

# **Annual Report Biden Foundation 2017**

**BIDEN**  
F O U N D A T I O N

## Message from Vice President Biden and Dr. Biden



One year ago, we launched the Biden Foundation and began a new chapter of public service as private citizens.

In a time of transition, uncertainty, and division, it was essential to us that we continue working on the issues that have shaped and defined our careers. Now more than ever, we're determined to continue advancing the ideals that ensure every American gets a fair chance.

As the Biden Foundation enters its second year, we celebrate our progress and recommit to the path ahead. We will keep fighting to change a culture where women are unsafe in their daily lives, or where people are denied basic rights because of who they are or whom they love. We will advocate on behalf of military families and children to ensure they're supported in their communities. We will push even harder for expanded affordable access to post-high school education and economic policies that strengthen the middle class. And we will always tell stories that lend a platform to the voiceless and empower the powerless.

We are deeply grateful to all our donors, supporters, and the people and organizations who are working day and night to secure a better future for our country. This effort would not be possible without the support of such a passionate and dedicated community of change-makers. Throughout this year, we've been continually buoyed by your resolve and kindness.

We look to the year ahead with excitement, purpose, and optimism. There's so much still to do, and we're honored to be part of that work.

**Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**

Biden Foundation Honorary Co-chair

**Dr. Jill Biden**

Biden Foundation Honorary Co-chair

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# Building a Team

Vice President and Dr. Biden have always valued and fostered strong teams. We know that we can't do it alone, so the Biden Foundation recruited top talent to lead, support, and inform our work. From the White House, to Capitol Hill, to the nation's leading nonprofits — in 2017, the Biden Foundation built a diverse team of dedicated, passionate leaders.

## Board of Directors

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Honorary Co-chair

**Dr. Jill Biden**  
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Director of Development

**Gina Lee**  
Policy Associate

**Mala Adiga**  
Director for Higher Education  
& Military Families

**Ben Harris**  
Chief Editor of the Biden  
Forum

**Lucy Moore**  
Policy Associate

**Emily Hecht-McGowan**  
Director for LGBTQ Equality

**Gautam Raghavan**  
Advisor for LGBTQ Equality

**Lauren Thurman**  
Digital Communications  
Specialist

**Lynn Rosenthal**  
Director for Violence Against  
Women Initiatives

**Kassamira Carter-Howard**  
Policy Associate

# Joining the Conversation

Our goal is to inform and shape critical conversations. Our perspectives are grounded in expert opinion, front-line vantage point, and authentic experiences. We were involved in and provided our take on some of 2017's defining moments.



**Lynn Rosenthal**, director for violence against women initiatives, marked the [23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary](#) of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act this fall with a look at the progress we've made and the work that remains.

**Mala Adiga**, director for higher education and military families, joined the Bidens at the [Invictus Games](#), and wrote about the remarkable spirit of camaraderie and resilience of the athletes and their families.

**Emily Hecht-McGowan**, director for LGBTQ equality, and **Lynn Rosenthal** joined Vice President Biden at the NYC Anti-Violence Project [2017 Courage Awards](#). They highlighted AVP's important work and how its mission intersects with ours.

At the height of the #MeToo movement this fall, **Lynn Rosenthal** wrote an op-ed for *The Hill* calling for [early sexual violence prevention policies](#), to stop harassment and assault before they start.

**Mala Adiga** addressed three of the [most critical issues](#) for military families today — community and school support for children, military spouse employment, and family mental health and wellness — as Dr. Biden announced the Foundation's engagement on these issues for Veterans Day.



Robert A. Ripps



After launching the Biden Forum, a new online space specifically devoted to conversations about the future of the middle class, Chief Editor **Ben Harris** wrote about how [stagnant wage growth](#) is hitting middle-class Americans hardest.

**Emily Hecht-McGowan** wrote about the importance of [family and community acceptance](#) for LGBTQ youth — a central theme to our plans for 2018 — especially during the holidays.

David Lienemann/The White House

# Changing the Culture

**Our mission** is about more than filling gaps and building bridges — we're working toward a future where all people are equal in dignity and opportunity, and that means changing the culture. From making college campuses safer for women to ensuring military-connected children are supported in their schools, lasting cultural change is at the heart of everything we do.

We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history. It is more important than ever to drive progress and promote the ideals that work to make the American Dream a reality for all. Vice President and Dr. Biden have played unique roles in our country throughout their years of public service. They have championed — and continue to champion — progress and prosperity for American families.

The Biden Foundation builds upon that core mission: to advance the middle class, tackle economic inequality, and maximize opportunity for all people. We are building a world where everyone — no matter their income level, race, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity — is treated equally and gets a fair shot at achieving their highest potential.

## Our Policy Pillars

### Advancing Community Colleges

Community colleges represent the American drive to lift ourselves up, and they offer a direct pathway to the middle class. As a community college professor, Dr. Biden has personally seen how powerful community colleges can be in changing students' lives.

Six in ten of the jobs American businesses create before 2020 will require more than a high school diploma — and currently, just four in ten Americans have that education. Community colleges provide a flexible, affordable way for Americans to learn the skills they need in order for them — and our economy — to thrive.

This year, the Biden Foundation highlighted community colleges and the impact they have on American families. We worked in close partnership with the College Promise Campaign to advocate for quality, tuition-free education at community colleges. As the honorary chair, Dr. Biden is an invaluable voice in this effort and promoted successful programs around the country.



David Lienemann/The White House



## Ending Violence Against Women

Vice President Biden has been at the forefront of our nation's fight against domestic violence and sexual assault for decades. But despite the progress we've made, violence persists — especially against teens and young adults. Domestic violence remains one of the leading causes of family homelessness, and college women are still at alarming risk of assault from their peers.

Vice President Biden believes that engaging men in changing social norms is key to making a difference. With sexual harassment and violence in the news every day, the Biden Foundation will challenge men to step up and step in to prevent sexual violence. Through our partnership with It's On Us, the Foundation will mobilize students to play an active role to prevent sexual assault on campus and in schools.

The Foundation will elevate the voices of young people, support youth and student leadership, and promote the cultural change needed to end violence against women. From sexual assault on college campuses to homelessness among domestic violence survivors, the Biden Foundation will spark the conversation and highlight visionary ideas for change.



Ron Aira/George Mason University



Aristide Economopoulos/NJ.com



David Lienemann/The White House

## Ensuring LGBTQ Equality

Over the last decade, the LGBTQ community has experienced unprecedented progress in the fight for equality. But LGBTQ people still face significant challenges, and LGBTQ youth remain among the most at-risk youth populations in America. Every day, they face discrimination, bullying, and harassment in their classrooms, neighborhoods, places of worship, and even in their own homes.

As a result of family and community rejection, LGBTQ young people face serious negative outcomes at disproportionately higher rates than their non-LGBTQ peers, including interaction with the juvenile justice and foster care systems, homelessness, depression, and suicidal ideation.

Through the Foundation's family and community acceptance programming, we will leverage the Foundation's resources, including Vice President and Dr. Biden's reputations as long-standing champions of equality, to help ensure that LGBTQ youth face a future where they are healthy, affirmed, and supported.



David Lienemann/The White House



David Lienemann/The White House

## Strengthening the Middle Class

The Bidens believe the American middle class is not only the economic engine of America, but also the social fiber that holds our nation together. That's why Vice President Biden has fought his whole career to give people in all communities a fair shot at achieving their dreams: It's central to who we are as a country.

While the economy has made considerable progress from the depths of the Great Recession, much work remains to ensure the middle class continues to grow. That's why we launched the [Biden Forum](#), an online conversation devoted to the American middle class and those working to get there. The Forum features diverse viewpoints from industry leaders, innovators, elected officials, and American workers from every corner of the nation.

The Forum launched with a post from Vice President Biden, and has since featured entries from preeminent leaders including former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, and New America President and CEO Anne-Marie Slaughter. We continue to seek bold ideas from policymakers and everyday Americans alike — policy ideas that will strengthen the middle class and level the playing field for families working hard to get ahead.

## Supporting Military Families

The Bidens *are* a military family — they understand the pride, anxiety, and hardships that military families face. While all American families deal with challenges, military families face the added hurdles that come with serving our country, such as deployments and frequent moves.

Dr. Biden devoted much of her time this year to elevating the stories of military families across the country and around the world. She cheered on the United States athletes and engaged with their families at the Invictus Games in Toronto, recognized companies who make it their mission to hire veterans and military spouses, and commemorated the anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall — a monument that has helped in nationwide healing but stands as a testament to all that we continue to owe to our veterans, service members, and military families.



The Coca-Cola Company



# Forging Partnerships

Strong partnerships are deeply important to the Bidens — not just because that's how lasting change is made, but because collaboration and cooperation are central to their core values. Throughout 2017, we've been connecting leaders and building a stronger community of change-makers.

## Partners

One of our first steps in 2017 was to identify partners and allies, and strategize ways that together we could make a difference. Through collaboration, we continue to accelerate progress in key policy areas and reach America's communities from coast to coast.



### College Promise Campaign

The College Promise Campaign is a national, non-partisan initiative that strives to build public support for funding two years of community college for America's hard-working students. Begun by President Barack Obama in 2015 and championed by Dr. Jill Biden since then, College Promise encourages visionary leaders throughout our nation to put College Promise programs in place, enabling students to complete their college degrees and certificates without the burden of unmanageable debt. Dr. Biden continues to advance the mission of the College Promise Campaign by serving as the honorary chair of its National Advisory Board.



### It's On Us

Launched by Vice President Biden in 2014, It's On Us works on college campuses to develop the next generation of movement leaders. Vice President Biden continues to lead the campaign by rallying students on college campuses and inspiring the next generation of activists. It's On Us continues to focus on engaging young men in this discussion, and ending violence against women and girls. It's On Us has held events on over 3,000 college campuses in all 50 states. For the 2017–2018 academic year, It's On Us has chapters on 250 campuses nationwide.

## Advisory Councils

In January we announced the addition of two advisory councils. Guiding our work for both the Ending Violence Against Women and the LGBTQ Equality pillars, the councils include a diverse group of change-makers, ranging from grassroots activists and national experts to professional athletes and award-winning artists. What they all have in common: their commitment to the issues at hand and their tireless work in pursuit of our shared goals.



### Advisory Council for Ending Violence Against Women

Justin Baldoni	Vivian Huelgo	Nancy Schwartzman
Karma Cottman	Neil Irvin	Patti Seger
Jess Davidson	Demetra Lambros	Susan B. Sorenson
Venkayla Haynes	Zerlina Maxwell	Andrew Sta. Ana
Rosie Hidalgo	Victoria Nourse	Ebony Tucker
Olivia Hinerfeld		

### Advisory Council for Advancing LGBTQ Equality

Marsha Aizumi	Mara Keisling	Sara Ramírez
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara	Cyndi Lauper	Caitlin Ryan
Precious Brady-Davis	Sarah McBride	Judy Shepard
Eliza Byard	Amit Paley	Jacob Tobia
Jason Collins	Phillip Picardi	Evan Wolfson
Michael Guest		

# Looking Back on 2017

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Bidens said goodbye to the White House — but remained deeply committed to the issues that have defined their careers. From the day they launched the Biden Foundation, we have been hard at work pursuing advancements in the policy areas that the Bidens have committed their lives to.

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Vice President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden [introduced the world to the Biden Foundation](#). They outlined the Foundation's mission and key areas of focus, and together we all took a first step on this new journey of public service.

FEBRUARY 24, 2017

Dr. Biden met with educational and political leaders in the Bay Area to discuss expanding affordable pathways for [California students](#).

APRIL 12, 2017

Following reports of human rights atrocities against gay men in Chechnya, Vice President Biden [called on the U.S. government](#) to address the crisis and take action.

APRIL 19, 2017

In an essay for *Cosmopolitan*, Vice President Biden [urged students and activists alike](#) to protect the progress we've made by continuing to fight for a changed campus culture.

*"I am often asked if things will go backward now that President Obama and I are no longer in the White House. The truth is, it will take all of us to make sure that doesn't happen."*

—JOE BIDEN



Photo by David Lienemann/The White House

APRIL 14, 2017

Vice President Biden sat down with *Teen Vogue* to talk about why it's so important to [engage men](#) in the fight to end campus sexual assault.

APRIL 22, 2017

Dr. Biden attended the [American Association of Community Colleges' Annual Convention](#) in New Orleans, where she accepted their Harry S. Truman Award for the pioneering work done during the Obama-Biden Administration.

APRIL 26, 2017

Vice President Biden called on the students of [George Mason University](#) to combat campus sexual assault for It's On Us' Week of Action.

MAY 12, 2017

Dr. Biden gave the commencement address at [Milwaukee Area Technical College](#) and visited [Bradley Tech High School](#) with the College Promise Campaign to celebrate MATC Promise.

MAY 14, 2017

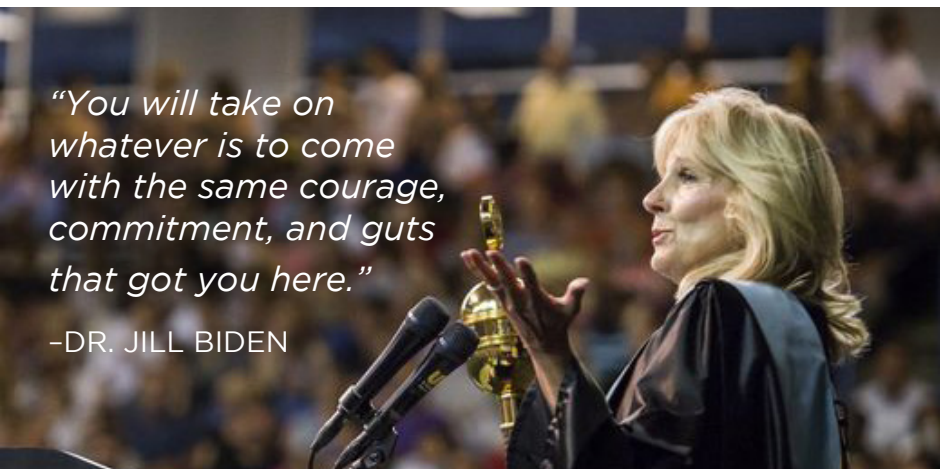
Dr. Biden spoke at the [GLSEN Respect Awards](#), emphasizing that all students deserve to be safe in school no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity.

MAY 16, 2017

For International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, Vice President Biden called for continued efforts to [combat hatred in all its forms](#), at home and around the world.

MAY 17, 2017

Dr. Biden gave the commencement address at [Delaware Technical Community College](#), where she spoke about her love for the community college system and the promise it offers every hardworking student.



*"You will take on whatever is to come with the same courage, commitment, and guts that got you here."*

-DR. JILL BIDEN

Kyle Grantham/The News Journal

JUNE 14, 2017

Dr. Biden spoke at the [Military Spouse Employment Summit](#), hosted by U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes, and called attention to the employment challenges facing military spouses and their critical impact on our national security.

JUNE 18, 2017

The Foundation sat down with activists working on global LGBTQ equality, discussing how best to use Vice President Biden's foreign policy expertise to advance LGBTQ rights on the global stage.

MAY 8, 2017

For Military Appreciation Month, Dr. Biden visited [Sesame Street](#) to talk with Rosita about how military-connected children can learn to talk about and express their emotions.



Sesame Street

MAY 18, 2017

Vice President Biden joined the steering committee of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence in a call to discuss key concerns at the local, state, and national levels.

JUNE 12, 2017

Dr. Biden attended the [2017 Tony Awards](#) to introduce *Bandstand* and highlight the importance of supporting our veterans and their families.

*"Military spouses are patriots who carry the weight of our national security every day."*

-DR. JILL BIDEN



JUNE 26, 2017

After incubating with the Foundation for six months, the [Biden Cancer Initiative](#) officially began as its own organization.

JUNE 28, 2017

The Foundation met with advocates for transgender and gender-nonconforming people to discuss advances and recent setbacks in the movement for equality, and identified issues affecting the trans\* community that the Foundation can help to elevate.

JUNE 29, 2017

The Foundation hosted a roundtable with youth activists working on sexual assault and relationship violence who encouraged the Foundation to focus on early prevention efforts with youth.

JULY 31, 2017

Dr. Biden spoke at the Military Child Education Coalition's annual [National Training Seminar](#) about the importance of supporting military-connected children in our communities — from small acts of kindness to organized advocacy.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

Following the Department of Education's announcement that they planned to rescind critical Title IX guidance for universities, Joe Biden joined an [activism call with End Rape On Campus](#) to urge survivors and advocates not to back down.

*"I believe you.  
I'm in awe of the courage  
you have shown in  
speaking out and telling  
your stories in hopes of  
making a difference."*

-JOE BIDEN

JUNE 28, 2017

Advocates for LGBTQ youth joined the Foundation at a roundtable discussion about the current political climate's impact on LGBTQ young people, and helped the Foundation identify family acceptance as a key policy focus for future work.

*"We're all here to fight  
for the most fundamental  
of human rights: to love  
and be loved."*

-DR. JILL BIDEN

JULY 26-27, 2017

The Foundation met with military family organizations to discuss the landscape of services for military families, to identify gaps, and to explore promising practices and innovative programs that help fill them.



Hillsborough Schools

AUGUST 25, 2017

Dr. Biden spoke at the [Better Health, Better Learning summit](#) with Senator Bill Frist, calling for greater attention to health issues across the education system.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Dr. Biden called the students of Rocky River Elementary School to share a special announcement for military-connected families on their Annual [9/11 Day of Remembrance](#).

## SEPTEMBER 29–30, 2017

Continuing their support of military families, the Bidens attended the [2017 Invictus Games](#). There, they joined Prince Harry and President Obama in cheering on the service members participating in the games, right alongside their families and loved ones.



## OCTOBER 23, 2017

After the passage of [California Promise](#), a program that provides one year of free community college for new students, Dr. Biden thanked mayors, legislators, and community college administrators for supporting California's students.

## NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Vice President Biden wrote an essay about the issues affecting the middle class — and his dream for its future — to [launch the Biden Forum](#).

*“We must deal the middle class back in. And no one can be left behind.”*

–JOE BIDEN

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

The Vice President's moving [essay in Marie Claire](#) about why he started It's On Us sparked nationwide campus action in the fall.

## OCTOBER 11, 2017

In recognition of his dedication to ending gender-based violence and LGBTQ discrimination, the New York City Anti-Violence Project honored Joe Biden at their annual [Courage Awards](#).



Robert A. Ripps

## OCTOBER 12, 2017

Vice President Biden energized students at a [Rutgers University](#) rally with It's On Us, calling for greater accountability for bystanders and renewed commitment to intervention.

## NOVEMBER 10, 2017

Dr. Biden spoke at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund [reception on Veterans Day](#) for an event honoring Maya Lin, who designed the Wall.

## DECEMBER 24, 2017

As the year came to a close, the Bidens shared a personal [holiday greeting](#) to reaffirm their commitment to the mission we've so proudly undertaken.



# Engaging Our Fellow Citizens

We're proud of the year we had, but we didn't do it alone. Thanks to support from our partner organizations, our donors, and passionate people across the country engaging on these issues every day, we have widened our reach and deepened our impact.



David Lienemann/The White House

**In 2017, people across the country discovered the Foundation and kept in touch.**

- > 22,000 email subscribers
- > 75,000 Twitter followers
- > 36,000 Facebook followers
- > 14,000 monthly visitors to [bidenfoundation.org](http://bidenfoundation.org)

## Contributors

In the past year, **over 1,000 people** from 47 states and Washington, D.C., have donated online to support our programming. We are grateful for this generous support, and for the essential contributions of the funders listed below:

### **\$1,000,000+**

The Bohemian Foundation  
Scott Miller & Tim Gill

### **\$500,000–\$999,999**

Peter & Georgia Angelos  
Gerret & Tatiana Copeland  
The Masimo Foundation  
The New York Community Trust  
Bernard L. Schwartz

### **\$100,000–\$499,999**

The Angelson Family Foundation  
Joseph R. Biden, Jr. & Dr. Jill Biden  
Stephen & Sandy Cozen  
Joe & Sarah Kiani  
The Logothetis Family  
The Once Upon a Time Foundation  
Ron & Marcia Rubin

### **\$1,000–\$99,999**

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Patricia Alley  
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Rebecca Susan Buffett Foundation  
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Erik Ramanathan  
Michael & Riki Sheehan  
Jeff Shuck  
Alan Silverman  
Gregory Simon  
Amy Sisley  
Mary R. Studeny  
Pamela Wickham



# Our Promise for 2018

**We will keep elevating community colleges, where anyone who walks through the door is one step closer to achieving their highest potential.** Looking at our work through the prism of the educational pipeline, the Biden Foundation will partner with organizations around the country to support students throughout their education, by encouraging high school students to pursue their education at a community college, advocating for tuition-free access to community college and support services, promoting effective retention and completion policies, and creating even more opportunities for community college students to invest in their futures.

**We will keep defending every American's right to safety, health, and dignity — regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.** The Foundation will partner with national nonprofits serving youth and families to help local institutions better serve their LGBTQ members and spark lasting culture change in communities across the country. And through a nationwide storytelling campaign, the Foundation will illuminate the importance of family acceptance for LGBTQ youth, highlight best practices, identify shortfalls in public policy, and bring teams together to find solutions that help LGBTQ youth thrive.

**We will keep creating a future where women are safe and supported in their homes and their schools.** In partnership with It's On Us, the Foundation will continue to mobilize students across the country. We will amplify the voices of young people, foster student and youth leadership, and promote the cultural change needed to end violence against women. From sexual assault on college campuses to homelessness among domestic violence survivors, the Biden Foundation will elevate the conversation and highlight visionary ideas for change.

**We will keep telling the stories of middle-class Americans, and pushing for economic policies that move communities forward without leaving anyone behind.** Using the Biden Forum as a platform, the Foundation will continue to highlight bold new policy ideas aimed at strengthening and broadening the middle class. The Forum will seek diverse voices not often heard in the policy arena — including entrepreneurs, small business owners, and everyday Americans. We will also join organizations and experts across the country to identify forward-looking proposals that strengthen the middle class.

**We will keep advocating for the families of our nation's military to ensure that they're connected with and supported by their communities.** We are collaborating with expert organizations to work toward solutions in the areas of military spouse employment and mental health and wellness for the entire military family. In 2018, the Foundation will partner with military family organizations in a nationwide effort to better understand the needs of our military-connected children, including children from National Guard and Reserve families, and to empower the teachers, schools, and organizations who support them.



# More information:

To learn more about the Biden Foundation, visit our website:  
<https://bidenfoundation.org>

Connect with us on social media:

 @bidenfoundation

 Biden Foundation

## Our sister organizations:

