

The School for Ethical Education Annual Report



September 1, 2018 — August 31, 2019

Ethics in Action Creates Character

SEE Board of Trustees

Peter M. Donovan, Chairman, Westport, CT
Christopher Gallo, Treasurer, Shelton, CT
Joseph Mazzalo, McKinney, TX
Peggy Perillie, Trumbull, CT

Sara Roche, Westport, CT
Michael Thomann, Cheshire, CT
David B. Wangaard, Secretary/President,
Shelton, CT

SEE Staff

David B. Wangaard, Ed. D., Director

Jackie Eaton, Laws of Life Program Coordinator

Volunteers

Cristi Alberino, Alyssa Amick, Helen Bennett, Dennis Blader, Ashley Brandon, John Breunig, Tom Carl, Susan Campbell, Jackie Eaton, Nancy Eaton, Michael Evans, Rick Falco, Dana Ferrer, Michael Flament, Mike Gagne, Dan George, Sara Gerhold, Frank Glowski, Andra Gumbus, Ellen Jarus Hanley, Brian Katsis, Daniel Kiley, Kaitlyn Kraselt, Linda Lambeck, Lydia LaPlante, Barbara Liu, Ketih McGilvery, Jennifer Miceli, Michael Miceli, Sean Morse, Sebastian Neville, Nancy Nicolescu, Albert Perry III, Courtney Price, Cathie Reese, Enza Richards, Tyler Russell, David Simon, Brian Spyros, Doug Stewart, Travis Tucker, Garret Uhde, David Wangaard, Ezequiel Wangaard, Robbin 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*.

2018-19 DONORS

AMC Danbury, Robert and Maryann Betts, Bharucha Foundation, Bigelow Tea, Bowdler Family Fund, Pitney Bowes, John Brennan Construction, Cabot Cheese, Cheesecake Factory, Murtha Cullina LLP, Judith R. Corchard Fund, Costco, Cumberland Farms, Peter & Alexandria Donovan, Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte & Sterczala, P.C., Ernst & Young, LLP, Chris & Debbie Gallo, Oz Griebel, Gibert Hammer, Mickey & Jackie Herbert, Don Kunze, Stew Leonards, Jim Macdonald, Joseph & Laura Mazzola, McDonalds, Enza Richards, Jim & Cathy Smith,

David Stevenson, Pepe's Pizza, Peggy Perillie, Albert Perry III, Anca Pralea, Quassy Amusement, John Ramos, Sara Roche, CT Science Center, Janney Montgomery Scott, Silver Fern Health Care, CT Sports Center, David Stevenson, Michael Thomann, CT Tigers, Mark Twain House, Patrick Waide Jr., Walmart, David & Robbin Wangaard, Wright Investors' Service, South Central CT Regional Water Authority, Webster Bank, Jonathan Wood, 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-fourth 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*



Larry Bingaman presenting keynote at SEE's Character Celebration.

award that recognized Larry Bingaman, President and CEO of South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority 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.

SEE administered Integrity Works! for the twelfth year and finished posting an on-line video professional development seminar titled the Achieving with Integrity Seminar. 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 was marketed through email announcements for teachers to complete their own professional development to support student ethical functioning and character formation.

In addition, SEE administered its sixth annual Academic Integrity PSA contest. SEE recruited 29 schools that submitted 46 videos created by 194 students. The PSAs were evaluated by a minimum of three judges, which included many professional videographers. SEE recognized the top four PSAs created by students in support of academic integrity at our spring Character Celebration. Taken together, the PSAs had an audience estimated to be over 28,000 students. Selected 2019 Integrity PSA links are posted on SEE's PSA program page and were shared on SEE's social media platforms.

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 social media pages. SEE also communicated with over 9,000 schools via an electronic newsletter and marketed SEE's other products. Almost 3,200 students from 20 schools participated in SEE's 19th 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.



Scene from Ad for Integrity PSA Contest.

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 and the writing of their program manual and participation in their national Forum in Washington, DC.

SEE Financials

SEE completed its fourth year in office space in Milford, Connecticut and its first year with total independence from historical infrastructure support from Wright Investors' Service. SEE's overall income for the year including support from the endowment was \$197,809 and expenditures for the year were \$179,161. SEE thus had a surplus of \$18,648.

Integrity Works! was funded through SEE's endowment with \$105,503. *Laws of Life (LOL)* received donations of \$4,000 and an endowment contribution of \$8,373 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 \$923 represented a continuation of lesser receipts for contracted services paid to SEE as compared to previous years. Donations and payments to SEE's annual Celebration totaled \$11,505.

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 donate to advance a vision of positive character, you may contact SEE through our website – www.ethicsed.org.

2018-19 Income/Expense Summary						
8/31/19 (unaudited)						
	Development	Integrity Works	Laws of Life	Teaching & Consulting	Gen & Admin	Total
Income						
Consult/Sales				923		923
Donations			4,000	3,220		7,220
Endowment	20,096	105,503	8,373	28,469	5,024	167,465
Grants						
Banquet	11,505					11,505
Prior Year		6,396	3,175	159		9,730
Interest					966	966
Total	31,601	111,899	15,548	32,771	5,990	\$197,809
Expenses						
Employee	16,075	83,566	13,289	25,131	4,033	142,094
Office	1,086	2,816	256	2,376	253	6,787
Travel	7	109	36	1,007	2	1,161
Outside	9,349	11,912	933	3,518	2,470	28,182
Project		678	37	222		937
Total	26,517	99,081	14,551	32,254	6,758	\$179,161
Surplus/Deficit						\$18,648