

2024 Annual Report



TEACHING • INSPIRING • EMPOWERING

52,958

**2023-2024
Graduates**

386

**2023-2024
Participating Schools**

“I hope that our children will learn an appreciation for all people. I appreciate how Libby talked about how people came to this country in different ways, and I hope that our children develop an appreciation for people that might not always be the same as them.”



~ Sherita M. Williams, Ed.S.
Assistant Principal
Greystone Elementary School



A Dream Becomes a Reality

Since 2010, the Liberty Learning Foundation has researched and created programs to meet students at each developmental level. Forming a foundation for civic engagement and the knowledge of our great American story begins during the primary years and continues into early adulthood. Developing a high school program seemed daunting until July 2018, when we met two individuals who empowered and encouraged us to take a leap of faith and begin researching and developing a high school program. Since then, we have piloted and implemented the **Citizen Promise Program** in two high schools in Alabama and have plans for continued growth throughout the state. Thank you, Susan and Leslie Blumberg, for your servant's heart and dedication to the students in your community and throughout the state. Students now have a life-changing resource to prepare them to become **Life, Career, and Citizen Ready!**



"The Citizen Promise Program enabled me to see a part of the community I had not known before and has made me conscious of the problems and concerns facing high school youth today regarding life after high school. I learned more about financial literacy, how to prepare for financial success, and how to plan, expect, or experience other "adult" tasks I will be required to know or maintain after graduation and during/after college."

~ Nikita Nimmagadda, Dothan High School, Class of 2024

"The Citizen Promise Program has been a great opportunity for my students to learn how to be better community members and possible leaders one day. They have learned directly from community members how to become employable and successful adults. Community members have helped my students with the resume process, job application, and interviewing skills. I am very thankful that our school has participated in this program."

~ Gina Nix, Cullman High School, 10th U.S. History, Honors U.S. History, and AP U.S. History

"The Citizen Promise Program offers a comprehensive curriculum for high school students, enabling them to explore the realities of adulthood. The Citizen Promise Program equips students with the skills to manage daily responsibilities, make informed decisions, and maintain financial stability. Moreover, it provides students with opportunities to participate in civic duties and experience the world of government up close. The program also encourages students to give back to their communities and offers scholarships. The ambassador program helps students develop leadership skills and prepares them for leadership positions."

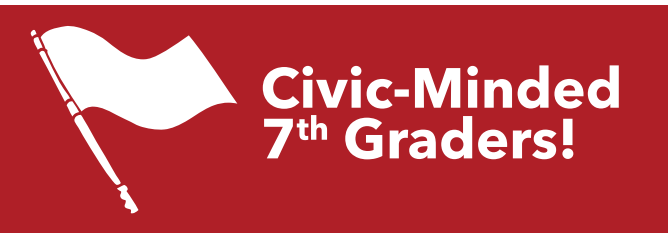
~ Itaya White, Carver 9th Grade Academy, Career Prep

Carbon Hill Elementary's 5th Grade Entrepreneurs in ACTION!

Lauren Roden and her 5th-grade students at **Carbon Hill Elementary School** in Walker County got involved in Torch Teams, a project-based learning project and a key component of the Super Citizen Program. These students were able to create, market, and sell items to raise funds to purchase the Statue of Liberty replicas for their Torch Team Heroes.

Mrs. Roden said, "The Super Citizen Program truly made a difference in my students - they took pride and ownership of something they created/built and sold. I enjoyed seeing the students working together towards a common goal. Students had to create a budget and how they would advertise their products. They brainstormed what would make their business different. Each group created a business name and logo."

Students had a "mock" marketplace to practice their money skills. Mrs. Roden wanted the students to be confident when making the correct change for their customers. The marketplace included items such as paper footballs, playing fields for the footballs, paper airplanes, keychains, Christmas ornaments, friendship bracelets, and some donated sodas to be sold. The students sold \$906 worth of merchandise! As a group, they decided to purchase the statues needed for their Torch Team Heroes, go on a grade-level field trip, and donate money to the playground fund at their school.



During the past year, we have been amazed at how our 7th graders have rolled up their sleeves and gotten involved in their communities. Civic engagement is key to the American Character Program through Service Learning Projects. Students form teams to solve problems in their school and community. The EXPO allows the students to practice essential workforce skills like teamwork, leadership, and communication.

"Students could engage in community programs and help others through civics projects. From reading to elementary students to visiting the elderly, giving to the needy, helping homeless dogs, and planting a garden, the students learned how to plan for their projects and the joy of giving back to the community."

~ Jill Tutt, Demopolis Middle School

From Our State Leaders



"Liberty Learning Foundation is not just teaching lessons in civics, character, and financial responsibility; it's instilling in our youth a deep

understanding of what it means to be an American. Each program introduces students to the values that make our country great and prepares every child to pursue their American dream. In today's world, where our freedoms are constantly tested, programs like Liberty Learning are essential in defending and preserving the principles that define the United States of America."

~ Senator Steve Livingston, Majority Leader, District 8



"The lifeblood of our democracy is an engaged and informed citizenry. Liberty Learning Foundation gives our young people the inspiration,

knowledge, and empowerment to become the type of transformational leaders we need for tomorrow. This teaches them that their voice is powerful and that it matters."

~ Representative Anthony Daniels, Minority Leader, District 53



"Foundation, Learning, and Liberty are really linked together. Our Founding Fathers understood this, and so must the next generation."

'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.' - Benjamin Franklin

'The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.'

- Abraham Lincoln

'Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.'

- Thomas Jefferson

As we raise the next generation of patriots, it is my honor to endorse and support The Liberty Learning Foundation."

~ Senator Larry Stutts, MD District 6



"I was so impressed by the mission and strategy behind the Liberty Learning Foundation's programs. We desperately need more programming in our schools that gives children something to

look forward to, to be hopeful about, and to take pride in. These programs inspire children to take ownership of themselves and their community. I can't imagine a cause more worthy!"

~ Representative Prince Chestnut, District 67



"This program is going to teach these students about loving their country, about service over self, and about loving their neighbor, as well as being a good citizen. What a great message!"

~ Will Ainsworth, Lt. Governor, State of Alabama



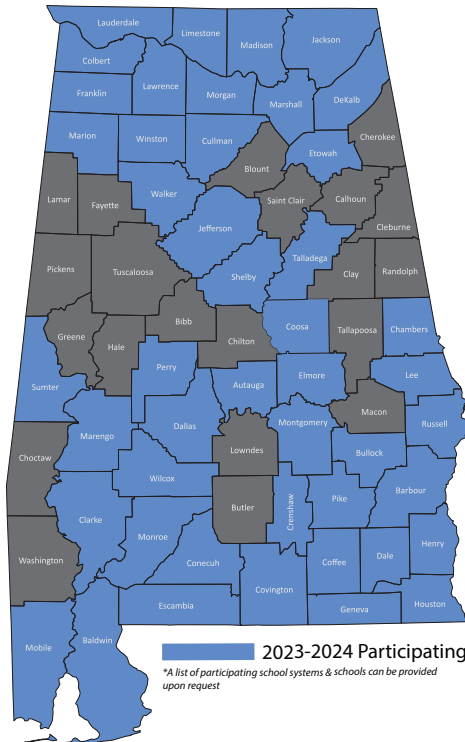
"It has been amazing to see the transformation of our students as they become Super Citizens. Their enthusiasm when they chant 'U-S-A' is contagious. I hope they continue to exhibit their civic pride at school and share their excitement with their families and friends. Liberty Learning gives me hope for our nation's future!"

~ Representative Jamie Kiel, District 18



"This program gives students fundamental foundations of our democracy and how they individually, as students, are an important part of their community. That they, individually, contribute to the overall success. After attending the program, I see that the students love Libby and are vested in this program. I look forward to funding this program in any school of District 94."

~ Representative Jennifer Fidler, District 94



"Seeing the Liberty Learning Foundation's Super Citizen program in action is truly inspiring. It's incredible to witness the 2nd graders in Opelika, Phenix City, and Russell County Schools so eager to learn about citizenship and what it means to be an exemplary American. This program is a vital resource for our schools, providing students with the knowledge and confidence to make a positive impact in their communities. Every student should have the opportunity to benefit from such a transformative curriculum."

~ Representative Jeremy Gray, District 83

Read years of quotes from mission stakeholders at LibertyLearning.org/testimonials



Preparing Students to Become Life, Career & Citizen-Ready!

Congratulations to our **2024 Citizen Promise Grant Winners** at Dothan High School. Each student was awarded a \$1,000 grant to use on their journey after graduation. Students will use the funds for college, the military, or the workforce. We are excited about these students and their future!



"The Citizen Promise Program has helped me prepare for life after high school in many ways. I had never had an interview before and was very anxious. Thanks to the Liberty Learning Team, the interview was smooth and not as hard as I had imagined. I will now be more open to business people, interviews, etc. The team has also reminded me that if we work hard, we can achieve whatever we put our minds to."

~ Arianna Torres, 2024 Grant Recipient, Dothan High School

Seniors participating in the **Citizen Promise Program** can learn more about life after high school each spring. Check out this spring's **Annual Adulthood Day!**



"Adulthood day is a true asset for DHS! Thanks, Citizen Promise!"

~ Angie Trupia,
Dothan High School,
History Teacher



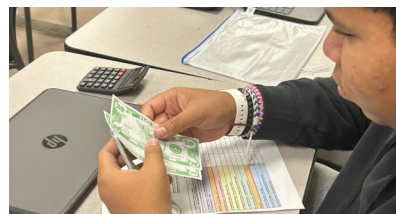
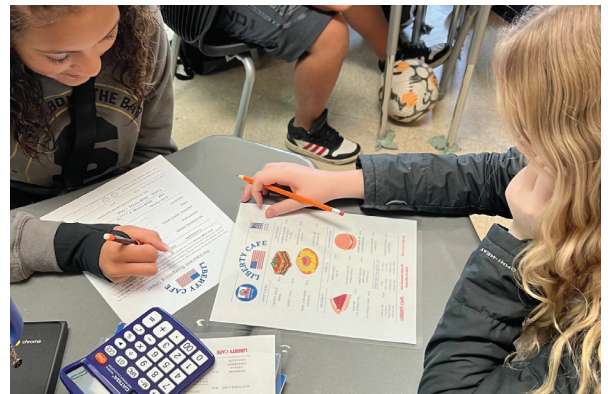
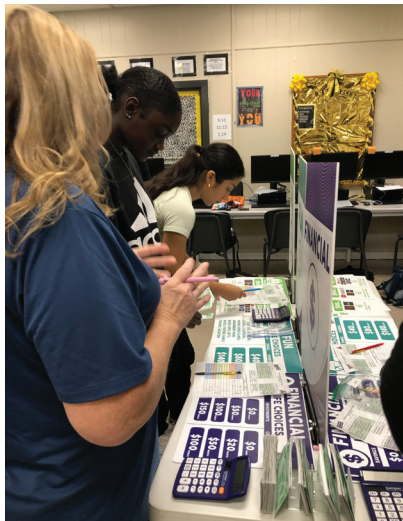
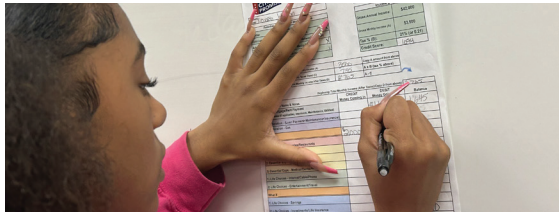
"I believe this program has been so beneficial to me during my high school years. It has motivated me to do more in the community and excel as a role model for the children's community. In school, I have encouraged more people to go out and volunteer and, overall, be nicer people, and it has proven successful. I can't imagine how my high school experience would have turned out if I hadn't found Citizens Promise in 9th grade. I am still thankful for the opportunity given to me to be an ambassador!"

~ Samyrah Haith, Citizen Promise Ambassador, Dothan High School



Financial Literacy For All!

The Liberty Learning Foundation integrates age-appropriate financial literacy into its programs. **Hands on Liberty** introduces needs vs. wants and basic money skills. The **Super Citizen Program** builds on those skills with budgeting, planning, and smart shopping. Middle schools implementing the **American Character Program** are offered additional money management lessons that deepen the understanding of budgeting for expenses, taxes, and banking. **Citizen Promise** offers a real-world simulation on budgeting, credit scores, and how to deal with financial situations that adults face daily.



2023-2024 Board of Directors



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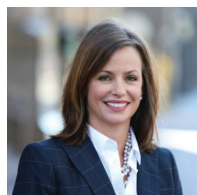
Dr. Melissa Shields



Lisa Morales



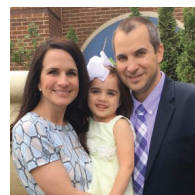
Kevin J. Wieseman



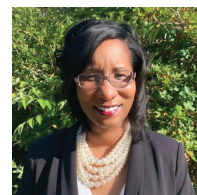
Allison Ross



Jesse McDaniel



Russ Williams



Monica Grace Mitchell



Jonathan M. (Matt) Cooper



Corey Evans

Vision & Programs

the Vision

Investing early pays off. Over a decade of results have shown us the profound impact of instilling civic and character values in young hearts and minds. Our belief has always been that consistently reinforcing these core principles throughout a student's educational journey is essential for their success.

We are **NOW** implementing programs in elementary through high school, as the addition of the Citizen Promise Program has been a huge success in select high schools over the past few years. The model of early and often touchpoints through graduation is working.

We won't stop until all students in Alabama have the opportunity to participate in our programs!



our Programs



Hands on Liberty Program (Grades K-2)

Students kick off an immersive 10-week civics & character program with a performance by Libby Liberty. Back in class, they are guided by The Hands on Learning video series and companion lesson plans that complement grade standards and engage students in learning crucial lessons at this early age. Teachers are trained, parents and community rallied to be part of this transformative process.



Super Citizen Program (Grades 3-5)

The Super Citizen Program begins with a rousing theatrical performance that excites students, stakeholders and local donors about the important lessons their students will begin after the Next Great Americans tour bus rolls away. After the show, students begin 9 weeks of in-depth lessons in civics, character, financial literacy, careers and more. Using their provided multimedia kit, and leveraging a life-changing service learning project, the students begin to understand their important roles in our country's future.



American Character Program (Grades 6-8)

A continuation of the stepping stones provided in K-5 programs, American Character provides more context for students by using the lives and accomplishments of great American characters who are models for what can be accomplished by any citizen. This is made even more tangible with mentor-led service learning projects that impact the community and mirror the kinds of change made by our historic leaders. Students learn more essential skills by presenting their projects to peers, press and parents at the #GoodCharacters Expo at the program's conclusion.



Citizen Promise (High School)

Equal parts career and essential skill preparation and civic-service activation, the Citizen Promise Program is implemented by exceptional schools wishing to continue the impact of the Super Citizen and American Character Programs as students ready themselves for careers and college. Students learn more in-depth lessons in civics, character, financial literacy and become accountable for their actions and trajectory of their own futures. Community mentors assist in the classroom, provide resume and job application bolstering opportunities and grants are available for graduating seniors.

IMPACT SINCE 2012



441,895

Students Impacted

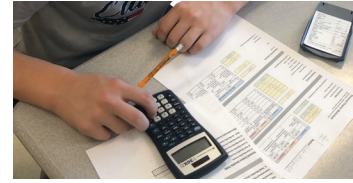
Our K-12 suite of programs engage students in learning crucial lessons in civics, character, financial responsibility, career building and our Great American Story. Through grants and donations, Liberty Learning Foundation provides these free resource kits to teachers and orchestrates powerful live performances that increase understanding and retention of concepts.



499

Schools & Communities Impacted

Liberty Learning Foundation orchestrates Kickoffs, Celebrations, Expos, teacher training and volunteer coordination to make sure students have educational experiences they will never forget. In addition, the entire community is re-energized as students honor local heroes from the stage at graduation ceremonies. This all-hands-on-deck approach creates a culture of support, guidance and empowerment for hometown America's youth.



23%

Improvement In Test Scores

Pre- and post-program test scores generated through in-class online testing showed an average overall improvement of 23%.

- 22% for Hands on Liberty students (grades K-2)
- 32% for Super Citizen students (grades 3-5)
- 20% for American Character students (grades 6-8)
- 15% for Financial Literacy (grade 7)
- 11% for Financial Literacy (grade 9)



23,511

Classroom Resource Kits Provided

Teachers receive comprehensive resource kits at no cost, courtesy of donors and grants. LLF delivers the kits, trains teachers and works with volunteers to maximize program impact.



2,100

Kickoffs, Celebrations, Expos, Adulting Day and Community Speakers

LLF bookends its programs with energetic Kickoff, Celebrations, Expo events, Adulting Day and Community Speakers. These set the tone for student and community engagement and allow our funding partners their much-deserved time in the spotlight as well.

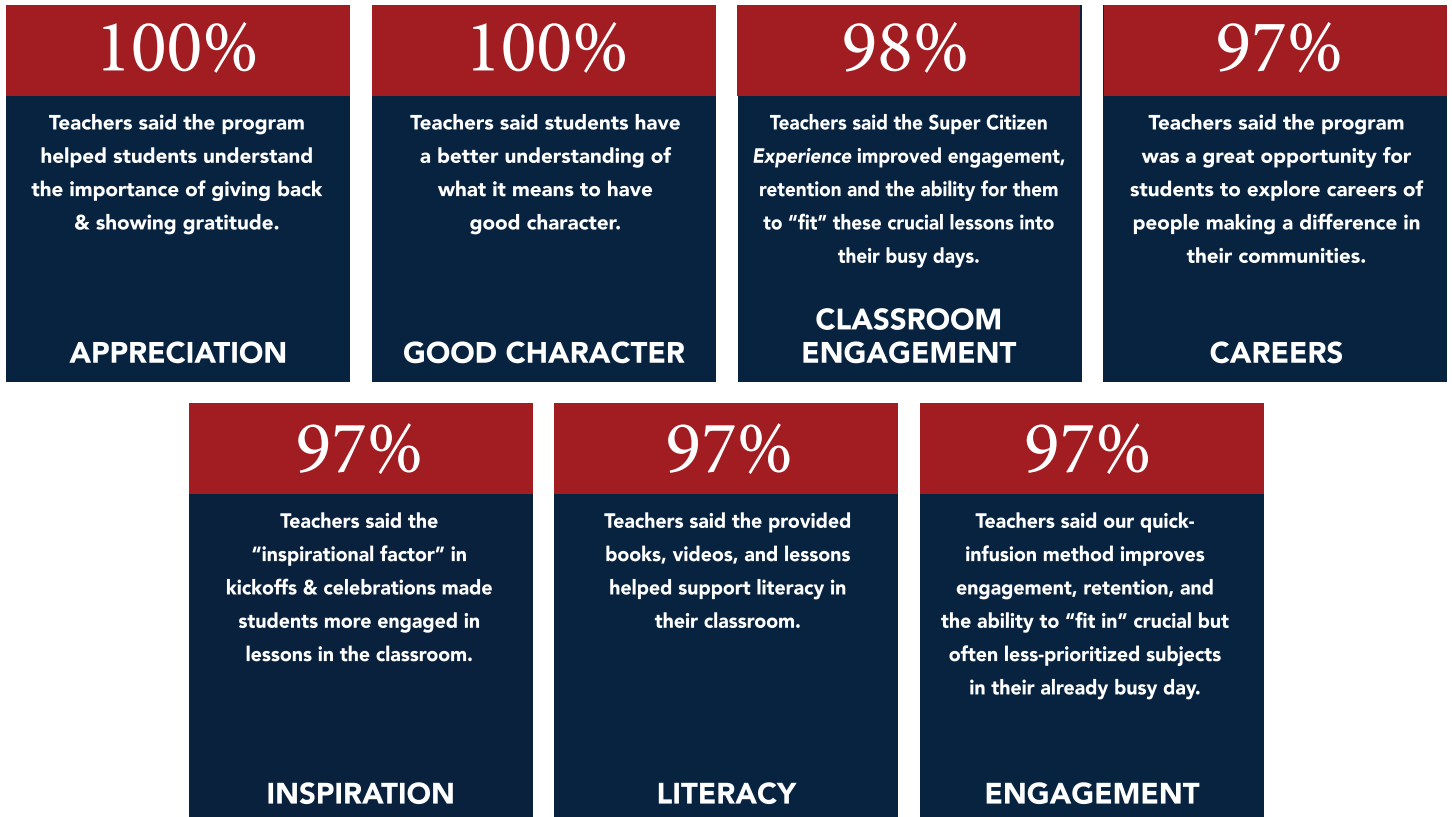


7,324

Local Heroes Honored

In the final Super Citizen Program unit, students turn learning into action by honoring local heroes from the stage. The motto of Torch Teams is: "When you honor a hero, you become a hero!" Each of our programs has its own age-appropriate equivalent to help bring lessons to life in the real world.

TEACHER SURVEY SHOWS STEADY (and impressive) STATS



LOOKING AHEAD:

The foundation will continue its efforts next year to strengthen community alliances, identify partner stakeholders, perfect our suite of K-12 programs, and serve current educators and students.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

2022-2023
Audited Contributions
& Expenses

Contributions:
\$1,730,169

Expenses:
Program Services:
\$1,589,130
Support Services:
\$216,359

Total expenses:
\$1,805,489

Net Assets:
\$78,389

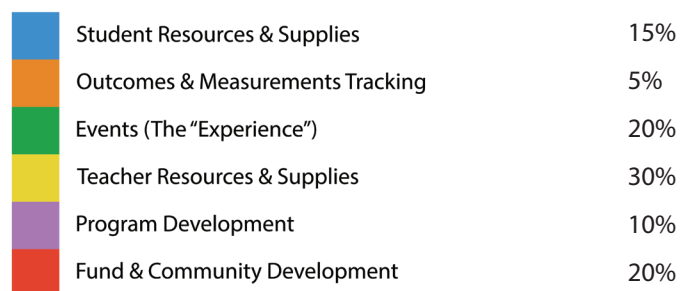
2023-2024
Projected
Contributions &
Expenses

Contributions:
\$1,870,000

Expenses:
\$1,850,274

Net Assets:
\$98,115

Fiscal Year 7/1/23 - 6/30/24



100% →



Administrative and overhead costs are funded by a generous donor. All donations go directly to providing Liberty Learning Foundation programs to Alabama schools.



LIBERTY
LEARNING FOUNDATION

LibertyLearning.org (800) 239-0005

A 501(c)(3) organization serving schools and communities throughout Alabama!