

2023 Annual Report

THE NEXT LEVEL

ELEVATING OUR VOICE TO AFFIRM THE
RIGHTS OF HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN





A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Angela Grimberg
Executive Director

A decade ago, CRHE's founders had an impossible dream: that homeschool alumni and their allies could make homeschooling better, safer, and more empowering for the children who came after them. This report marks CRHE's tenth anniversary, and with every challenge CRHE has faced over the years, you have proven them right. 2023 has been a year of elevating our voices to protect homeschooled children like never before. We have reached a new level; our biggest dreams are becoming a reality.

Our success this year was possible thanks to the CRHE Advocates Program for monthly donors. Over 100 monthly donors contribute to making CRHE what it is today. On behalf of myself and the board, I extend a sincere thank you to all who contribute. Thanks to our generous supporters during our repeated fundraising campaigns, CRHE has met and exceeded our budget goals time and time again; we cannot thank you enough.

Your support has enabled us to transition from an all-volunteer staff into a sustainable organization. It is the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers – developing free resources for homeschooled children and families, elevating the voice of homeschooled children in the media, and advocating for homeschooled children with lawmakers – that carries our mission forward. This year, CRHE attended a nationally renowned child welfare conference to inform child advocates of our novel findings. We were featured prominently on an episode of Last Week Tonight with John Oliver that drew on our research to make the case against the homeschool lobby. We have successfully hired into staff roles our research director, communications director, government relations director, and a bookkeeper.

And we are just getting started. In 2024, we will rise to the level demanded of us by abused homeschooled children across the country. We will develop and operationalize a training program for child welfare professionals on how to detect and document abuse and neglect of homeschooled children. We will continue to pioneer the children's rights movement, understanding that all children are not safe until homeschooled children are safe. And we will continue to develop free resources to help homeschooled children who need support right now.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as CRHE's executive director and take the organization to the next level. I can say with confidence that we are on a sustainable path forward to eventually achieve our mission.



CHAMPIONING LAWS

that protect homeschooled kids

CRHE assessed over 400 bills and actively monitored nearly 200 this legislative season. As Ohio and Vermont deregulated homeschooling and Parents Bills of Rights gained traction, CRHE stayed in the conversation. Here's what happened in 2023:

- Helped homeschooled children and homeschool alumni attain identification documents.
- Joined the steering committee of the Student Rights Working Group, a subcommittee of the National Safe Learning Partnership (NSLP). CRHE plays a significant role in developing strategy and messaging.
- Presented a seminar on parental-rights extremism to the Sex Education Policy Action Council, the REAL Coalition, and NSLP, among others. Attended a panel discussion on the issue sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State for their Summit on Religious Freedom.
- Eighty-four states introduced "Parents Bills of Rights," legislation that would give parents inalienable rights over their children in every area of their lives. We helped to defeat bills in Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, and Maryland. Bills passed in North and South Carolina, Iowa, and Missouri. Additional legislation passed in Montana.
- Successfully advocated for a disability access bill in North Dakota and for an Arkansas "Tim Tebow" bill to allow homeschooled kids access to public school sports.
- Supported two successful measures in Washington D.C. and West Virginia, to give homeschooled children the option to take exams at public schools and to allow dual enrollment.
- Lobbied against Educational Savings Accounts / voucher / tax credit bills. Four of these bills passed out of 45 introduced.
- Working with the Minnesota Department of Education to develop a bill that defines homeschooling as separate from "nonpublic education," and adds the stipulation that convicted child abusers are not eligible to homeschool – to be introduced Spring 2025.

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Being a parent doesn't automatically make someone moral, and being with a parent doesn't automatically make a child safe.

– *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*

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Visit responsiblehomeschooling.org/voices-for-reform



EXPANDING OUR INSIGHTS

into the homeschooled experience

CRHE's research team developed new resources, made the facts visible, and expanded the audience for our research:

- Took the Homeschooling's Invisible Children database to the next level by conducting a new, comprehensive analysis of nearly 500 cases. Our findings will form the basis of a new landing page, a white paper report, and a training program for child welfare professionals.
- Completed and published *Charting Your Own Course*, a first-of-its-kind college and career readiness guide for homeschool alumni, students, and families.
- Presented at the International School Choice and Reform Conference on homeschooled children's risk of experiencing abuse and neglect in Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Presented on recognizing and preventing abuse and neglect in homeschool environments at the internationally renowned Crimes Against Children conference in Dallas, TX.
- Drew 40,000 site visits this year to our most visited page, "How to report homeschool educational neglect."
- Revamped the CRHE website.

From *Charting Your Own Course*

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The deeper motivation behind *Charting Your Own Course* was the simple fact that we believe in you. ... If homeschooling was an enriching experience for you, we celebrate that, and we hope this textbook adds a helpful supplement to your education. If your experience with homeschooling was negative or harmful, we see you. Your pain and frustration are valid. We want you to know that, in spite of the obstacles you've unfairly had to endure, there is a bright future in your reach.

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Visit chartingyourowncourse.site



RAISING OUR VOICES

to protect children's rights

CRHE's communications team raised awareness of homeschool abuse and neglect, provided expert commentary to journalists, and expanded our channels for advocacy:

- Sounded the alarm on a neo-Nazi homeschool network through interviews with Vice News and HuffPost.
- Marked the inaugural Day of the Homeschooled Child on April 30, an annual observance we created to recognize abused and neglected homeschooled children.
- Appeared in Amazon Prime's *Shiny Happy People* documentary series to discuss Christian fundamentalism and homeschooling.
- Appeared on *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* and informed the production team about homeschooling in the U.S.
- Spoke with or was cited by over 15 national media outlets, including the *Washington Post*, Salon, NBC News, Bustle, and The Daily Beast.
- Hosted our parental-rights extremism webinar independently in February and again in March in collaboration with Equality Florida and JASMYN.
- Increased our Instagram audience by 53% and LinkedIn by 184%.
- Added almost 700 new signatures to the Bill of Rights for Homeschooled Children.

The Washington Post

Bustle



salon

HUFFPOST

**LAST
WEEK
TONIGHT**
WITH JOHN OLIVER



GROWING OUR WORK

with your partnership and support

THANK YOU



- Your gifts made it possible for us to hire paid employees and contractors: our research director, government relations director, communications director, and a bookkeeper.
- The **CRHE Advocates Program** launched this year. In January 2021, we had 13 recurring donors giving \$4,000 a year. Today, we have over 100 CRHE Advocates who give \$33,600 a year, building a strong and stable base for us to continue our work.

FY 2023

July 2022 to June 2023

**Total support and
revenue**

\$58,825

Total expenses

\$52,088

Net income

\$6,737

MISSION

The Coalition for Responsible Home Education empowers homeschooled children by educating the public and advocating for child-centered, evidence-based policy and practices for families and professionals.

VISION

We envision a future where homeschooled children's right to a comprehensive and empowering education and a safe and supportive home environment is affirmed and protected by laws, stakeholders, and society as a whole.