



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Annual Report 2016



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“ The work often looks daunting, but change does not happen if you give up before you start. ”

DEAR FRIENDS,

2016 has been a wild ride. Today, many people are fearful about the future. A growing number of individuals are searching for ways to create meaningful change—for organizations to support and causes to volunteer for. They see problems in our world. They want to create solutions. I know the feeling.

In 2013, as we surveyed the landscape and current state of homeschool policy, the problem looked insurmountable. But we knew that change happens one step at a time.

When a group of homeschool alumni cofounded CRHE in 2013, we took that first step. Over the past three years, we have built a meaningful foundation for homeschool reform. We have

created resources, conducted research, and advocated for protections for homeschooled children. The work often looked daunting, but change does not happen if you give up before you start.

This year, for the first time, CRHE testified before a legislative committee. This year, too, we began a study of New York State’s homeschool laws—a study designed to determine which forms of oversight are more or less effective. This year, also, we have been working on white papers calling for homeschool reform in specific states. This year, I am hopeful.

Our work this year would not have been possible without the foundations you helped us build over the last few years. Your support, your donations, and your advocacy make possible the work we will do in the future. As we enter a new year, we would like to invite you to be a part of that work, and to help us build those foundations.

Rachel Coleman
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

To raise awareness of the need for homeschooling reform, provide public policy guidance, and advocate for responsible home education practices.



TESTIFYING FOR CHANGE

As a new administration enters the White House, CRHE will closely monitor any changes to homeschool policy on a federal level. However, the most significant action on homeschool policy will continue to be on the state level, where CRHE is a stalwart advocate for accountability and for access to extracurricular activities, magnifying the voices of reform-minded homeschool alumni.

In early 2016, CRHE issued statements on seven homeschool-related bills before state legislatures: CRHE opposed legislation to loosen oversight in West Virginia, New York, and South Dakota, and spoke up for homeschool access to sports in Kentucky, West Virginia, New York, and Virginia. When the Virgin Islands considered legislation that would have prohibited the Department of Education from setting subject requirements or ensuring that instruction was taking place, Senator Jean Forde reached out to CRHE for help. In October, CRHE Legislative Policy Analyst Kathryn Brightbill testified before the Virgin Islands Committee on Education and Workforce Development.

With its carefully laid out case for clear and sensible oversight, CRHE's testimony helped convince lawmakers to amend the legislation, balancing parental freedom to innovate with common-sense assessment and accountability.

“ The Virgin Islands has a choice to make. Is it going to make an investment in the emotional well-being & financial future of its children? ”

- CRHE's statement before the Virgin Islands legislative committee



CRHE IN 2016



February: Issued seven statements on state legislation



June: Issued press release and op-ed on TX homeschool case



October: testified against legislation to reduce oversight in Virgin Islands

April: Released ninth report analyzing results of homeschool alumni survey

July: Conducted study of NY superintendents and alumni

December: Publishing study on homeschool athletics





BUILDING THE CASE

30% Experienced emotional abuse

27% Experienced verbal abuse

17% Experienced educational neglect

16% Experienced physical abuse

—Results from HARO survey, asking alumni about their experiences of abuse in homeschool settings

When lawmakers debate changes to homeschool policy, they need data to make informed decisions. During the last year, CRHE has undertaken new research that counters misinformation, reveals new insights, and brings the views and experiences of homeschooled alumni into the conversation. This summer, CRHE partnered with an intern from Yale University to survey superintendents and homeschool alumni across New York to learn what oversight looks like in a state with strong accountability for home education.

This fall, CRHE conducted a survey of over 150 homeschooled alumni, asking them about their access to sports and how their experiences formed their views of public school athletics access. This past April, CRHE released the final of nine reports analyzing data from Homeschool Alumni Reaching Out (HARO)'s 2014 survey of over 3,700 homeschool alumni. CRHE also examined homeschool SAT-taking rates to offer explanation and context for why the rates are lower than expected given the size of the homeschool population. Each survey and report enriches our understanding of the homeschool experience and its outcomes.



REACHING OUT

Homeschooled parents search for resources to help them create a warm and supportive learning environment that places their children on a path to success. Homeschool alumni from neglectful home environments are looking for guidance on how to take next steps. Concerned family and friends want to know how to help. Acting on its mission to advocate responsible home education practices, CRHE creates resources that answer these needs. How can I socialize my homeschooled child? Should I worry about legal problems if I homeschool? How do I make sure my child has what she needs for a college transcript? Would Adult Basic Education help me bridge the gaps in my homeschool education? I'm worried my nephew or granddaughter isn't actually being homeschooled—what can I do to help? In the last year, these people viewed these new resources on the CRHE over 2,000 times as they searched for ways to help themselves or their homeschooled loved ones.

FROM THE MAILBAG

In 2016, CRHE responded to over 80 emails like this one.

“ My friend is homeschooling but I'm worried she's not actually doing anything to educate her kids. I've tried talking to her but she doesn't want to listen. What can I do? ”



BY THE NUMBERS



27

testimonials



26

media mentions



82

requests for help



14

press releases

"Alex Radita's death should serve as a wakeup call for all of us. It is too late to save Alex, but we can—and should—take action to protect other homeschooled children."

Statement on the Death of Alex Radita

"This legislation would allow parents to homeschool their children for grades they never completed themselves. West Virginia's lawmakers must do better than this."

Statement Opposing West Virginia's HB 4175

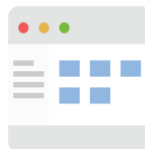
"Granting homeschooled students access to public school extracurriculars is one of the most important ways lawmakers can support homeschooled students."

Statement Supporting Kentucky HB 76



22,000 WEBSITE VIEWS

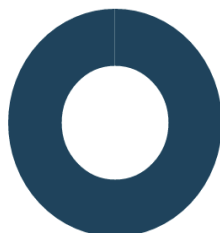
for our resource on how to report educational neglect in each state



27 NEW ENTRIES

on Homeschooling's Invisible Children, a project documenting abuse in homeschool settings

REVENUE: \$2920



■ Individual Contributions (100%)

EXPENSES: \$3568



■ Operating Expenses (40.24%) ■ Salaries (49.05%)

■ Fundraising (10.71%)

CRHE ended Fiscal Year 2016 with a \$433 surplus due to operating reserves from FY 2015

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JOIN THE VOICES ASKING FOR CHANGE

RESPONSIBLEHOMESCHOOLING.ORG/DONATE

“ Although I do feel that my experience being homeschooled has given me a unique perspective and insight, I often wonder at what cost. ”

—ALEX H.

“ I do not see how it would impinge on my rights as a parent to let the state know that I am homeschooling, which curriculum I am using, and the progress that my children are making. If anything, I see this as a measure to help ensure that my children’s educational needs are met. ”

—ROIANNA

“ I was never once asked if I felt safe at home. I strongly believe that there should be academic oversight and regulations. ”

—LILLIE S.

“ My college options were limited because I never officially graduated from high school... Despite genuinely enjoying both math and science as an adult, I find myself lacking basic knowledge in both fields. ”

—SARAH M.