlanta, Georgia (2019). Notable students academy include Andy Murray, Grigor Dimitrov, Juan Monaco, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Daniela Hantuchova, and Tamira Paszek.

2017 Pro Players: Madison Keys; Jennifer Brady; Bjorn Fratangelo; Mitchell Krueger

2019 Pro Players: Arantxa Sánchez Vicario; Emilio Sánchez; Pavel Slovil; Ann Grossman

The two exhibitions raised around \$20,000 with an average of 150 participants and spectators.





- The School District of Lee County, Florida
- Milwaukee Lutheran School, Wisconsin
- The Heights Center, Fort Myers
- Grace Place, Naples



Our Director of Public Relations and Marketing attended Atlas Network's Think Tank MBA in November 2018, even after losing everything in a house fire ten days prior. Her dedication and passion for the Institute is phenomenal.

First begun in 2008, Atlas Network's Think Tank MBA program is the Leadership Academy's flagship, 10-day program for free-market think tank leaders and executives. Think Tank MBA 2018 brought together 21 individuals representing 18 countries, including New Zealand, China, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Austria, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Argentina, Kenya, India, Puerto Rico, England, United States, Mexico, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Columbia.

During Think Tank MBA, participants learn valuable skills in strategic planning for their organizations and sharpen their leadership and fundraising abilities. The Think Tank MBA class will be presented at this year's Liberty Forum and Freedom Dinner, during the annual John Blundell Elevator Pitch competition, where participants will have one minute to pitch their organization to the audience of several hundred attendees.

Over the ten days, participants engaged in sessions on strategic planning, goal setting, marketing and communications, fundraising,

and management. While each participant individually crafted a business plan unique to their organization, there was no shortage of collaboration as their fellow cohort members were there to share their experiences and challenges in these areas. They all now have a community of leaders in the liberty movement all over the world that they can lean on for advice even after the closing session of Think Tank MBA.

Angeli has continued close relations with all participants across the world. Her elevator pitch placed in the top five.

Lord, I hate waiting in line...For some in the US, waiting in line is all they know.

Little Ava waits in line ready to receive her new backpack full of food, supplies and clothes for school. She doesn't know why she is waiting in line, only that mommy does it. Grandma has done it ... And those before her have done it.

*This, my friends, is **generational poverty**. They don't know why they wait in line, it's just all they know. Sadly, they think the only choice is to accept it.*

But, what if we could foster attitudes and lead initiatives that create liberty, Self Reliance, and human dignity?

Work with us to empower those that wish to better their situations and live a dignified, self-sustainable life.

We are the Freedom & Virtue Institute.

Together we can break that vicious cycle of poverty.

We can cultivate a self-reliant and flourishing community where no one has to wait in line!



How to Start and Manage a Self Reliance Club

An Initiative of the



For the past eight years, FVI has held its signature fundraising and social event The Golf Classic. The event has been renamed the Daniel D. Wright Golf Classic in honor of the ten years of service and dedication that Mr. Wright has given to the institute and to the formation and success of this annual event. There are few sports that exemplify Self Reliance more than the competitive sport of golf. The desire and dedication an individual must develop is paramount to their success.

With an average number of 100 golfers over the past three years, the event has raised approximately \$175,000!



HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE FREEDOM & VIRTUE INSTITUTE?



**Help us continue and grow,
nationwide and internationally.**

Time, talent and treasure!

1

Sign up for our newsletter, follow us on social media, and share our news with your friends, coworkers and family!
www.fvinstitute.org

2

Complete the enclosed pledge card and return it in the envelope provided. Or you can visit www.fvinstitute.org and click the DONATE button.

3

Volunteer to help with our Self Reliance Clubs or events throughout the year. Email info@fvinstitute.org with the subject line VOLUNTEER.

Your generous support is greatly appreciated. Freedom & Virtue Institute is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please consult with your financial advisor on tax benefits.

Registration is now open for our signature fundraising and social event. Sponsorships are available. www.fvigolf.com



**FREEDOM & VIRTUE
INSTITUTE**
Committed to individual liberty, human dignity & self-reliance

Celebrating
10
years
Honoring the American Spirit & Individual Liberty

THE FREEDOM & VIRTUE INSTITUTE
PRESENTS THE 9TH ANNUAL
DANIEL D. WRIGHT GOLF CLASSIC
APRIL 18, 2020
THE CLUB AT GRANDEZZA, ESTERO

REGISTER TODAY!
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12565 NEW BRITTANY BLVD | STE. 24W | FORT MYERS, FL 33907
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