



FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT: Advancing American Values

LABOR DAY ISSUE, 2017

This Labor Day, we celebrate American workers and the free enterprise system that fosters our entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to a job well done. Together, as Americans, we have built, and when needed defended, a prosperous and exceptional nation. Together, we can help restore, strengthen and protect our nation through thoughtful philanthropic outreach to a growing segment of our population that is becoming increasingly disengaged from the promise of American opportunity.

REINVIGORATING THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA

Technological advances, evolving global economic realities, and government over-regulation have radically altered employment opportunities for all Americans. At the same time, government programs intended to address poverty and inequality have tragically created a culture of dependence which destroys human dignity and saps individual initiative among our most at-risk populations. The result is a toxic mix of hopelessness and perceived lack of opportunity that fuel drug use, violent crime and disconnection from productive society, devastating families and communities all across our nation.

One of the cornerstones for meaningful work and a prosperous life in our rapidly changing world is access to relevant, high-quality educational options. Unfortunately, our public education system is broken, as seen by indicators such as absenteeism rates. Chronic student absenteeism across American K-12 public school monopolies has risen to 14%. In Milwaukee Public Schools, 38% of students in K-12 are chronically absent, the highest in the nation.

Chronic absenteeism leads to low test scores, low grade point averages, lower graduation rates, and ultimately a growing population of people unprepared for employment in the 21st century U.S. economy.

From college-prep to vocational and technical education, we are best able to reinvigorate the spirit of American workers through a wide range of well-thought-out educational options that meet both the individual needs of children and adults, and result in near-term jobs and sustainable careers in strong and emerging areas of our local and national economies.

As part of our mission to restore, strengthen and protect the principles and institutions of American exceptionalism, Bradley supports an array of organizations developing solutions to reinvigorate the spirits of individuals and their families, and encouraging greater engagement in school, better career outcomes, healthier communities, and ultimately a more vibrant America.

Growing Disengagement in American Society

Not at School

14% - students chronically absent nationwide.
38% - students chronically absent in Milwaukee Public Schools.

Not at Work

95% - prime-age men employed in 1967.
85% - prime-age men employed today.
74% - prime-age African American men in the City of Milwaukee employed today.

“Every underemployed American represents a failure of entrepreneurial imagination.” — Edward L. Glaeser,

Harvard University economics professor



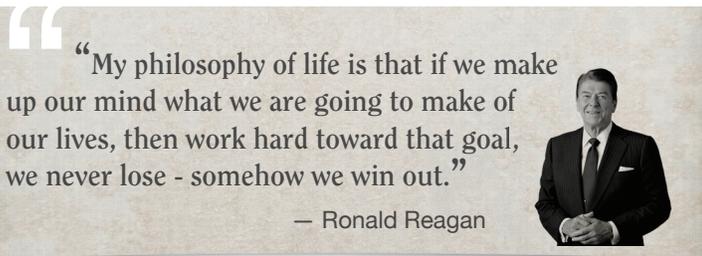
CULTIVATING AN ENGAGED AND INSPIRED CITIZENRY

Like many threats to America's exceptionalism, growing disengagement from school, work, and society are challenges requiring long-term transformation. Bradley's grantmaking addresses these threats by encouraging individual dignity, self-reliance, civic engagement, and self-governance through investment in four priority giving areas that are consistent with our mission and guiding principles:

Free Markets – To advance free markets, Bradley supports organizations and projects that reduce the size and power of public sector unions; advance free trade within the rule of law; and support deregulation of markets. Examples of grantees include the Manhattan Institute, Cato Institute, Foundation for Government Accountability, and the Tax Foundation.

Constitutional Order – To promote fidelity to the Constitution, Bradley supports organizations and projects that advance federalism and limit government at the national, state and local levels. Bradley also supports efforts that protect free speech; restore election integrity; promote citizen political engagement; uphold the rule of law and Constitutional order; and defend the free exercise of religious freedom. Examples of grantees include the American Legislative Exchange Council, State Policy Network, Wisconsin Policy Research Institute, and the Freedom Foundation.

Civil Society – To defend, and reinvigorate the institution of civil society, Bradley supports organizations and projects that strengthen families; encourage self-reliance; promote civil discourse; rely on voluntary institutions outside of government to address community and individual needs; and advance arts and culture in the Milwaukee area. Examples of grantees include ACTS Housing, Community Warehouse, the Acton Institute and the Milwaukee Public Museum.



Informed Citizens – To encourage the formation of informed and capable citizens, Bradley supports organizations and projects that reform and re-imagine systems and institutions of higher education; further outstanding research, teaching and scholarship; advance alternatives to the K-12 public education monopolies; promote the teaching of American exceptionalism; encourage vocational training and other alternatives to university-based education; and support education for gifted students. Examples of grantees include the Bradley Graduate & Post-Graduate Fellowship Program, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Partners Advancing Values in Education, and Yeshiva Elementary School in Milwaukee.

If you would like to learn more about Bradley's grantmaking or discuss your own philanthropic strategy, please contact the Bradley Impact Fund at (414) 291-2500 to schedule an appointment.

REGISTER FOR THE BRADLEY IMPACT CONFERENCE:

Join us for the annual Bradley Impact Conference at Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI. October 5 and 6.

2017 Featured Speakers include: Mike Rowe • David McCullough • Sen. Ben Sasse (invited) • Gov. Scott Walker • Steve Hayes, and a full slate of Conservative thought leaders and practitioners participating in four engaging panel discussions.

Please RSVP by September 14, 2017.

For more details and to register contact Kala Hill at (414) 291-2500 or khill@bradleyfdn.org, or visit <http://invest.bradleyimpactfund.org/geneva>.



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