



## FROM THE DESK OF JESSICA DEAN

Dear Friends,

I love this time of year, when flags wave proudly across our nation, and communities come together to celebrate our country's independence and freedom. Parades across America will pass through big cities and small towns, reminding us of the blessings of our liberty. I enjoyed reading Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's reflections on his Harvard commencement speech delivered in 1978, excerpted in the June issue of *National Review*, "*Gradually another America began unfolding before my eyes, one that was small-town and robust, the heartland, the America I had envisioned as I was writing my speech, and to which my speech was addressed. I now felt a glimmer of hope that I could connect with this America, warn it of what we had experienced, and perhaps even lead it to change direction.*" How poignant—and relevant—his words are even 40 years later. It's so often the case that newcomers to America—who know what it's like to live under oppressive regimes—appreciate freedom the most.

At the heart of liberty is the ability to make choices, and the hope of a free society is that informed citizens, when given the freedom to make decisions, will, by and large, choose paths that benefit themselves and their neighbors. The Bradley Impact Fund encourages principled philanthropy to bolster the essential building blocks of civil society and informed citizens. At the foundation are our schools, churches, nonprofits, and all the ways we join to support one another and build relationships at the local level so all Americans can live lives of freedom, choice, and fulfillment of potential.

As we highlight in this issue of our Bradley Impact Brief, school choice is an excellent example of giving citizens the ability to pick the educational option that best suits their children and their family. School choice uncouples quality education from economic status and gives all students the opportunity to achieve and to thrive. As you know, The Bradley Foundation was instrumental in the inception of the school choice movement, and through the Bradley Impact Fund, our donors know they are making the best investments in advancing this critical policy as well as schools who are changing whole communities through education.

This Independence Day, let us be thankful for our country's freedom, and proactive in protecting it for our future generations. Thank you for all you do to protect and promote liberty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jessica F. Dean'.

Jessica F. Dean  
President  
The Bradley Impact Fund



### BY THE NUMBERS

#### MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM

**1,700% growth**  
in number of participating schools since 1991

From 7 to 126 schools

**28,702 students**

in the 2017–2018 school year

#### WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM

**788% growth**  
in number of participating schools since 2013

From 25 to 222 schools

**4,540 students**

in the 2017–2018 school year

#### ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO MILWAUKEE

**\$473M by 2035**

Projected cumulative economic benefit of higher graduation rates by Milwaukee Parental Choice Program students

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, EdChoice, Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Save the Dates*

### Bradley Events:

**August 23, 2018**

Lunch co-hosted with The Foundation for  
Government Accountability  
Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

**September 20–21, 2018**

8th Annual Bradley Impact Conference  
Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI

**November 15, 2018**

Lunch with Andrew Roberts  
Milwaukee Club, Milwaukee, WI

Please contact [tfamer@bradleyfdn.org](mailto:tfamer@bradleyfdn.org)  
for event details.



ROTC Color Guard presents the colors during the national anthem at the 2018 Bradley Prizes.



Rick Graber, President and CEO of The Bradley Foundation, enjoys the 2018 Bradley Prizes reception with wife Alex, family, and friends.



## DONOR STORY

### BILL & PRISCILLA BOELTER

*Bradley Impact Fund members since 2013*

Bill and Priscilla Boelter are active supporters of Milwaukee's civic and charitable organizations. The Bradley Impact Fund is a natural fit for this Hartland couple, who are well-known for their generosity and spirited volunteerism. As Chairman of the Board for the Boelter Companies, Bill, along with his sons Rick and Eric, have built the company founded by his father into one of the largest food facility design build firms in the United States.

The Boelters find deep personal fulfillment in their service to others. Priscilla has held many volunteer positions, and is an Emeritus Member of the Medical College of Wisconsin's Cardiovascular Center Board. Bill currently serves on the Campaign Cabinet at St. Marcus Lutheran School, a Bradley Impact Fund grantee.

The Bradley Impact Fund helps the Boelters magnify the value of their philanthropy in strengthening the Milwaukee community. Every year the Boelters make their annual tax-deductible commitment to the Bradley Impact Fund and then personally disburse the funds over the next year to the community.

“Urban Christian education offers unique opportunities for youth to develop the character and skills to reach their potential. The work of Bradley Impact Fund grantees like St. Marcus Lutheran School, and others throughout Milwaukee, is critical to engaging students from inner city populations in ways that inspire hope, provide a sense of purpose, and build resilience in individuals and our community.”

— Bill Boelter

Bradley Impact Fund member

# SCHOOL CHOICE = HEALTHIER, HAPPIER ADULTS

It's been 27 years since Milwaukee launched the first school voucher program, sparking an education reform movement that has expanded to 26 voucher programs in 15 states and Washington, D.C. The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program represents a hard-won freedom—a fight supported by The Bradley Foundation since its birth, for parents to choose the school they want for their children.

After nearly three decades, the positive outcomes of school choice are reflected in more than just students' test scores. In the Spring 2018 issue of *Education Next*, Patrick J. Wolf, education policy professor at the University of Arkansas states:

*The effects of choice programs on educational attainment—how far an individual goes in school—are both larger and more consistent than their achievement effects. Attainment is typically measured by benchmarks such as high school graduation, college enrollment, persistence in college, and college graduation. Higher levels of educational attainment are associated with a longer healthier life; higher lifetime earnings; and lower probabilities of divorce, welfare receipt, and incarceration.... It should not surprise us that private schooling boosts student attainment more than it does test scores.*

*Most private schools focus on educating the whole child: intellectually, behaviorally, and spiritually. For example, the Alliance for Catholic Education program based at the University of Notre Dame, which trains college graduates to teach in Catholic schools, speaks of “preparing students for college and heaven.” Although research on the question*

*remains at a formative stage, private schools tend to focus on molding student character by fostering grit, conscientiousness, and tolerance of others. Such character traits are more predictive of educational attainment than of future educational achievement.*

*The attainment effects of choice programs may be outstripping their achievement effects because private schools prioritize character over test scores. That prioritization of long-term over short-term outcomes likely pleases their customers: parents.*

The character- and community-building capabilities of school choice fortify the strength of America's civil society and the informed citizenship which have been at the core of The Bradley Foundation's mission since the late 1980s. The Foundation provided a small grant for the work of John Chubb and Terry Moe and their controversial 1990 book, *Politics, Markets, and America's Schools*. Foundation grants helped establish a state-level think tank, Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (now, the Badger Institute). Bradley invests in school support organizations and individual Milwaukee choice and charter schools. At the national level, Bradley has supported school choice with grants to policy and advocacy organizations.

School choice is about freedom on multiple levels, including parents' freedom to choose their children's school, and ultimately, students' freedom to develop the knowledge, skills, and strength of character to allow their dreams to become reality. The future of our nation depends on freedoms such as these.

## GRANT RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

### St. Marcus School

St. Marcus Lutheran School on Milwaukee's near north side is recognized nationally as one of the city's oldest and most successful K-8 Christian urban schools. It joined the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program soon after MPCP's inception.

Today, 96% of its students attend through school choice. To best serve its students, their families and its community, St. Marcus cultivates the whole student.

The bar is set high not just for academics, but for personal growth, character development, and tight bonds with each other and the community. Ninety percent of its students go on to graduate high school and more than 50% continue with post-secondary education. St. Marcus' ability to blend solid core beliefs with an evolving approach to the needs of its congregation has made it a bedrock for its neighborhood. St. Marcus builds community, brings resources together collaboratively, and keeps its diverse student population connected 365 days a year through excellence in education and summer programs and partnerships that engage and enrich students, preparing them for the coming school year.







## PROGRAM CORNER

### INVESTING IN MISSION, TALENT, AND CULTURE TO IMPROVE K-12 EDUCATION

Informed citizens with the character, habits, and knowledge to succeed in a free society are essential to a vibrant America. High-quality K-12 education helps prepare young people to advance in life with purpose and hope, respectful of the dignity of work and appreciative of the opportunities available due to America's unique political, economic, and social order.

American education is in crisis—from low-performing public schools in poor urban and rural areas, to the hyper-politicized progressive influence on America's education institutions which encourages public school students across the country to be taught from an early age to view American traditions and institutions with suspicion rather than respect. Public education monopolies are shortchanging millions of students. To counter these forces, The Bradley Foundation and the Bradley Impact Fund donor community are encouraging alternatives to K-12 public education monopolies, ensuring all parents have the freedom to choose the best school for their children.

What we see nearly thirty years into education reform is that well-run schools with a clear mission, dynamic leadership, high standards, engaging school culture, and a strong community of support invariably succeed at higher rates than standard public schools in preparing students for sustained success in life. Through this lens, philanthropic support for K-12 education is a long-term investment in schools that attract and retain high-performing school leaders and teachers committed to educating children, engaging parents and families, and partnering with the broader community to achieve common goals for children and their families. In urban Milwaukee, these elements of success come together in an array of choice and charter schools that we support, including the **LUMIN Schools, Messmer Catholic Schools, Seton Catholic Schools, UCC Acosta Middle School, and Wisconsin Lutheran High School.**

Given the extent of K-12 education's reach into our society, we encourage you to join us in investing in high-impact, vetted schools and school support organizations. The Bradley Impact Fund can also provide guidance as you explore opportunities to invest in individual schools, systems of schools, and/or school support organizations that advance K-12 school choice in your local community and throughout the United States.

## DID YOU KNOW? QUALIFIED GIFTS FROM AN IRA

There's another option for your charitable giving: A required minimum disbursement (RMD) from your IRA. The Bradley Impact Fund's four area of interest funds qualify for the charitable rollover provision, which allows donors to give up to \$100,000 annually (or \$200,000 per couple) to a qualified charity in lieu of taking an RMD, without being taxed.\*

- ▶ The Constitutional Order Fund
- ▶ The Free Markets Fund
- ▶ The Civil Society Fund
- ▶ The Informed Citizens Fund

These funds advance American values through investment in public policy ideas, advocacy, and implementation. Please contact us today to learn more.

*\* Please note: You will not receive a charitable deduction for the rollover amount.*

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