

# Above & Beyond

A mericans love a story of going above and beyond. We are thrilled by the tale of underdog athletes and teams pushing past their limits to win against all odds. We recount the heroism of soldiers who exceed the call of duty. In fact, we award the Medal of Honor only to those who have truly gone above and beyond.

One such American was Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, of Cuero, Texas. As an orphaned high-school dropout, he entered first the Texas Army National Guard,

then joined the U.S. Army where he was assigned to the storied 82nd Airborne Division, and finally became an elite Green Beret. In 1965, he sustained a spinal injury in Vietnam, and doctors told him he'd never walk again. He responded by dragging himself out of bed at night and pushing his body up against a wall until he could first stand, then walk, then run. He had a goal: go back to Vietnam to continue defending freedom.

In 1968, he heard a call for help over his radio, and leapt onto a departing helicopter to go rescue 12 men stranded behind enemy lines. In one hand, he held a medical bag, and in the other, that most Texan of sidearms—a Bowie knife. In the ensuing firefight, Benavidez sustained 7 gunshot wounds, 30 shrapnel holes, and had both arms slashed by a bayonet. He rescued all eight surviving men and retrieved classified papers with radio codes and call signs. By the time he arrived in a hospital, doctors thought he was dead. As he heard the zipper of

a body bag closing over his chest, Sergeant Benavidez made one final, desperate effort—he spit in the doctor's face to let him know he was alive. Benavidez spent a year in the hospital: he survived.

In 1981, in his speech presenting Benavidez with the Medal of Honor, President Ronald Reagan asked: "Where do we find such men? We find them where we've always found them—in our villages and towns, on our city streets, in our shops, and on our farms." This is where American heroes are always found. The history of the defense of liberty lies in the states, in our smallest and our furthest counties, and everywhere that men and women remember the proper weight of liberty.

#### ... That Begins in Texas

At the Texas Public Policy Foundation, we know that Texas has a unique role to play. In the Lone Star State, we know that we lead the way for the nation, demonstrating every day the power of liberty, personal responsibility, and free enterprise to secure prosperity and transform lives. This report will tell you what we did in 2017 to achieve exactly this end.



Photo Courtesy Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez salutes after receiving the Medal of Honor from President Ronald Reagan in February 1981.

You'll see that we are participating in several revolutionary opportunities to shape policy at the federal level: from meeting with the White House to offering key advice on national policy, modeled on our Texas successes. Increasingly, Washington, D.C., is looking to us to chart the path for the future. You'll see this echoed within Texas, where policymakers now routinely turn to us, asking how to spend, how to save, and how to secure the future of our great state. Here you'll read about all that we are doing in 10 policy centers and our national litigation center to protect American liberty and to ensure that all Texans have the freedom to flourish.

Our work is rooted not just in the place, but in the ideal that is Texas. Most of us are not called to face death in the same way Roy Benavidez was. But we

do fight for the same ideals. We fight to preserve a land of liberty, where men and women are what they make of themselves. Benavidez leapt into action carrying the tools to defend and the tools to heal. This, then, is our model: defend what is worth protecting. Clear away the obstacles to liberty, and enable all to find hope for a better tomorrow.

To each of you who has furthered this work: thank you. We know that our work is supported by the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of everyday Americans like you—the patriots who use your freedom to help us push **above and beyond**.

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## Message from the President & the Chair



**Dr. Wendy L. Gramm**Chairman of the Board



**Brooke L. Rollins** President & CEO

elcome to the 2017 gratitude report of the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

During the 28 years since our founding, TPPF has built a record of achievement, action, and heartening victories for Texas and the nation. Thanks to the unwavering support of patriots like you, 2017 was no exception.

More than ever, the Texas Public Policy Foundation emerged as a national player and a policy leader, with a reach that expands far beyond the borders of the Lone Star State. We've been a driving force behind Texas' success for three decades: protecting liberty and thereby securing the prosperity that characterizes the Lone Star State.

In Washington this year, TPPF experts met with top administration officials and agency heads in the White House to share insights on reforms for criminal justice, taxes, and regulations.

We've been the driving force behind Texas' success for three decades: protecting liberty and thereby securing the prosperity that characterizes the Lone Star State.

In addition to filing two new court cases, both aimed at protecting America's energy and environmental liberties, the Center for the American Future logged a major win: the successful settlement of our Red River lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management over 90,000 acres of private land.

Our Life:Powered project (formerly Fueling Freedom), which launched in 2015 to combat the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, has helped change the face of the

energy debate in America—so much so that this administration has chosen to repeal the plan and turn to states like Texas to point the way forward. In 2018, we'll be taking the project to a new level, expanding it to cover every aspect of the policies that promote abundant, reliable, and affordable energy to power modern life.

Successful reforms like these at the national level serve as an invitation for the states to reassert prudent governance. In Texas' 85th Legislature, TPPF played an integral role in the passage of a second consecutive Conservative Texas Budget. Policymakers actually asked us how much they could spend—breaking the old habit of big spending that has traditionally followed conservative budget years in Texas.

Then, of the 19 issues on Gov. Greg Abbott's special session call, an incredible 12 were top TPPF priorities! One big victory from the special session protects 63 percent of Texans from cities' ability to annex and tax them without first obtaining their voting consent. In our 26 years guiding education opportunity, this year we went further than ever before. In particular, TPPF advocated for the creation of a legislative school finance commission, which is already laying the groundwork for action in the 86th Legislature that will save Texans money and brighten our children's future.

This year has seen the explosion of our new Liberty Leadership Council, which was born of our realization that young professionals under 40 are stepping onto the stage as primary drivers of culture, politics, and policy. We've engaged over 700 young professionals so far and, in 2018, we'll expand the network to key universities.

Simply put, TPPF has been building a highly effective infrastructure to advance the ideology of liberty, personal responsibility, and market freedom, starting under the Lone Star and expanding all the way to Washington. We are not just a think tank—we are a "do tank," with a real agenda for positive change. We matter in ways that many of our peer institutions do not, because we go above and beyond.

### We matter in ways that many of our peer institutions do not, because we go above and beyond.

Our work—and our success—embodies the potential of strong and free states. And when the states are successful, they become the policy drivers of the nation.

Yet no matter how successful we are on the national scale, our key mission will always be to take Texas toward a new era of prosperity—above and beyond what came before. And we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for supporting our vision and lending your voice to our mission!

Yours in Liberty,

Mendy Gramm
Dr. Wendy L. Gramm
Chairman of the Board

Brooke L. Rollins

President & CEO

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# Government Accountability

liberty took TPPF beyond past successes and placed us securely in a position of influence in ongoing and future policy debates. As you already know, the government is an extension of the People, and therefore accountability to the People is essential. With you at our side, TPPF was able to remind the government of that, as we used the last two legislative sessions and the court system to preserve Texan liberty and demand accountability.

- The Center for Local Governance (CLG) demanded government accountability to citizens, successfully pushing a bill that gives citizens in counties with more than 500,000 residents the right to vote on whether to be annexed by a neighboring municipality. It was a historic win over a policy that allowed nothing short of taxation without representation.
- Research and recommendations based on work from our Life:Powered (formerly Fueling Freedom) project appeared in the president's energy agenda, under direct counsel of TPPF staff. The president lifted the Obama administration-era ban on new coal leasing on federal land and rescinded the Clean Power Plan, protecting America's energy security, economy, and environment, and marked a win against the EPA's most egregious regulatory overreach.
- The Center for Tenth Amendment Action helped mobilize states to pass a resolution to call a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. We defined the narrative early to alleviate concerns within the conservative movement. TPPF has laid significant groundwork in 10 other states for the next legislative cycles in 2018 and 2019 to ensure the entire movement advances. In this endeavor, TPPF is well-positioned to influence staffing decisions and key policy debates on issues including health care, education, and energy.
- ☆ Work in Texas by the Center for Effective Justice (CEJ) saw 16 out of 17 criminal justice reforms

- make it to the governor's desk for signature, including a bill ensuring a more effective system of community supervision and improving legislation regarding record sealing.
- ☆ With CEJ's support, the Legislature called for the closure of four unnecessary prison units, in addition to those that have closed since 2007, saving taxpayers around \$50 million.
- The Center for the American Future (CAF) won its Red River property rights lawsuit versus the Bureau of Land Management. On the eve of trial, the federal government surrendered, with the Department of Justice sending CAF settlement terms granting all the relief sought by the Center's landowner and county government clients, including canceling the federal surveys in question and disclaiming the BLM maps claiming public lands within Texas.
- Working for Americans beyond Texas, CAF will represent a coalition of construction, trucking, energy, logging, and manufacturing small businesses in rescinding strict regulations on greenhouse gases enforced by the Obama administration. That administration failed to submit its 2009 endangerment finding of CO2 as a pollutant for review, and this violation is fatal to the erroneous endangerment finding altogether. Success in this endeavor will set a precedent for the nation and lay the groundwork for a rollback of the many carbon-based environmental regulations that daily impair our economy and our liberty.

- A measure passed, on which CEJ collaborated with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, holding first-time, low-level DUI offenders accountable through a six-month program before they can apply to have their records sealed.
- In CEJ's reach beyond Texas, its Right on Crime (ROC) initiative hired six state directors covering eight priority states: Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arizona, New Mexico, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, and Wisconsin. We produced results in a short amount of time, demonstrating the efficacy of our approach.
- ROC witnesses presented testimony before numerous congressional committees, including the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights; the House Judiciary Committee; and the Overcriminalization Task Force of the House Judiciary Committee.
- TPPF representatives were invited by the White House when it convened the "Prisoner Reentry Summit."
- ROC lent its intellectual and policy support to educate lawmakers locally, nationally, and federally, helping conservative decision makers continually push for prison reform, civil asset forfeiture protection, and criminal intent reform, to name a few.









# Quality Education for All

An educated electorate is the lifeblood of our unique American government, so we strive to lay the groundwork for unrestricted access to the education desired and necessary for all people, from special-needs children to first-generation college students. Your support helps students and parents make free decisions about education in Texas and around the country, sustaining the ongoing legacy of our democracy.



- Education freedom remained a focal point of discussion throughout the entire legislative session and special session. A bill that would have created a near-universal statewide Education Savings Account (ESA) program received unprecedented support at a Senate Education Committee hearing, and, in fact, supporters outweighed the opposition in testimony—a first in Texas. A bill providing a more limited form of ESAs ultimately passed the Texas Senate, still a considerable victory.
- While the fight for full education choice continues, we made incremental gains. A bill passed allowing high-quality charter schools access to facilities funding, the first of its kind in the nation. The passage of another bill also ensures that all Texas' military children will be able to access virtual schools.
- ☼ We have been working with the Trump administration and policy organizations nationwide to devolve control of education policy back to the states, where control over education belongs. TPPF initiated and hosted a meeting of national and state think tanks in the spring that resulted in a joint letter to Education Secretary DeVos, signed by over a dozen organizations, laying out a vision for appropriate federal involvement in education. One of our suggestions, expanding 529 college savings plans to K-12 expenses, was added by Sen. Cruz as an amendment to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- ☆ The Center for Education Freedom (CEdF) launched TPPF's new education campaign, #SetEdFree. Through this campaign, TPPF is

- defining and publicizing an approach to education that replaces bureaucratic dictates to parents with true cooperation between parents and educators.
- ☼ TPPF advocated for the creation of a school finance commission this year to examine the current system and propose an overhaul. Now that the Legislature created the commission, TPPF will continue to publish research and make policy recommendations to the commission throughout its tenure.
- Just as the state's school finance commission prepared to convene, CEdF did what TPPF does best: define the narrative. Our School Finance Summit brought together experts and policymakers to discuss what's wrong with the current system, explore bold ideas for reform, and look forward to the future of education funding in Texas. Legislators, reformers, and defenders of the status quo alike were in attendance. The summit sold out with a waiting list, and close to 30 percent of attendees were legislators, legislative staff, or agency staff. Many of the remaining attendees were influencers in education throughout the state.
- The Center for Higher Education (CHE) supported strengthening career and technical education in an effort to fill the middle-skills gap by increasing focus in those areas. As employers have been hard-pressed to find middle-skills applicants for some time, the passage of a bill on this by the 85th Legislature was much needed and welcomed, and is creating opportunities for prosperity for all Texans.

CHE maintains an independent, nonprofit website called SeeThruEdu.com. The work featured on SeeThruEdu is from the nation's leading experts in higher education, who are passionate about reforming the system. It produces high-quality research on hot issues such as free speech on college campuses, how the left influences universities, and career and technical education. Over the last year, contributors have written state-specific pieces as well as publications about higher education as a national issue. SeeThruEdu now has more than 300,000 Facebook likes, exponentially more than any other site on the topic.



### **Community College:** the Underappreciated Ticket to the American Dream

one Star College's foundation awarded a student named Sara a scholarship early in 2017, and as many awardees do, she sent a thank you letter to the foundation trustees. But the letter Trustee Ron Trowbridge received that February morning was different—different in a way that tells us much about the role community colleges play in aspirations of higher education.

Sara wrote that she was especially grateful for her and books. scholarship because her mother was currently in stage three of cancer, and she needed to save her money for her mother's treatment. Ron's wife died of cancer; he knew nity college Sara's pain and struggle.

The kind of

Upon reading the letter, Ron called Sara and had a long talk with her. Her mother's cancer had now worsened to stage four, and she was dying. Ron told Sara that when her mother passed away, going to college would hardly be on her mind. But he made Sara promise him that she would return to college and wouldn't give up her hope of graduating.

Six months later, Sara called Ron to tell him her mom had passed away. But she wanted to reassure him that she would indeed be re-enrolling that fall. She asked him if he knew of a scholarship she could apply for, given the enormous sums of money her family had spent on medical bills. Ron talked it over with the chancellor, Steve Head, explaining the student's extreme circumstances. Chancellor Head enthusiastically responded that he had some discretionary funds that he could award a student in such a situation. In the end, Sara received nearly \$2,000 that covered full tuition for the fall term, including fees and books.

Today, nearly half of all students graduating with a four-year degree have had some experience at a community college—a vital gateway to the American Dream. The kind of intimacy Sara had with Ron and Chancellor Head is unfathomable at a massive, four-year institution, where students can feel like numbers. The \$2,000 scholarship Sara received would have fallen woefully short of the amount required for tuition, fees, and books for one semester at a public Texas four-year university, where the average cost of a semester is closer to \$6,000. We share with you a vision of higher education that offers all Texans a chance to participate in the Texas Miracle and the great American experiment through affordable education that prepares students for useful employment and active citizenship.

### Telemedicine, a Life Saver During Hurricane Harvey

In May, Texas became the last state to release telemedicine from regulatory constraints—and none too soon. Telemedicine allows doctors to see patients virtually rather than requiring an in-person visit and to treat them from a distance. In August, Hurricane Harvey, the nation's costliest natural disaster, hit the Gulf Coast. Hospitals staffed shelters 24 hours a day, but patients were separated from usual medical care, and exposure created new medical problems. Telemedicine allowed diabetics in shelters to get their correct medications, sick children to connect with offsite pediatricians, and medical workers on the scene to care properly for emersion victims.

This change was the result of an extensive campaign by the Foundation working alongside other groups to reduce unnecessary and excessive levels of regulation and thus increase access to medical care. To help bring this about, the Foundation published multiple research papers and articles on the issue, educated legislators, and testified at committee hearings.

Thanks to this success, families affected by Harvey in Houston shelters received vital medical care from both in-state and even out-of-state providers, day or night. Adults and children alike had on-demand access to doctors, and physicians had access to medical records of patients they had never seen before. Because of everyone who pushed this reform—including the donors who support our work in health care—Houstonians had ready access to life-saving health care during a major natural disaster.

## Well-Being for All Families

You've enabled us to be the voice of the less fortunate in their pursuit of happiness. As your partners in liberty, the Foundation sent people to the trenches of the Texas Legislature, advocating for foster care reform, and sent others to navigate the labyrinths of Washington, D.C., giving lawmakers facts and research to inform the debate on national health care reform. The path there starts with a conservative approach without the intrusion of a broken government bureaucracy.

- Our work in health care policy has been done in the trenches of the Capitol, producing several publications to help legislators and the public understand various reform efforts. We have placed commentaries in major national outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal, The Hill,* and *USA Today,* as well as in Texas papers in Dallas, Houston, and McAllen.
- Our staff on the ground in Washington, D.C., shared our health care recommendations in a briefing for the administration. Moreover, we have taken advantage of a multitude of media outlets to place op-eds, sit for radio and television interviews, and work with our various allies to advance the conservative health care message.
- 2017 was the first full year for TPPF's new Center for Families and Children (CFC), which focuses on family and child welfare policy in the Lone Star State. Brandon Logan, J.D., CWLS, leads the CFC.
- ☆ CFC was influential in changing the narrative about the complex policy area of child welfare, serving as a reference for lawmakers and the community in order to take substantive steps toward reform of Texas' broken foster care system and fulfilling the state's obligation to foster children.

- CFC educated policymakers about the success of a pilot program for community-based foster care in Tarrant County, which led to the passage of a bill that transfers responsibility from the hands of the state into the hands of the community. It increases the role of local agencies, community nonprofits, and houses of worship in caring for children who are unable to remain safely at home.
- The actions of the Texas Legislature last session were only the first steps toward reform. CFC already has started the research and outreach necessary to achieve more improvements in the 2019 Texas Legislature. CFC staff has been working with policymakers and staff, helping them pinpoint many of the most pressing issues that still need reform.

### New Center for Economic Prosperity

ur newly created **Center for Economic Prosperity** (CEP) is directed by the Foundation's Senior Economist Dr. Vance Ginn. CEP is replacing the former Center for Economic Freedom (CEF), as the previous director, Bill Peacock, now serves solely as the Foundation's vice president of research. CEP will continue the work of CEF and other research but will further build on the Foundation's quiding principles.

CEP plans to define the public narrative regarding economic prosperity and will support legislation that best supports human flourishing in Texas, D.C., and around the country. With rigorous research, CEP will set forth the best path to advancing prosperity in a free enterprise system.

Research will focus on those institutions that support human flourishing, such as private property rights, a fair justice system, voluntary exchange, strong families, and other institutions that foster individual prosperity. When these ideas become policy, people will have abundant opportunities to prosper from more economic growth, less poverty, and higher standards of living.

Most exciting, the Center will build and promote the **Let People Prosper** project that combines the Foundation's research into a cohesive argument for why human flourishing depends upon a framework that includes the Foundation's guiding principles of individual liberty, free enterprise, and personal responsibility.

# Prosperity for All

Your investment in TPPF paves an infinite path toward prosperity for Texans—and all Americans. Our work covered taxation, water policy, occupational licensing, free-market workers' compensation, tort reform, and ride-sharing networks. From passing a Conservative Texas Budget to being cited in the U.S. Supreme Court, our work is a reflection of your commitment to preserve a foundation of prosperity for all Americans.

- The Texas Legislature passed a true Conservative Texas Budget, led by the Texas Senate's adopting TPPF's conservative spending limit as nearly iron-clad law. This means that increases in spending are restricted to no more than population growth plus inflation—a necessary requirement to restrain government overspending. With this success under our belts, we're making plans to promote the passage of another conservative budget in 2019. As an outgrowth of this success, we are beginning to take our experience in Texas fiscal reform to Washington, D.C., and address spending excess and tax reform so Texans can flourish.
- The Center for Economic Freedom (CEF) released a study on the potential impact of the Border Adjustment Tax, and we will continue to advance federal tax policy based on the principles of simplicity, transparency, and opportunity that have long powered Texas' unparalleled economic prosperity.
- Several bills passed this year which reduce barriers that had prevented water rights applicants from being granted a permit. Two of them streamline the application process by narrowing the scope of factors the government may examine when assessing permit applications.

- ☆ CEF helped eliminate the shampoo apprentice license and stopped cities from requiring additional permitting fees and licensing for state-licensed electricians. Occupational licensing restrictions have often limited the opportunity of those wishing to flourish in regulated vocations.
- ☆ The Legislature limited city authority over manufactured homes in designated manufactured home parks.
- ACAF challenged the Endangered Species Act, holding the EPA to the law and contesting the Clean Water Act. They defended short-term rental rights and stopped the use of tax dollars to pay unions. The legal process is a long one, and, thanks to you, their progress even to this point is remarkable.
- During the last 12 months, CAF has filed six important briefs—three in the Texas Supreme Court, one in the Fifth Circuit, and the other two in the Supreme Court of the United States.
- A CAF regularly publishes amicus briefs in key legal cases. These briefs serve to insert TPPF opinions and assert influence on courts when there may not be potential for direct representation.

## Foundation Events

TPPF spread a liberty-focused vision of a better Texas to all corners of the state through more than 80 events in 2017. This dramatic increase in events over previous years expands our outreach to Texans and other liberty-loving Americans as we promote personal responsibility and free enterprise together.

82 events

4,650 attendees

4,525

Livestream viewers

#### 15th Annual Policy Orientation

TPPF hosted the 15th Annual Policy Orientation for the Texas Legislature this year. The conference showcased the leaders, decision makers, and citizens who are shaping the Texas future now. Throughout 26 panel discussions and six keynote addresses, we discussed the most important topics of the coming year, including charting America's path out of Obamacare, revivifying state sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment, reforming education, extending academic freedom at every level, and much more. Speakers included Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Fox News reporter John Stossel, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, and Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz.

Nearly 700 attendees came and over 2,000 more tuned in to the livestream. Seventy-five House offices were represented as well as 22 Senate offices, in addition to over 15 other elected/appointed officials, both on the federal and state levels, including Attorney General Ken Paxton and Land Commissioner George P. Bush. The conference garnered significant media attention with coverage from outlets such as the *Washington Times* and *Politico*, resulting in over 20 million impressions.

#### Policy Orientation for the Special Session

Since the governor called a special session, TPPF hosted another Policy Orientation. This day-long event was held the day before the special session commenced, consisting of keynote speeches and panels with key legislative leaders and other experts to discuss many of the issues placed on the call by the governor. Guests included Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, representatives from Americans for Tax

Reform and the Goldwater Institute, and various state senators and representatives.

Approximately 250 people attended the event, and an additional 500 tuned in to watch the livestream.



#### Dallas Reception with Gov. Greg Abbott

On January 24, Randy and Nancy Best opened their beautiful home to host a fundraising reception for over 150 TPPF donors and guests. Gov. Greg Abbott was the keynote speaker, and he spoke about the upcoming Texas Legislature and provided key insights about his goals for the session. Grammy-nominated Texas country music artist Pat Green closed the reception with an intimate acoustic performance in the music salon.

#### **Engagement Dinners**

Special dinners for TPPF donors and major gift prospects were held in Austin, Houston, Midland, and Dallas throughout the year. Fifty people attended each dinner, and five policy experts circulated to each table to speak about their center's work. These dinners were extremely successful in introducing our mission and vision to new potential donors and were catalysts for our

ongoing fundraising dinners in these same cities in the future.

#### **Awards Dinners**

Midland had its inaugural awards dinner this year. The sold-out dinner raised over \$150,000 for TPPF, and 290 guests enjoyed a wonderful celebration honoring two Texas patriots: Jim Henry received the Sam Houston Award, and Ernest Angelo, Jr., received the Ronald Reagan Award. Pat Green performed a special concert to close the evening.

Houston had its second annual awards dinner this year drawing over 300 guests and raising more than \$300,000. Secretary Rick Perry was in attendance to receive the Ronald Reagan Award, and Dick Weekley received the Sam Houston Award.



#### Liberty Leadership Council

The Liberty Leadership Council (LLC) grew to chapters in five cities in its second year. TPPF organized 700 young professionals across the state between the ages of 21 and 40 into regional LLCs to instill the importance of public policy and to help them to become more actively involved in policy discussions. Chapters

in Dallas, Fort Worth, Midland, Austin, and Houston meet monthly in social and business atmospheres to galvanize themselves and to learn more about how they can affect policy debates and fight for liberty.

#### **Crossroads Summit**

TPPF hosted its fourth annual "At the Crossroads: Energy and Climate Policy Summit" in Washington, D.C., with the Heritage Foundation. The day-long conference was filled with the nation's most acclaimed thinkers, scholars, and policymakers to analyze the energy revolution and distinguish fact from myth. Over 225 guests attended in person, with an additional 500+ who viewed the conference live online. Guests included EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, U.S. senators, 14 world-renowned energy experts, and Polish Ambassador Piotr Wilczek.



The Foundation hosted more than 20 policy primers in 2017 that showcased efforts to promote its mission of limited government, free market principles, and personal responsibility. The primer series covered a wide variety of different policy areas this year, including economic freedom and corporate welfare, civil asset forfeiture, the sharing economy, and over-criminalization. We also hosted two half-day summits, one on local government and one on school finance.

At the conclusion of the legislative session, we delivered eight legislative update primers to donors in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, Midland, San Antonio, Tyler, and McAllen. On average, each policy primer drew almost 100 people.







### Communications

If you've been keeping up with TPPF's influence in the world, you've probably been riding our highway of information, also known as our communications department. From video production to media relations to website management, the voices of our experts are broadcast on airwaves and in print thanks to our team of professionals. Your support has funded our ability to invest in new technologies, as well as to perfect traditional communications outlets as we keep driving the message of liberty.

15,000 media mentions 800,000,000 impressions

op-eds

New Weekday Newsletter for Media

Our most recent innovation is *The Cannon*, our weekday email newsletter connecting today's headlines with TPPF's research, insight, and perspective. It gives context to what Texans and other Americans are talking about, both in the news and at the watercooler. While *The Cannon* specifically targets news media, many non-press subscribers value the newsletter for a deeper, more relevant perspective on the news.

#### Social Media Explosion

TPPF's online and social media presence grew significantly this year. We more than doubled our Facebook impressions, doubled our Twitter followers, and grew the number of Facebook "likes" by roughly 20 percent. The team continued its steady pace publishing op-eds in newspapers and in online publications across the country, and we distributed more than 200 press releases. The Foundation's "earned media" value—the total ad value of media appearances by TPPF experts—totaled more than \$46 million throughout the year.



#### News Media Outreach

You may have seen TPPF experts and research featured on major cable stations, such as Fox News, CNN, and Fox Business, and in major national daily newspapers, such as the *Wall Street Journal, USA Today*, and the *Washington Post*. And, of course, we were cited in most major TV, radio, and print media outlets in Texas.

#### Special Session Communications Center

During the summer, TPPF became a communications center during the special session called by Gov. Greg Abbott. The team distributed numerous studies, opinions, and press releases responding to the Legislature's agenda, and we made critical contributions to the debates on key issues like property taxes, education savings accounts, local annexation, and paycheck protection.

#### National Outreach

Our communications team is committed to taking our message beyond Austin and D.C. to reach everyday Americans who not only make this country work but also have the most to lose from the liberal agenda. They are taking conservative principles directly to the people through interactions on social media, letters published in their hometown papers, or expert interviews in local markets.

#### Cutting Edge Communications Technology

This year, thanks to your generosity, we introduced our new broadcast studio, which allows TPPF to connect directly with network and cable television stations via satellite right from our headquarters. This gives us the ability to establish ourselves as a group ready and able to respond to today's news stories as they happen.



#### New Liberty Podcast

A project started just before the end of the year, The Foundation podcast brings listeners each week some of the best and most interesting discussions happening in Texas. This medium allows experts and guests to explore issues in depth with lots of warmth and personality. It is a way to connect the Texas Public Policy Foundation's top-level research with the hearts and minds of the people.

#### Texas Outreach

Expanding beyond the boundaries of Austin and spreading the pro-liberty message to all communities across our great state is an important TPPF commitment. Chief among those is Hispanic engagement. Totaling 37.6 percent of the state's population, Hispanics are an important and vibrant segment of our state. Our outreach efforts consist of identifying and communicating with Hispanic community leaders and speaking to small groups within their own communities on the benefits of liberty, personal responsibility, and free enterprise.





# Development

The nature of philanthropy is to go above and beyond the call of mere duty. It's the giving you don't have to do, but that you choose to undertake. Behind our victories for liberty are thousands of patriots whose unstinting gifts of time, talent, and sacred honor make our work possible.

#### A Legacy of Service and Action

The members of our growing Lone Star Legacy Society have each determined to act for the future of Texas and the nation both during and after their own lifetimes. Just two years after its inception, the Society is now 26 members strong, representing all those who have already committed to TPPF in their wills or estate plans, ensuring that their devotion to liberty knows no end.



Bryan and Ginny Maupin are two of the 26. Not many Americans can say that they saw the Berlin Wall fall, but, thanks to Bryan's Air Force career, he and his wife Ginny not only saw the wall between East and West Germany demolished, they saw the vivid contrast between the two sides of that wall—the difference between living in liberty and living under tyranny. This experience left a stark impression and showed them what they had failed to appreciate about our American freedoms and founding principles.

The Maupins are above-and-beyond kinds of people. Bryan, a doctor, served 20 years in the Air Force, and Ginny, too, has devoted her life to serving others, as a dental hygienist. Today, the Maupins are more concerned than ever about ensuring a future of liberty, opportunity, and prosperity to pass on to their grand-children. In fact, they were so determined to provide for the future of the Texas model that they wrote TPPF into their will before the Lone Star Legacy Society formally existed!

#### New Generations of Liberty

To build on legacies like these, the next generation of leaders in Texas must be taught to realize what the Maupins realized at the Berlin Wall: the true blessings and benefits of liberty.

This year has seen the rapid growth—summarized on the Foundation Events page of this report—of TPPF's new Liberty Leadership Council (LLC), which was born of the realization that young professionals under 40 are stepping onto the stage as primary drivers of culture, politics, and policy.



In 2016 Vim Head helped establish the Houston LLC. At the same time, TPPF created our Center for Families & Children (CFC) to turn around the beleaguered state child welfare system. Busy as they already were with their three sons, Vim and his wife Sarah also knew that they wanted to be adoptive parents. They reached out to CFC Director Brandon Logan to learn more about the system. This May, the Heads welcomed their first foster child into their home. Meanwhile, they are going above and beyond to keep their hearts open to the needs of other Texans, too, as they work to create a culture of liberty among the rising generation through their involvement with the Liberty Leadership Council.

#### In the Hands of the People

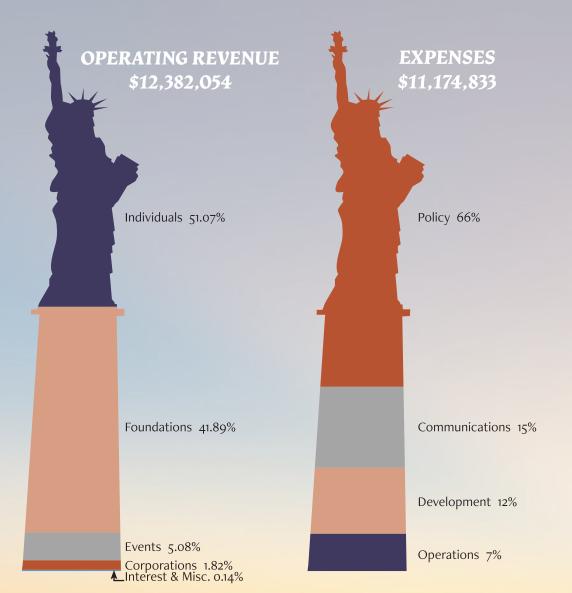
To those who partnered with TPPF in 2017, thank you! Generous private donations are the lifeblood of this organization—truly, the future of our state and nation rests on generous efforts like these. Jefferson's vision of a free republic will not be restored without the actions of you, the People, to reclaim the limited government on which individual liberty depends.

When people make a commitment to the guiding values of TPPF and our Founders, your loyalty keeps Texas prosperous and free. And when Texas wins, liberty proves its case to 49 other states and the federal government: extending the distinctive prosperity of the Lone Star State to our children and grandchildren.

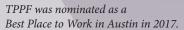




## Financials\*



	ending annual financial audit
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
Cash & Receivables	\$6,419,706
Prepaid	\$30,715
Property & Equipment	\$19,497,231
Total Assets	\$25,947,652
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$113,086
Deferred Revenue	\$10,000
Long-Term Liabilities	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$123,086
Net Assets	
Equity – Prior Years	\$25,395,540
Equity – 2017	\$429,026
Total Net Assets	\$25,824,566
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	\$25,947,652







Teamwork makes the dream work!



TPPF supports young people with a passion to uphold principles of liberty, personal responsibility, and free enterprise by offering internship programs in policy, fundraising, communications, and law.

