

CLARITY. CONFIDENCE. COURAGE.

COLSON CENTER IMPACT REPORT

President's Message

THANKS



Dear Friend,

I'm writing this letter on October 16 – Chuck's birthday. It brings back memories of the day Chuck collapsed at Wilberforce Weekend 2012 and was taken to the hospital. As he did with everything, Chuck looked ahead and made plans. He hoped to leave behind a ministry that equipped the church with clarity, confidence, and courage to contend for the faith in this cultural moment.

Thanks to Chuck's mentoring, God's blessings, and the support of people like you, the Colson Center is even stronger today than it was when Chuck went home in 2012. Since then, the three pillars Chuck planted – Breakpoint, Wilberforce Weekend, and the Colson Fellows program, have grown in size and impact.

We continue to deliver BreakPoint's daily commentary to over 1,000 radio stations across the country, and now hundreds of thousands of email subscribers. This past year, the BreakPoint website received over 6 million page views and the podcast had 5 million episode downloads.

Wilberforce Weekend—the premier annual gathering on faith and culture, has more than doubled in size, reuniting hundreds of commissioned Colson Fellows for ongoing equipping and fellowship.

This year, we have 270 new Colson Fellows. We've leveraged technology to make the program more affordable and local by building learning communities in 25 cities. Our goal is to have a Colson Fellows cohort in the top 100 cities by 2023.

In September 2019, we launched a new program – What Would You Say? We live in the golden age of answers to worldview challenges to the faith. What was needed were short, memorable, shareable videos that could equip Christians with biblically based talking points on a range of issues. As Chuck was fond of saying, "We don't impose our beliefs, we propose a better way."

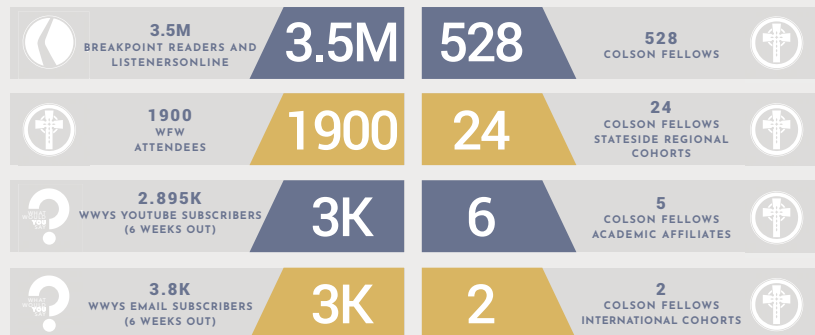
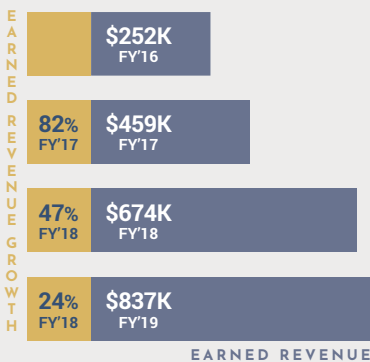
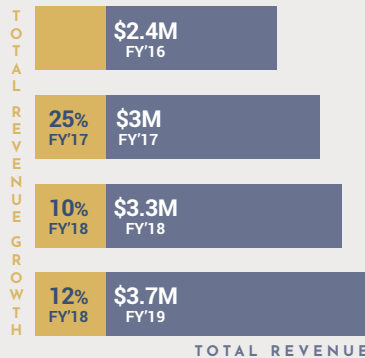
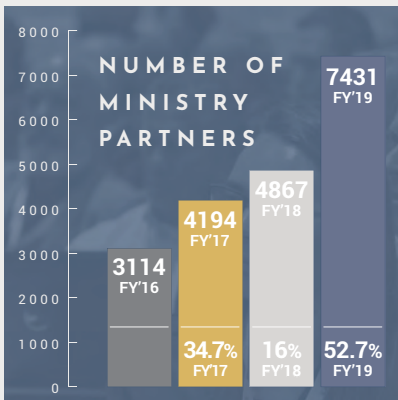
Thank you for your partnership in these past four years of Colson Center ministry. What an exciting and crucial time to be called by God for engagement in cultural renewal.

Blessings,
John Stonestreet
President

OUR GROWTH

In the four years since the Colson Center was established as an independent ministry...

- Revenue has grown steadily allowing us to expand the impact of our ministry
- Diverse revenue from speaking fees, Colson Fellows tuition, Wilberforce Weekend registrations and new products like our popular short courses reduce our dependency on donations.
- The diversity and number of financial supporters has dramatically increased.



Mission

CLARITY.
BreakPoint's insights aided Christians over 10 million times in 2019.

CONFIDENCE.
Our What Would You Say? YouTube channel launched in September and garnered tens of thousands of views in its first month.

COURAGE.
A record number attended Wilberforce Weekend 2019—get your tickets now at WilberforceWeekend.org to join us in 2020!



OUR LEADERS



Effectively Equipping Christians Then and Now: Eric and Pam Pillmore on Why They Support the Colson Center

Eric and Pam Pillmore, longtime supporters of the Colson Center, partner with several large Christian ministries. But one of the things they most appreciate about the Colson Center is “the punch” packed by this much smaller team.

“As a donor,” says Eric, “it’s really rewarding to know that your dollars don’t get lost. For a ministry of its size, the Colson Center has a huge impact that we are able to witness.”

Eric Pillmore first learned of the Colson Center in 2003. Following Eric’s crucial work reviving a foundering Tyco International, Chuck invited him to speak on the place of faith in the business world. Chuck was impressed by Eric’s commitment to ethical leadership. In 2017, Eric played an instrumental role in ending the misuse of fetal tissue at the University of New Mexico and building more pro-life-friendly policies there.

Eric clearly understands why an ability to publicly make the case for the Christian worldview is vital in today’s culture. This shared vision is one of the reasons Eric and his wife, Pam, are enthusiastic about the equipping resources provided by BreakPoint.

“The Colson Center is aware of the current culture and gives us insight into issues I didn’t even know about,” says Pam. At the same time, today’s media has come a long way from broadcast radio programs, and the Pillmores appreciate how the Colson Center reaches both believers and non-believers with the newest technologies.

“This ministry advances the Kingdom in ways that help the culture actually receive the content,” says Eric, highlighting the new What Would You Say? videos as an example of how the Colson Center is using media tools that will have the greatest impact, keeping Chuck’s legacy alive and thriving in this cultural moment.

It’s a far-reaching impact made possible thanks to the support of generous partners like Eric and Pam Pillmore.

“It’s really rewarding to know that your dollars don’t get lost. For a ministry of its size, the Colson Center has a huge impact.”
Eric Pillmore

We’ve got a number of strategic projects in the works... here’s what’s on the horizon:



What Would You Say?: we’re producing a video a week answering tough questions and reaching thousands of new people! (Videos cost us about \$5,000 to make—you can sponsor a video or an entire series and get recognition at the end of each video!)



New website: the new BreakPoint.org is optimized for audio, video, webinars and short courses, and searching for answers. You can help us produce more video content for a visual age.



Colson Fellows: We’re planting regional cohorts and building a local presence in more and more cities—talk to us about supporting a cohort in your area!

OUR DONORS



Staying True North in a Confused Culture

God doesn't "network." He weaves together His servants through the fabric of everyday circumstances, including our relationships. This Spirit-led weaving is the image

Dan Lewis, Executive Director of The River Foundation, uses to describe the partnership between his foundation and the Colson Center.

Dan and his colleagues got to know John Stonestreet and the Colson Center through mutual ministry partners like Summit Ministries and Young Life.

They quickly saw a mission and message they wanted to amplify.

"It's not about cutting a check; it's about a true partnership that

adds value," says Dan, citing 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

The River Foundation, which is the giving arm of the First Southern Family of Companies, specifically invests in Christian ministries that work in three primary areas: God and Money, God and Culture, and God and Life. The Colson Center fits into this strategy by helping Christians stay "True North" in a confusing culture where the topography is always shifting.

"We want the worldview impact to trickle down by on-ramping people into a conversation about Truth in a 'whatever culture,'" Dan explains.

But Dan Lewis and The River Foundation also believe the Truth must be proclaimed with love and civility, a shared vision they found at the Colson Center. When it comes to faithful stewardship of the Lord's gifts, Dan and his team are surely "a model to all believers" (1 Thessalonians 1:7), and we are grateful to God for weaving together this fruitful partnership.

What friends of the Colson Center are saying about the impact of our programs:

GABRIEL PAGEL
COLSON FELLOW

"As someone who was immersed in worldview thinking for years prior to Colson, I was pleasantly surprised at how much I still learned in the program. The program is able to engage even the most learned person. I was able to put much more into action to serve God and the people around me."

WHITT MCKINNEY
SUBSCRIBER

"The What Would You Say videos are excellent! They are cogent, concise and memorable."

LISA GRABLE
DONOR

"It's a joy to give to the Colson Center! We benefit every day from your work and continue to share Breakpoint and your other resources with friends and family. THANK YOU for the difference you and your staff are making in our lives and for the kingdom of God!"