



## Press Release

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### *Institute Celebrates Innovative Leaders Offering Solutions to the Nation's Most Pressing Social Problems*

### *The 2010 Social Entrepreneurship Awards*

**New York, NY:** The Manhattan Institute is proud to announce the winners of the tenth annual Social Entrepreneurship Awards which recognize innovative nonprofit leaders, independent of government, who have helped students, veterans, and educators achieve success. The awards will be presented November 4th in New York City.

In addition, the 2010 William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship will be awarded to **Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman**, founders of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Committed to the study of American history, the Gilder Lehrman Institute has helped ensure that today's schools are able to celebrate the riches of the past and carry the traditions of America proudly into the future. Since its founding in 1994, the Institute has organized seminars for educators across the country, has dispatched traveling exhibitions to schools, libraries, historical sites, and other venues, and has offered indispensable resources to promote a greater understanding of history among all Americans. As America moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman stand as strong examples of its entrepreneurial spirit, a spirit they prominently honor as part of their work at the Gilder Lehrman Institute. For more information, please visit [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org).

This year's annual Social Entrepreneurship Award recipients will be honored for serving veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, helping community college students reach graduation, providing new outlets of achievement for inner-city children, and ensuring that urban students get a comprehensive education that will jump-start success.

In the midst of economic and political turmoil, the awards honor the growth of social entrepreneurs whose efforts complement or replace government-run initiatives and organizations that seek solutions to some of America's most challenging problems—ideas with national implications.

“At a time of rising concern about the size and competence of government, our award winners make clear that Americans continue to take it upon themselves to deal with pressing social problems—and to do so in original and effective ways.” says Howard Husock, vice president, policy research, at the Manhattan Institute and director of the Social Entrepreneurship Initiative.

The five winners come from nominations by foundations and philanthropic donors across America. \$100,000 will be presented to the winner of the William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship, and \$25,000 will be presented to each of the 2010 Social Entrepreneurship Award winners.

The 2010 Manhattan Institute Social Entrepreneurship Award winners are:

**David Umansky, Civic Builders, New York, NY**

[www.civicbuilders.org](http://www.civicbuilders.org)

Civic Builders aims to relieve charter-school operators from the burden of planning, developing, financing, and managing real estate, working directly with charter schools in need of facilities and making use of private, for-profit lenders as well as philanthropic donors. Yet the charters that partner with Civic Builders must do more than merely pay rent; they must also fulfill a pledge to meet certain academic standards. As a result, the twelve Civic Builders schools exceeded the academic achievement of district public schools in 2009 by 13 percent in English arts and 15 percent in math. Keeping costs low and achievement high, Civic Builders has helped guarantee the continued success of New York City's charter-school community.

**Eric Greitens, The Mission Continues, St. Louis, MO**

[www.missioncontinues.org](http://www.missioncontinues.org)

Greitens founded The Mission Continues in 2007 to serve veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. As a firm believer in the value of the citizen-soldier, Greitens believes that helping these veterans adjust to life after the military should involve providing them the opportunity to continue to serve. Therefore, The Mission Continues provides veterans with fellowships that support them as they pursue community service projects. By doing so, this organization helps veterans find new meaning in their lives and reminds communities of the enormous value of the veterans among them. Since 2007, the organization has hosted 137 service projects, including forty-seven events in the first five months of 2010 alone. Eric Greitens and The Mission Continues stand as examples of the strength and honor of our military men and women both on the battlefield and on the home front.

**Scott Stimpfel, Resources for Educational and Employment Opportunities (REEO)**

[www.reeo.org/cgi-local](http://www.reeo.org/cgi-local)

With a dropout rate of over 50%, students at the nation's community colleges struggle to achieve success. Scott Stimpfel's own experience as a student at Pasadena City College drove him to found REEO as a means to give these students the guidance and encouragement they need to transfer to, and ultimately graduate from, a four-year college. Through mentoring, networking, academic advising, and professional-development training, REEO helps students gain skills and confidence. Operating in both California and New York, Stimpfel's organization has made the dream of a four-year degree a reality for countless students.

**Greg Zaff, SquashBusters/National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA), Roxbury Crossing, MA**

[www.nationalurbansquash.org](http://www.nationalurbansquash.org)

Greg Zaff started SquashBusters in the spring of 1995 to provide children with an opportunity for growth both on the court and in the classroom. Combining athletic training and academic assistance, SquashBusters has helped students find confidence and achieve success through a program that stresses discipline, persistence, and sportsmanship. Since 1996, 100 percent of the program's seniors have graduated from high school, and 83 percent have gone on to college. SquashBusters has since been replicated in Harlem, the Bronx, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Haven, Baltimore, Denver, San Diego, and Detroit, helping students in each of these communities surpass expectations and achieve their goals.

Rev. John P. Foley, S.J. Cristo Rey Network (CRN), Chicago, IL

[www.cristoreynetwork.org](http://www.cristoreynetwork.org)

Founded in 2001, the Cristo Rey Network comprise of twenty-four high schools committed to serving some of the nation's most needy communities and helping thousands of inner -city students succeed. Operating as a fully licensed "temp agency," each Cristo Rey school provides part-time employment for its students, giving them hands-on professional experience while also providing an exemplary secondary education. As a result, the class of 2009 saw 100 percent of its graduates accepted into two- or four-year colleges. Cristo Rey is a model of educational innovation, offering its students an opportunity to grow both academically and professionally.

The 2010 awards will be presented by Initiative director Howard Husock in New York City. Mr. Husock, also a contributing editor of *City Journal*, is a former research fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations, Harvard University.

Established in 2001, the Manhattan Institute Social Entrepreneurship Initiative is supported by the William E. Simon Foundation and JM Kaplan Fund. Nominations are made by outsiders who have supported the organizations that they nominate. After initial screening by Manhattan Institute staff, ten finalists are chosen by the award program's selection committee, consisting of leaders from the philanthropic and academic community. Winners are chosen only after a site visit to the program and an extended in-person interview.

**To learn more about this year's awards or to speak with any of the winners, contact Lindsay Young Craig at 646-839-3315 or at [lyoung.craig@manhattan-institute.org](mailto:lyoung.craig@manhattan-institute.org).**

For more information on the Manhattan Institute's Social Entrepreneurship Initiative, please visit [www.manhattan-institute.org/html/social\\_entrepreneurship.htm](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/social_entrepreneurship.htm).

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[www.manhattan-institute.org](http://www.manhattan-institute.org)

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