

# The School for Ethical Education Annual Report



September 1, 2017 — August 31, 2018

*Ethics in Action Creates Character*

## **SEE Board of Trustees**

Peter M. Donovan, Chairman, Westport, CT  
Christopher Gallo, Treasurer, Shelton, CT  
James Macdonald, Cheshire, CT  
Joseph Mazzalo, McKinney, TX

Peggy Perillie, Trumbull, CT  
Enza Richards, Milford, CT  
Sara Roche, Westport, CT  
Michael Thomann, Cheshire, CT  
David B. Wangaard, Secretary/President,  
Shelton, CT

## **SEE Staff**

---

David B. Wangaard, Ed. D., Director

Deni Nakonecni, Laws of Life Program  
Coordinator & Video Production

## **Volunteers**

---

Rebecca Abbott, Cristi Alberino, Alyssa Amick, Helen Bennett, Len Besthoff, Dennis Blader, John Breunig, John Burgeson, Susan Campbell, Tom Carl, Jason Cheshire, Rick Falco, Dana Ferrer, Michael Flament, Steve Fowler, Mike Gagne, Dan George, Sara Gerhold, Gilbert Gigliotti, Andra Gumbus, Ellen Jarus Hanley, Brian Katsis, Daniel Kiley, Kaitlyn Krasselt, Lydia LaPlante, Barbara Liu, Jennifer Miceli, Michael Miceli, Deni Nakonecni, Nancy Nicolescu, Albert Perry III, Courtney Price, Anna Quinn, Cathie Reese, Enza Richards, David Simon, Brian Spyros, Travis Tucker, Robbin Wangaard, Ezequiel Wangaard, Jon Wardle

The School for Ethical Education is grateful to the organizations and individuals that have supported our mission to advance *ethics in action*.

### 2017-18 DONORS

---

Bob Annon, Robert and Maryann Betts, Big Y, Bharucha Foundation, Bigelow Tea, Cheesecake Factory, John Ciulla, Judith R. Corchard Fund, Costco, Donchian Foundation, Peter & Alexandria Donovan, Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte & Sterczala, P.C., Michael Flament, Chris & Debbie Gallo, Oz Griebel, Gibert Hammer, Mickey Herbert, Don Kunze, Jim Macdonald, Joseph & Laura Mazzola,

McDonalds, People's Bank, Enza Richards, John Santa, Vinny Simko, Sikorsky Aircraft, Jim & Cathy Smith, David Stevenson, Subway, Pepe's Pizza, Peggy Perillie, Albert Perry III, Sara Roche, Michael Thomann, Patrick Waide Jr., Walmart, David & Robbin Wangaard, Webster Bank, Anthony van Daalen, Yale-New Haven Health System

### History

John Winthrop Wright founded The School for Ethical Education in 1995. As a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SEE provides courses and programs for teachers, parents and students to advance ethical behavior in schools and communities. Mr. Wright's vision for school improvement focused on expanding opportunities for teachers and students to learn how ethics in action creates character. This phrase became the school's motto and recognizes the power of positive ethics in the creation of character. The core ethical concepts or virtues Mr. Wright desired to promote included respect, responsibility, caring, justice, honesty, truthfulness, courtesy, citizenship and the principles of the Golden Rule. The goal of positive character development is integrated into all programs offered by SEE. With the passing of Mr. Wright in 1996, and the monetization of his estate in 2012, SEE has functioned as a totally independent 501(c)3 since 2018 while supported by the John Wright endowment, fees for services, grants and private donations.

### Vision

The School for Ethical Education teaches strategies to (K-16) educators to put ethics in action for positive character formation of students.

### Mission

The School for Ethical Education recognizes the need for an increased focus on ethical behavior in all human interactions. We affirm the contribution of sound ethical reasoning in the advancement of ethical behavior and character. To promote our vision, SEE uses a variety of methods to provide educators strategies to support student ethical and character formation.

---

## Program Year Summary

The School for Ethical Education (SEE) concluded its twenty-third year while sustaining its core programs that include: Integrity Works!, which advances strategies for academic integrity in secondary schools; *Laws of Life* essay writing for Connecticut students (grades 5-12) to complete a writing assignment that helps students reflect on positive values; the John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award that recognized John R. Ciulla, President and CEO of Webster Bank for his ethical business leadership; the Youth: Ethics in Service (*YES*) program, that teaches strategies to implement service-learning and our teaching and consulting programs that included contracts with schools and other agencies.

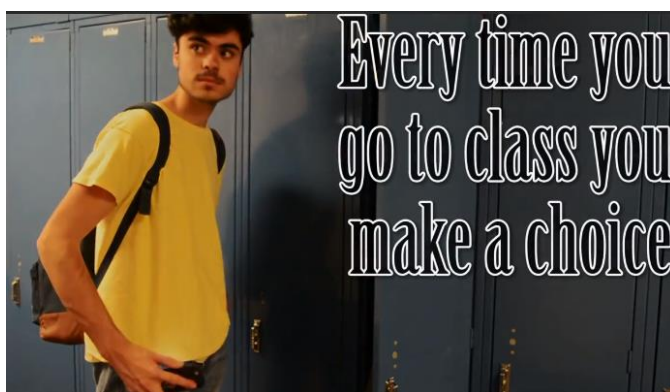


Past Ethics in Action award winner John Ramos participated in Champions of Character PSA series.

SEE administered Integrity Works! for the eleventh year with partial funding from the Richard Davoud Donchian Foundation. One Integrity Works! Project completed was the on-line video professional development seminar labeled Achieving with Integrity. Three video lessons to support student ethical analysis of lessons in history, literature and science were completed and placed on SEE's website. The seminar will be marketed for teachers to complete their own professional development to support student ethical functioning and character formation.

In addition, SEE administered its fifth annual Academic Integrity PSA contest. SEE recruited 21 schools that submitted 26 PSAs from 64 students. The PSAs were evaluated by a minimum of three judges, which included many professional videographers. SEE recognized the top three PSAs created by students in support of academic integrity at our spring Character Celebration. Taken together, the PSAs had an audience of almost 23,000 students. Selected 2018 Integrity PSA links are posted on SEE's PSA program page. SEE's ethics blog named Reasoning with Ethics was continued this year with a new case published weekly. The blog includes a summary of a current events story along with a video placed with discussion questions on SEE's website. Links to the blog were also published on SEE's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages. SEE communicated with over 6,000 schools via an electronic newsletter and marketed SEE's other products. A Golden Compass student-teacher workshop was also added to SEE's programs and marketed to middle schools within a 3-hour radius of Milford. Over 3,300 students from 21 schools participated in SEE's 18<sup>th</sup> annual Laws of Life Essay Program. The top ten essayists participated in SEE's Character Celebration, which included the students, two family members and their teachers. Over 120 guests attended the celebration at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven.

At the end of 2017, SEE completed all the necessary infrastructure steps to move away from the last administrative support from Wright Investors' Service and became a completely independent agency. In the summer of 2018, SEE recruited and recorded statements from eight of SEE's past Ethics in Action awardee's in brief PSAs noting the importance of ethics and character. Other tasks completed during the year included many hours of volunteer service to Character.org in multiple projects that included their National Schools of Character program, a rewrite of their 11 Principles of Effective Character Education and participation in their national Forum in Washington, DC.



Scene from Academic Integrity PSA

## SEE Financials

SEE completed its third year in office space in Milford, Connecticut. As agreed in SEE's monetization of Wright Investors' Service (WIS) stock ownership in 2012, WIS concluded its operational support in terms of technology and administrative assistance on December 19, 2017 and SEE moved onto its own administrative platforms. SEE's overall income for the year including support from the endowment was \$209,219 and expenditures for the year were \$191,141. SEE will thus carry over \$18,078 into the 2018-19 program year.

Integrity Works! was funded through SEE's endowment and a small grant from the Donchian Foundation. *Laws of Life (LOL)* received donations of \$3,560, to administer a statewide *LOL* writing program. Growth in donations will be sought to sustain these excellent character-education programs.

Teaching and Consulting income of \$390 represented a drop-in fees for contracted services paid to SEE from previous years. Donations and payments to SEE's annual Celebration totaled \$10,725.

SEE continues to work to develop its base of individual and corporate funders to help establish a broader foundation of support for its mission. SEE welcomes donations from those who believe in the critical need to build positive character in support of the family, local schools, their communities and our nation. SEE's vision is a progressive work and is moving forward with the positive expectation to advance *ethics in action to create character*.

To join us and make a donation to advance a vision of positive character, you may contact SEE through our website – [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org).

The School for Ethical Education						
2017 - 2018 Summary (Year end 8/31/18)						
Program Related Income and Expense Statement						
	DEVELOP.	INTEGRITY WORKS	LAWS of Life	TEACHING & Consulting	GEN. & ADMIN.	Fiscal YTD
						Totals
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>						
Teaching, Consulting, Sales				390		390
Donations		500	3,560	2,100		6,160
SEE Endowment	21,548	113,127	8,978	30,526	5,387	179,566
Grants & Misc.		2,500				2,500
Celebration Dinner	10,725					10,725
Income from prior year	2,200	4,200	1,200	1,200	982	9,782
Interest Income					96	96
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REV.</b>	<b>34,473</b>	<b>120,327</b>	<b>13,738</b>	<b>34,216</b>	<b>6,465</b>	<b>\$209,219</b>
<b>Percent of Income</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>3%</b>	
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>						
Employee Expenses	16,076	89,787	14,949	36,437	4,403	161,652
Office Expenses	1,023	838	50	257	227	2,395
Travel Expenses		150		974		1,124
Outside Services	8,310	11,014	868	3,046	1,859	25,097
Project Expenses	381	249	24	219		873
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXP.</b>	<b>25,790</b>	<b>102,038</b>	<b>15,891</b>	<b>40,933</b>	<b>6,489</b>	<b>\$191,141</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) -</b>						<b>\$18,078</b>
<b>All Figures Pending Audit</b>						