



BRADLEY IMPACT BRIEF

SUMMER 2021 ISSUE

BY THE NUMBERS

OUT OF MANY, ONE ARE WE REALLY A NATION DIVIDED?...

87% of U.S. adults
say they are proud to be
an American

74% of Americans
say that they have either
achieved the American
Dream or are on their way
to achieving it

70% of voters
strongly support charitable
giving as important

...and there is opportunity
to inculcate American
values in a new
generation...

70% of high school
students vs. 44% of
college students
hold a favorable view of
America's history

66% of high school
students vs. 47% of
college students
believe America is
exceptional

SOURCES: Archbridge Institute 2020
Who is Proud to Be An American?
Report; Archbridge Institute 2020
American Dream 2020 Snapshot;
Philanthropy Roundtable 2020
Donor-Advised Fund research, Young
America's Foundation 2020 Youth
Patriotism Index

FROM THE DESK OF GABE CONGER

Dear Friends,

Do you know what else happened on July 4, 1776?

Late in the afternoon on that historic day, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution: "Resolved, that Dr. Franklin, Mr. J. Adams, and Mr. Jefferson be a committee to prepare a device for a Seal of the United States of America." I write to you today on the 245th anniversary of that committee's first recommendation for our national seal. The committee proposed as part of the seal the motto *E Pluribus Unum*. Out of Many, One.

Next month we'll gather for the Bradley Impact Conference under a related theme: *E Pluribus Unum – A Republic, If We Can Keep It*. Nearly two and a half centuries since that momentous day in 1776, we enter our second autumn with COVID-19 and bear witness to historic events unfolding across the globe. It is both timely and critical to find ways to strengthen our nation.

This year's conference is designed to give you deeper insight into the ideas and initiatives that will preserve our experiment in representative democracy — and the means to support them. I hope you'll join us for these important discussions.

Consider this *Bradley Impact Brief* a primer for those conversations. Learn how organizations like the Commonwealth Foundation and American Juris Link help Americans successfully push back against state governments that overreached in times of emergency. From the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (FREOPP), we've learned that while billions in federal aid have been granted to K-12 schools, this top-down model isn't working for the most vulnerable students who fall further and further behind. FREOPP and Archbridge Institute demonstrate with data that government intervention does not effectively support upward economic mobility in America.

We've also had lessons reaffirmed. Locally led, community supported organizations like Racine Vocational Ministry can restore human dignity and produce results that far outpace one-size-fits-all government programs. Empowering parents as the California Policy Center's Parent Union project does to improve local schools and hold school districts accountable is a remarkable success story.

The American values that encourage robust civil society and informed citizens capable of self-government are more important than ever.

Onward,

Gabe Conger
President, Bradley Impact Fund



Constitutional Order: The Case for Federalism

Federalism is a key component of limited government. As established with the founding of our Nation, delegation of authority to effective local and state government gives voice to the people and provides laboratories of democracy, while limiting the role of the federal government and potential for tyranny of the majority. The Bradley Impact Fund donor community supports organizations leading the charge to develop and advance policy reforms that improve local opportunities and protect individual freedoms at the state and local level. Each of the following grant recipients work to strengthen and protect federalism through astute strategies and effective implementation that empower American citizens.



The **California Policy Center (CPC)** works for the prosperity of all Californians by eliminating public-sector barriers to freedom. Parent Union, a project of CPC, empowers parents to hold their school districts accountable and to be a powerful voice for improving public schools in their communities. Recently, the Parent Union partnered with several California school districts to win battles with teachers' unions, enabling students to return to in-person instruction amid the COVID pandemic.



Believing all public sector employees should have the freedom to join or abstain from joining a public sector union, **Americans for Fair Treatment (AFFT)** works at the national level to educate public sector employees about their constitutional rights around union membership. AFFT's free Membership Program for public sector employees in Pennsylvania and New York helps them exercise their First Amendment rights without fear of coercion from unions.



American Juris Link (AJL) connects public interest litigators across the country to learn from and support one another in efforts to advance freedom and the rule of law at the state and federal level. AJL's new model for collaboration is designed to forge relationships and leverage resources by sharing information. Its programs include a legal resource clearinghouse, a practice hearings program, and a supplemental authority project to encourage strategic leadership and mentorship in the profession.



The mission of the **Commonwealth Foundation** is to transform free-market ideas into public policies so all Pennsylvanians can flourish. With help from the Commonwealth Foundation, Pennsylvania voters passed two constitutional amendments that reduced the length of a governor's emergency proclamations and enabled the General Assembly to end a state of emergency by a majority vote. The state and the Commonwealth Foundation led the way in defending the important founding principles of checks and balances with this first ballot measure of its kind.



As these organizations restore and protect Constitutional order, their work extends to support efforts to advance free markets, civil society, and informed citizens as well. All of these interconnected areas must be strengthened to preserve American exceptionalism.

Free Markets: Increasing Economic Mobility

The desire of all citizens to improve their lives and provide opportunities for the next generation is a unifying force across the nation. However, access to opportunities to achieve the American dream are not readily available to all. The Bradley Impact Fund supports champions for economic mobility like the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity and the Archbridge Institute whose research and policy solutions explain the complexities of this issue and recommend viable alternatives.



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (FREOPP): **EXPANDING FREE MARKETS TO MAKE LIFE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL**

FREOPP is committed to expanding opportunity to those who least have it through research and advocacy. Its policy solutions in the areas of criminal justice, education, energy, financial services, housing and social mobility focus on empowering Americans living below the median income level and increasing their access to affordable choices.

One of FREOPP's major areas of focus is healthcare. FREOPP has shown how private-sector innovation can make healthcare affordable for all Americans, including greater competition in drug prices and hospital care, health independence for veterans, Medicare and Medicaid reform, and more, often emphasizing the need for bipartisan collaboration to achieve a filibuster-proof majority.

In 2020, FREOPP introduced the World Index of Healthcare Innovation, a first-of-its-kind ranking of 31 national health care systems. Not surprisingly, while America ranked first for Choice and for Science and Technology, it ranked second-to-last in fiscal sustainability. By spotlighting the role of innovation in improving health outcomes, FREOPP hopes to expand public healthcare debate beyond universal health insurance coverage. **Learn more at FREOPP.org.**

FREOPP CONTINUES TO MAKE A DATA-DRIVEN CASE FOR REOPENING THE ECONOMY DURING COVID-19 WITH A FOCUS ON THE VALUE OF IN-PERSON EDUCATION FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND RURAL AMERICANS.



ARCHBRIDGE INSTITUTE: REMOVING BARRIERS TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

The Archbridge Institute works to empower individuals to achieve better, richer, and fuller lives by identifying and removing barriers that constrain their potential. Archbridge conducts rigorous academic research, advances sound public policy solutions, and concentrates on reviving the spirit of entrepreneurship in America.

Recent Archbridge policy and insight papers have critically examined:

- **The need to reduce marriage penalties** and make children the first priority in order to accomplish meaningful welfare reform
- **The negative impact of occupational licensing laws** on citizens trying to enter the job market in Alabama and Iowa
- How a **comprehensive approach to skill development** would be a contributing solution to structural poverty and inequality in America
- Americans' views on the American Dream, **equality of opportunity and social mobility** in the recently released *American Dream 2021 Snapshot: How Americans view the American Dream and Economic Mobility* report.

74% of Americans say that they have either achieved the American Dream or are on their way to achieving it. 66% say equality means equality before the law and people having a fair chance to pursue opportunities regardless of where they started.

— AMERICAN DREAM 2021 SNAPSHOT: HOW AMERICANS VIEW THE AMERICAN DREAM AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

A primary new initiative for Archbridge is the creation of a social mobility index that will rank U.S. states based on several factors indicative of social mobility. Gonzalo Schwarz, President and CEO of the Archbridge Institute, questioned the indicators chosen for the World Economic Forum's 2020 social mobility report, stating in his commentary, "One of the main issues with the index is that many of the pillars that comprise it lack a proper causal analysis, let alone reasonable link, to improved social mobility....The report has focused too much on inequality of outcomes instead of inequality of opportunity properly understood."

With its own social mobility index, Archbridge aims to define the indicators of upward mobility with more validity and encourage state policymakers to undertake effective legislative reform.

For more information, visit
archbridgeinstitute.org.



Civil Society: Built by Strong Americans

Government intrusion into the lives of Americans tears

at the fabric of families and communities while providing “one size fits all” social services that lack the effectiveness of local, voluntary efforts. The Bradley Impact Fund donor community invests in the local institutions of a strong civil society – cultural institutions, churches, and transformational organizations committed to meeting people and their families where they are on their journey to a better life. The Institute for Family Studies and the Racine Vocational Ministry are taking data-informed approaches to reversing trends in family instability and recidivism, which threaten America’s future.



INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES: **STRENGTHENING AMERICAN FAMILIES**

The Institute for Family Studies (IFS) is dedicated to strengthening marriage and family life and advancing the well-being of children. Recognizing that strong families are foundational for strong societies, IFS seeks to raise awareness of the threat to America of family instability through academic research and data-driven public education that highlights the significant individual and societal advantages of traditional families.

As the pandemic unfolded in 2020, IFS concentrated its research, analysis, and public education on the impact of quarantines and economic shutdowns on American families. After the new administration introduced the American Families Plan, IFS responded with strong public pushback against its massive expansion of free childcare and pre-Kindergarten programs (\$425 billion), which are simply a soft way of introducing the statism of Universal Child Care.

IFS is the foremost proponent of the “success sequence,” which shows that 97% of Millennials who graduated with at least a high school degree, got a full-time job, got married *and then* had children, in that order, avoided poverty by the time they reached

young adulthood. IFS is launching new projects to reach a popular audience with this message.

NEARLY 50%
OF AMERICAN
CHILDREN GROW
UP OUTSIDE
OF AN INTACT,
MARRIED FAMILY.

IFS reports are available
at ifstudies.org.



RACINE VOCATIONAL MINISTRY: RESTORING DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE THROUGH WORK

Racine Vocational Ministry (RVM) takes a holistic, relationship-based approach to helping people become productive, self-sufficient employees. RVM focuses on addressing negatives that impede lives and careers, including drugs and alcohol, homelessness and emotional health problems. Since it opened in 2002, RVM has placed more than 4,500 people in jobs and education.

In 2005, RVM started its Second Chance Reentry program with a goal of reducing recidivism. The program currently serves around 100 participants at high risk for returning to prison each year, helping them build stable lives in the Wisconsin counties of Racine and Kenosha counties. The program offers education in the skills necessary for community re-entry and additional support and guidance for rebuilding family and other important relationships. Evaluations over a three-year period highlight participants' success:

- The recidivism rate for RVM participants was 13.8%, well below the 40.1% rate reported by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.
- Average scores on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) fell significantly for RVM program participants. ORAS is used to objectively predict the risk of future criminal activity by tracking key determinants like family and social support, neighborhood problems, substance use, and peer associations.

Learn more about restoring dignity and independence through work at rvmracine.org.



"Our goal is more than finding work for our clients. We are focused on vocation rather than employment. It's really about finding a life that's satisfying in a holistic way, in a spiritual way. What we aspire to is helping people recapture their dreams."

— **JAMES SCHATZMAN**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
RACINE VOCATIONAL
MINISTRY

Informed Citizens: Bringing Founding Principles to Current Debate

RYAN T. ANDERSON
PRESIDENT OF THE ETHICS &
PUBLIC POLICY CENTER



"The future of conservatism is up for grabs. There is a desperate need for intellectually rigorous and practically effective conservative leadership in the urgent policy fights we face—from gender identity and Critical Race Theory to family economic policy and Big Tech's woke thought police. EPPC is uniquely positioned to provide that leadership, ensuring that Judeo-Christian orthodoxy and natural law rationality definitively shape conservative policy proposals moving forward."

Ethics and Public Policy Center's (EPPC) Mission

Since 1976, EPPC has worked to ensure that the riches of the Judeo-Christian tradition are brought to bear on contemporary questions of law, culture, and politics, in pursuit of America's continued civic and cultural renewal.

Learn more at eppc.org.

Q: Given the state of the country today, why is EPPC so vital to the future of America?

As we advance our mission, EPPC is filling a crucial need. The conservative movement is rich in amazing policy shops that focus on limited government and wonderful litigation firms defending religious liberty and conscience protections—and we need them desperately. But conservatives also need to make the substantive case for the truth on a variety of core issues currently under attack from the Left and to develop corresponding policy positions. Simply creating room for good people to agree to disagree is a vanishing prospect in cancel culture—we need to speak the truth, going on offense in politics and culture, in anthropology debates that underlie our religious liberty battles, on life, healthcare, marriage, and gender identity. EPPC is doing just that: articulating the truth of the matter on a host of pressing questions facing our society and then translating those truths into practical policy solutions.

Q: Where do you see future opportunities to leverage EPPC's strengths?

For 45 years, the Ethics and Public Policy Center has been at the center of the national debate over religious conviction in the public square and the moral and ethical norms that should inform our laws. I'm honored to now lead EPPC in continuing that work.

Many Impact Fund community members will be familiar with our past presidents George Weigel and Ed Whelan. Both now serve as EPPC Distinguished



Senior Fellows. George—the biographer of John Paul II—is the world’s leading expert on all things Catholic, and Ed—a former clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia—is a preeminent Supreme Court commentator who helped get so many judges and justices confirmed during the Trump administration. We’re also now actively engaged in healthcare and Big Tech. The former head of civil rights at HHS during the Trump years, Roger Severino, and Attorney General Bill Barr’s Big Tech assistant, Clare Morell, have come to EPPC to work on those issues.

We leverage our strengths precisely by playing to them. EPPC is the premier conservative institution driven by a Judeo-Christian worldview articulating a cohesive public policy infused by that worldview. Our scholars work tirelessly to promote public policies that are faithful to American values, and our projects encompass the broad array of challenges that our nation faces. In the coming years, we will focus on pushing back against the extreme progressive agenda while building a 2024 consensus for conservatives, and helping faith communities build their political witness while living the faith out in their homes and in the public square.

Q: What is exciting for you personally in your new role?

Helping an existing organization grow and adapt to the new circumstances of twenty-first century America. When EPPC was founded in 1976, the Reagan Revolution was just on the horizon. Today there are new challenges that Reagan could never have imagined. How do we apply timeless principles to these changing circumstances? That’s an interesting intellectual question, but it’s also an urgently practical one. I’m excited about tackling both aspects.

I spent the past decade as a senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, and the decade before that as an assistant editor for *First Things* back when Fr. Richard John Neuhaus was still with us, a research assistant to Princeton University professor Robby George, a PhD student at Notre Dame, and an undergrad at Princeton. I’ve written four books—one of which was so good Amazon refuses to sell it anymore! So the

past twenty years or so of my life has been spent doing my own intellectual work. With this new role I get to mentor younger scholars, guide a team to focus on the most important issues facing our nation, and lead an existing institution into the future. For Americans who care about the future of human freedom and human flourishing and the moral truths that undergird and sustain our nation, I’m excited about ensuring that EPPC is their voice in D.C.

Q: What is your message to donors as they consider EPPC?

EPPC is rapidly expanding our programs to lead the conservative movement in urgent policy battles that are being under-addressed. We need to gear up for battles such as Big Tech’s silencing of conservative voices and speech; the Woke thought police’s imposition of Critical Race Theory on schools and business practices around the country; the gender ideology’s militant narratives and public policies that fast-track vulnerable children towards life-changing medical and surgical gender transitions.

The conservative movement and its institutions are in a period of uncertainty—and opportunity. EPPC houses some of the conservative movement’s best thinkers and is producing its best policy ideas. I’m tremendously grateful for the way Bradley Impact Fund donors are working to create a better world for our children and grandchildren, and I hope they’ll consider joining EPPC’s incredible community of supporters to continue that work in the urgent policy battles we face today.

“IN THEORY AND PRACTICE, EPPC HAS THE ANSWERS THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT NEEDS, BUT WE NEED GENEROUS PARTNERS AS WE POSITION OURSELVES TO DEFINE A WINNING CONSERVATIVE AGENDA, BUILT ON THE TRUTH, FOR THE COMING YEARS.”

A photograph of a historical cannon, likely from the American Civil War era, positioned in a grassy field. The cannon is dark and has large wooden wheels. In the background, there is a stone wall, a line of trees, and a sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The overall scene is peaceful and historical.

The Origins of Modern Philanthropy in America

AMELIA L. COLEMAN, BRADLEY IMPACT FUND 2021 SUMMER INTERN

The period following the Civil War was one of remarkable cultural and economic transformation in America. What was once a primarily rural society flowered into a thriving urban one. Millions of immigrants were attracted to this new nation of opportunity. New states were established, new soil was cultivated, and millions of tons of ore and precious metals were excavated.

The number of millionaires in America skyrocketed. Compared to the entire population, however, those who enjoyed the highest life were few. Many Americans lived in slums and scraped out a living in factories or mines. Child labor was common. There were few health and safety regulations, and long, long days of work. Diseases ravaged the population. Access to public education was limited.

Wealthy Americans began to question themselves. They were true Americans, generous and democratic at heart. The aristocrats of the Old World may have

considered the poverty-stricken as members of a permanent underclass, but the affluent members of the New World thought of them as fellow citizens. This outlook prompted the wealthy to consider how they might help their fellow Americans. How could the poor

be provided the opportunities needed to live better and healthier lives? How could the wealthy use their millions to better educate others, and help them to build for the future, when more wealth would be available to more people?

For many, the answer was found in *philanthropy*. Philanthropy, a word that comes from the Greek language and can be translated as “love of one’s fellow man,” is the active effort to promote

human well-being. Organized philanthropy was barely present in America prior to the industrial revolution, existing up to that point primarily in religious communities.

Post-Civil War America saw an increase in large-scale donations. At first, grants were drawn directly from

How could the poor be provided the opportunities needed to live better and healthier lives? How could the wealthy use their millions to better educate others, and help them to build for the future, when more wealth would be available to more people?



the pockets of the wealthiest of American citizens. In a short time, however, legally constituted foundations were established, in which a well-organized framework of bylaws governed a certain sum of money.

Foundations like these were initiated at the end of the 19th century by men such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, who had made their fortunes in the steel and oil industries respectively, or Cornelius Vanderbilt, the railway baron.¹ Like most pioneering Americans, these men acquired their wealth through private enterprise and industry, priding themselves on finding practical solutions to big problems.

Early philanthropists were not without opposition, however. Some championed the “equitable” distribution of wealth, believing that a total elimination of class discrepancies would do more to combat widespread poverty than philanthropy ever could. Anti-capitalist rhetoric was prevalent; protests were sometimes violent.

This opposition to organized philanthropy has never fully disappeared. Indeed, the 2021 Accelerating Charitable Efforts (ACE) Act introduced by senators Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Angus King of Maine proposes new restrictions for donor-advised funds (DAFs) over concerns that DAFs might retain donated sums in order to gain tax benefits. However, no data exists indicating a problem with donor-advised giving as opposed to giving by private foundations or individual giving.

History attests that Americans are a charitable people. This was true of the men and women who first settled America, and it is still true today. This past year alone showed a dramatic increase in charitable giving, including increased use of donor-advised funds. Modern philanthropy has been an effective means of lifting American society to new heights in good times and bad and tangible proof of generous Americans’ love for their fellow man.



Author Amelia L. Coleman is a sophomore at Christendom College in Virginia. She participated in the Bradley Impact Fund 2021 Summer Internship Program.

If you know a young conservative leader who may be interested in an internship with the Bradley Impact Fund, please let us know!

¹ Charles R. Morris. *The Tycoons: How Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Jay Gould, and J.P. Morgan Invented the American Supereconomy*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, LLC, 2005.



Ensuring Your Donor Intent is Honored Approaches for Giving to Universities

Giving to your alma mater and ensuring your gift will not support ideas and initiatives antithetical to your principles is not easy. In larger institutions, internal dynamics can influence how, where, and when gifts to a college's general fund are directed. Your support might be directed to a fellowship, speaker or program that is at the least not what you intended. Or worse: contrary to your values.

One strategic starting approach to this issue is using a customized gift agreement in place of a university's standard form. A gift agreement documents the specific purpose of your gift. It can also contain specific restrictions necessary to prevent its use for purposes to which you do not agree.

It is essential to include an enforcement mechanism within the gift agreement. This language puts the law on the side of donors and their heirs in acting to ensure the terms of the agreement are followed. Another approach is to include language stating that if the university does not abide by the agreement, it will make the funds available to another organization,

such as a donor-advised fund. Additionally, giving on an annual basis as opposed to endowments can help hold gift recipients accountable to your intent.

EXPERT RESOURCES AND TOOLS

The Fund for Academic Renewal is a program of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) dedicated to helping alumni and college donors protect their donor intent. The Fund offers individualized guidance in crafting gift agreements at no cost to donors. It also offers a wealth of resources and tools, including **The Intelligent Donor's Guide**, at academicrenewal.org.

Putting a gift agreement in place should be a necessary safeguard for support to your alma mater or any institution of higher learning.

THE MISSION OF THE FUND FOR ACADEMIC
RENEWAL IS TO HELP COLLEGE DONORS
MAKE TRANSFORMATIVE GIFTS THAT HELP
INSTITUTIONS LIVE UP TO THEIR HIGHEST IDEALS.

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