

# THERE FOR YOU

Annual Report 2017



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### DEAR FRIENDS,

For many of us, 2017 has been a long year. Against the backdrop of what can seem like constant activism, many of us have gained additional causes. There's more claiming our attention and more to do. We want you to know that we're there for you.

We're there for you when lawmakers reach out to us asking for advice about a piece of legislation they're working on. We're there for you when people contact us concerned about a homeschooled child they know. We're there for you when a reporter needs accurate statistics and information about homeschooling.

For the first time since we were founded, legislation to protect homeschooled children from child abuse or neglect was introduced in two states -- Iowa and Kentucky -- during the same legislative session. In March, I testified before a legislative committee in Des Moines; our research made a strong case for creating reasonable, effective protections for Iowa's homeschooled children. In September, we reviewed draft legislation for a third state.

None of these bills have passed, but there is room for optimism. We are working with more lawmakers today than ever before, and each bill introduces the case of homeschool reform, paving the way for the next bill, and the next.

None of this would be possible without the advocacy and the generous help of supporters like you. When you speak out-- through your testimonials and your advocacy-- and when you give, all of our voices get stronger.

Thank you for supporting us and coming alongside us in this important work.

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



## YOUR VOICE

### Testifying for Lawmakers and Telling the Truth

In January, when Home School Legal Defense Association, an organization opposed to accountability for homeschooling, sent a highly inaccurate letter to Iowa lawmakers, we responded.

In March, our executive director, Rachel Coleman, was invited to testify before a legislative committee in Iowa. This committee was weighing a bill introduced in response to the starvation death of Natalie Finn, a sixteen-year-old homeschooled child in that state.

In September, when a homeschooling father penned a misleading op-ed for the Des Moines Register, we replied. Combating misinformation is an important part of what we do. Over the course of the year, we've worked with lawmakers in several additional states as well.

Whether in the statehouse or in the press, you can count on us to raise your voice, combatting propaganda and bad statistics with clear arguments and accurate information.

“Those of you sitting here in this room today have the opportunity to create that change, and the time for change is now.”

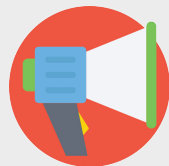
CRHE's testimony before a legislative committee in Iowa



## CRHE IN 2017



**January:** Published issue brief for legislators



**March:** Testified before a legislative committee in Iowa



**September:** submitted written testimony in Michigan

**February:** issued four statements on legislation



**Summer:** Held a successful research fundraiser



**October:** Analyzed new data on homeschool demographics







## YOUR FEET

“A growing body of data points to the need for lawmakers to create protections for at-risk homeschooled children.”

—CRHE's Issue Brief on At-Risk Homeschooled Children

### Taking Steps Toward Change

In January, we published an issue brief on at-risk homeschooled children. This in-depth brief--informed by the conversations we've had with lawmakers and others over the last few years--offers lawmakers a case for reform, information on what states have tried, and draft legislation. This brief is designed to serve the needs of policymakers.

In May, we launched a highly successful fund drive for a groundbreaking study on academic performance. The data entry has been completed and the statistical analysis is underway. We have found that, overall, homeschooled students scored higher in reading, writing, and science, but lower in math. These findings vary by gender, race, and socioeconomic status.

From creating issue briefs to conducting original research, we are your feet on the ground-- developing research and resources to guide lawmakers and cut through misinformation.



## YOUR HANDS

### Offering Help and Guidance

Every week, we answer requests for help, responding to questions and directing people toward resources. The questions we receive range from queries about how to help an educationally neglected homeschooled child, to requests for information on obtaining homeschool transcripts, to reporters asking for information.

This year, we overhauled our website's landing pages for homeschooled students, homeschool alumni, lawmakers, and other groups. These enhanced resources allow us to better serve a variety of groups, answering many of the most common questions and queries we receive up front.

By answering calls for help and providing resources for those looking for answers, we act as your hands.

### FROM THE MAILBAG

In 2017, CRHE responded to 250 queries like this one.

“I just recently decided that I would like to pursue more education at a university. The only problem is that over the years my transcripts were misplaced. ... I don't know what to do now.”





## BY THE NUMBERS



22

testimonials



24

media mentions



79

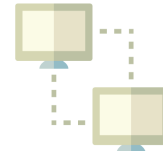
requests for help



**30,000 WEBSITE VIEWS**  
for our page on how  
to report educational  
neglect in each state



**287,000 WEBSITE VIEWS**  
of Homeschooling's  
Invisible Children, a  
project documenting  
abuse in homeschool  
settings database



**25 NEW ABUSE CASES**  
recorded in the  
Homeschooling's  
Invisible Children  
database

**It is time to say enough is enough.** When the legislature gutted its protections for home-schooled children four years ago, it created conditions that contributed to Natalie's death.

Statement on the Death of Natalie Finn



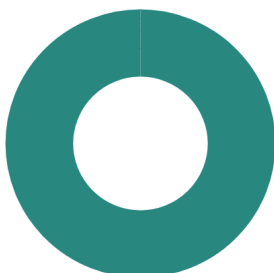
12

press releases

**We applaud lawmakers for discussing possible changes** to the state's homeschool statute. Adrian's death should serve as a catalyst for protecting other children in situations like his.

Statement Supporting Kansas HB 2425

**REVENUE: \$5835**



■ Individual Contributions (100%)

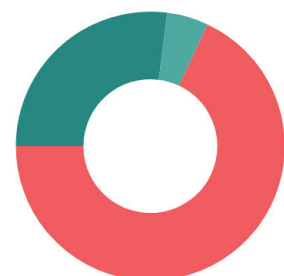
**FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

July 1 to June 30

CRHE conducted a research fundraiser at the end of FY 2016-2017. All surplus revenue will go to research in FY 2017-2018.

Note: Program costs are low because our staff works on a volunteer basis, donating several thousand of volunteer hours each year.

**EXPENSES: \$2286**



■ Program (27%) ■ Fundraising (5%)  
■ Admin (68%)



# SIX WAYS TO SUPPORT HOMESCHOOLED KIDS

## 1. WRITE A TESTIMONIAL

Our testimonials promote the thoughts and experiences of homeschool alumni and parents who favor oversight of homeschooling. Draw on your own experience to explain why you are in favor of homeschool oversight today.

[bit.ly/CRHETestimonials](https://bit.ly/CRHETestimonials)

## 2. CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Legislators are often unaware of the need for reform. Reach out to your legislators with the information and insight they need to get started on this issue.

[bit.ly/CRHELegislators](https://bit.ly/CRHELegislators)

## 3. WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The public's lack of awareness is a major obstacle to homeschool reform. CRHE has developed guidelines to help you write an effective letter to the editor about homeschool reform.

[bit.ly/CRHELetters](https://bit.ly/CRHELetters)

## 4. ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT A HOMESCHOOLED CHILD

If you know a homeschooled child in a bad situation, it can be difficult to know how to help. CRHE has a list of 40 ways you can be a safe, supportive presence in that child's life.

[bit.ly/40WaystoHelp](https://bit.ly/40WaystoHelp)

## 5. BECOME A CRHE ADVOCATE

We connect reporters and legislators with local individuals who are willing to draw on their homeschool experiences to speak in favor of oversight and access. Fill out an online form if you're willing to share your experience and become an advocate for change.

[bit.ly/CRHEAdvocate](https://bit.ly/CRHEAdvocate)

## 6. DONATE TO CRHE

Every dollar you give supports research, advocacy, and the case for reform.

[bit.ly/CRHEDonate](https://bit.ly/CRHEDonate)

**JOIN THE VOICES ASKING FOR CHANGE**  
**RESPONSIBLEHOMESCHOOLING.ORG/DONATE**

“ I appreciate the opportunity and option to homeschool. I also support quality public education. I strongly agree that homeschooling must be done responsibly and support CHRE's recommendations. I think it is important for the credibility of the homeschool movement and more importantly, protects children. ”

—LYDIA L.

“ I am so glad to find an organization fighting for responsible home education. As a homeschooler & homeschooling parent, I think that nothing will help raise the credibility, quality, equity & experience of all homeschoolers like quality research, oversight and regulatory standards. ”

—NATE S.

“ As a pastor, homeschool alumnus, and educator at the college level, I've been a continual supporter of CRHE's mission to advocate for safe and quality education for students. ”

—DAVID K.