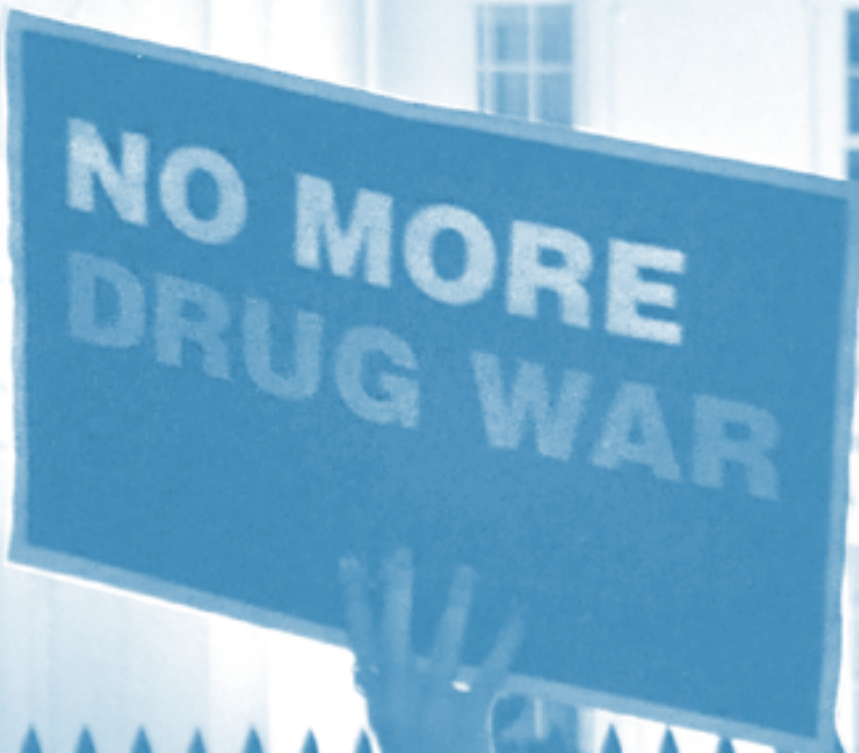




2012

ANNUAL REPORT





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INTERNATIONAL STAFF



Friends,

For the past several years that I have been honored to lead SSDP, I've been awed by students all over the world. The energy and drive I've seen is inspiring, not to mention humbling.

In the midst of so many positive developments for our movement, it's easy to forget that our activists sometimes face tremendous challenges. Our students start chapters in cities or countries where talking about ending the drug war can invite uncomfortable responses with the average town resident or college administrator.

When Sam Walker returned from his combat tour in Afghanistan to attend courses at his local public community college — Linn State Technical College in Missouri — in summer 2011, administrators told him they had instituted a new random student drug testing policy. Sam's first call was to SSDP. We called the president of the college and promised to sue the school's trustees if they proceeded with the planned drug-testing program. Our staff and volunteers then worked to recruit and coordinate plaintiffs, and SSDP's team of scrappy, pro-bono lawyers and law students drafted an amicus brief in the case. A federal judge blocked the program.

Our small staff does a lot with very little resources. That's because SSDP is not six people in a headquarters office. The staff and Board of Directors serve as stewards of a movement composed of thousands of young people around the world. SSDP is made up of people who have felt the power of working together to end the war on drugs.

SSDP board members are elected and selected by their peers, making SSDP uniquely positioned as a democratic organization where representatives speak for the constituents who elected them. Since SSDP is a student-run organization — our bylaws require that current students constitute a super-majority of directors on our board — we benefit from constant contact with and feedback from our intended constituency.

We speak truth to power and we bring people together. We create a safe space for students of all political stripes to have honest conversations. We know that the status quo doesn't work and that we're at the brink of a historic shift, and we're not afraid to talk about it. To end the drug war, we're passing on the skills, training, and know-how to students all over the world.

Thank you for being part of our movement.

Sincerely,
Aaron Houston
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greetings,

My name is Thomas Silverstein, and I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of Students for Sensible Drug Policy since March 2012. The past year has been one of tremendous excitement and growth for SSDP. A litany of policy changes, organizing feats, and leadership development endeavors attest to that fact. Our members' capacity has grown such that I have little doubt that they will provide the energy, insight, and collaborative spirit that will legalize marijuana somewhere in the United States this fall. But our growth has not been limited to the United States. In March, the chapters of SSDP joined together and elected Graham De Barra of University College Cork in Ireland, to our Board of Directors. Graham is our second ever Board member from outside of the United States and our first from outside of North America.

As an organization, we continuously strive to be the best advocates for ending the failed War on Drugs that we can possibly be. That effort requires that the members of our network – students, alumni, staff, Board members, and funders – appreciate the context for our advocacy, that we understand the potential repercussions of our proposed policy solutions, and that we match our enthusiasm with nuance and thoughtfulness. It is in this area that the efforts of our national staff are most pivotal. Our Outreach Directors, Devon Tackels and Drew Stromberg, are always available to counsel chapter members. Associate Director Stacia Cosner has turned conference planning into an art form. International Director Zara Snapp has strengthened connections between our chapters in all corners of the world while increasing awareness of the tragic toll that the drug war is exacting in her home base of Mexico. Executive Director Aaron Houston may never fail to inspire our students, but his unmatched political savvy rubs off on them with equal consistency. Office Manager Edward Spriggs makes sure that this well-oiled machine keeps humming on a day-to-day basis.

Having and building upon this kind of a top notch staff takes resources, and the Board of Directors is committed to doing its utmost to ensure the financial health of SSDP. I believe that this inaugural annual report shows that donations to SSDP are making a tremendous difference in the lives of our students and in those of members of our students' communities. This report also demonstrates our potential for growth. As you read the report, please keep that potential in mind and consider becoming a supporter or SSDP. Our best is yet to come.

Regards,
Thomas Silverstein
Board Chair



Thomas Silverstein (*Chair*), Brandon Levey (*Vice Chair*), Katharine Celentano (*Secretary*), Julie Roberts (*Treasurer*), Eric Sterling, Graham De Barra, Randy Hencken, Stephen Duke, Kellen Russoniello, Kris Krane, Shaleen Title, Sam Tracy, Rodrigo 'Froggy' Vasquez

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

22 CANDLELIGHT VIGILS COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NIXON’S “WAR ON DRUGS”

Friday, June 17, 2011, marked the 40th anniversary of President Richard Nixon’s declaration of the “war on drugs.” Students for Sensible Drug Policy, in partnership with the Drug Policy Alliance, organized a nationwide day of action to highlight the impacts of this ill-fated war. Candlelight vigils were organized in more than 20 cities across the world, including one in Mexico City, where our students remembered victims of the war on drugs and raised awareness about the need for reform.

NVCC SSDP ADOPTS A HIGHWAY

In the summer of 2011, our chapter leaders at Northern Virginia Community College adopted a highway in northern Virginia. Just like many other community groups and businesses have done to show their commitment to social good, they’re directly giving back to their local community by keeping a section of this highway clean. Also, this is quite possibly the first time that the words “Students for Sensible Drug Policy” appears on a government sign.

LEGALIZE IT! PARTNERSHIP WITH PETER TOSH FAMILY, THE WIRE ACTORS RECOGNIZE U.S. REP. JARED POLIS AND NIAMBE TOSH

SSDP and actor Tray Cheney (“Poot”) of The Wire, honored Niambe Tosh, daughter of legendary singer and activist Peter Tosh and U.S. Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) for their extraordinary efforts in the fight to legalize marijuana. SSDP’s honorees have been committed advocates to the cause. On September 14, 2011, SSDP members and friends joined us in Washington, DC to present Congressman Polis and Niambe Tosh with the “Legalize It” award.

U. ARKANSAS SSDP HOSTS DRUG POLICY DEBATE

To kick off the fall 2011 semester, our University of Arkansas SSDP chapter hosted a debate between Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance Ethan Nadelmann, and former DEA Head Administrator Asa Hutchinson. The event was a huge success, educating 350-400 student attendees about both sides of the drug policy reform issue.

SSDP RESPONDS TO DRUG CZAR IN USA TODAY

In September 2011, the White House’s drug czar, Gil Kerlikowske, made news by blaming an increase in teen marijuana use on medical marijuana laws, saying that the laws send the “wrong message” to teens. We helped make sure that Brown University SSDP chapter activist Rebecca McGoldrick was quoted in a USA Today article countering Kerlikowske’s outrageous claim, where she noted her own pain and nausea from fibromyalgia.

SSDP AND THE ACLU BLOCK STUDENT DRUG TESTING AT LINN TECH

When a student at Linn State Technical College in Linn, Missouri — a public college — heard that his school was going to randomly drug test him in the fall of 2011, he called us first. Our staff called the president of the college and promised to sue him if he proceeded with his program. We were pleased to work with the ACLU to coordinate plaintiffs. And our team of scrappy, pro-bono lawyers and law students who serve on our student-led board of directors drafted SSDP’s amicus brief in the case.

VIDEO: “WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING THE WAR ON DRUGS?”

In March 2012 at the 13th Annual International Students for Sensible Drug Policy Conference in Denver, Colorado, we asked our students and supporters to answer the question: “Why are you fighting to end the war on drugs?” Nearly 80 conference attendees provided their response on video as part of our story booth. We compiled the most powerful responses into a two and a half minute video that can be viewed on SSDP’s YouTube channel.

TAKING ACTION TO END OBAMA’S WAR ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA

In the wake of recent attacks on medical marijuana providers and patients by multiple branches of the federal government, including the April 16, 2012 raids on Oaksterdam University in Oakland, CA, SSDP joined with five other national drug policy reform organizations to appeal to President Obama and his administration to follow its own previously stated policies respecting state medical marijuana laws. Our supporters sent over 1,000 letters to the President urging him to bring an end to the federal government’s ongoing campaign to undermine state efforts to regulate safe and legal access to medial marijuana for patients who rely on it.

GAINING CLARITY FROM THE FEDS ON THE DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT

In the spring of 2012, we noticed an alarming trend of lawmakers and university officials citing the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) as an obstacle impeding them from allowing sensible policy change on college campuses. They claim that by changing drug and alcohol policies on campus, they will risk being denied federal funding and other forms of financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education. We called the Dept. of Education to learn more and found that not a single college or university participating in the Federal Student Aid program has ever lost Title IV eligibility as a result of violating the DFSCA. To read SSDP’s briefing paper on the matter, visit our blog.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



MAHOGANY WRIGHT, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ‘13

SSDP Vice President, Columbia University Chapter

“THANKS TO SSDP, I GOT THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF ATTENDING THE UNITED NATIONS’ THEMATIC DEBATE AS A CREDENTIALLED PARTICIPANT THIS SUMMER. THE EXPERIENCE ALLOWED ME TO GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO HOW PUBLIC POLICY IS DEVELOPED WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE COMPLEX WAY THAT DRUG POLICIES ARE INTIMATELY LINKED TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. MY ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO WORK FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND MY EXPOSURE TO THE UN DEBATE FACILITATED BY SSDP SOLIDIFIED MY COMMITMENT TO PURSUE A CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE. UPON COMPLETION OF MY B.A. IN HUMAN RIGHTS THIS YEAR, I HOPE TO ENROLL IN THE MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY GRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AS THE NEXT STEP IN THE PURSUIT OF THIS GOAL.”



ALEC FOSTER, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ‘14

SSDP President, New York University Chapter

“THE AURA OF POLITICAL EFFICACY AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT RADIATES FROM EVERY CHAPTER LEADER AND ALUMNUS HAS BEEN THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CATALYST FOR MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO DATE—IT’S AS IF SSDP IS THE SUPPORTIVE OLDER BROTHER OR SISTER THAT I’VE ALWAYS WANTED. MY INVOLVEMENT WITH SSDP LED TO MY DREAM INTERNSHIP AND I COULDN’T BE HAPPIER. MY ADVICE TO ALL SSDPERS IS TO RECOGNIZE THAT AT ITS CORE, THIS IS A MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THAT WE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR FIGHTING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY. NEVER FORGET THAT PROGRESS IS INEVITABLE IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A MORE JUST WORLD IS POSSIBLE AND ARE WILLING TO WORK FOR IT.”

CAMPAIGNS

ACTIVISTS IN NEW YORK SAVE LIVES

On July 20, 2011, New York Governor Cuomo signed into law a state-wide 911 Good Samaritan Policy. SSDP members met with dozens of state officials to lobby for A2063C, which gives legal amnesty to individuals who are in need medical treatment resulting from drug or alcohol use, as well as to individuals who seek help for someone else in need of medical assistance resulting from drug or alcohol use. The passage of this bill was the culmination of a collaborative effort of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), and the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD).

THOUSANDS OF LETTERS TO CONGRESS GENERATED IN SUPPORT OF FIRST EVER MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION BILL

On June 22, 2011, The first marijuana legalization bill was introduced in Congress. H.R. 2306, the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2011, is a bi-partisan bill introduced by Congressmen Barney Frank and Ron Paul that would allow states to legalize and regulate marijuana without federal interference. Through our online action center, we generated 6,267 letters to Congress in support of H.R. 2306, more than half of which were sent within 24 hours of the bill's introduction.



HOUSE CUTS YOUTH ANTI-DRUG MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO ZERO

During our 2011 Training Conference and lobby day, we focused on asking Congress to defund the White House's failed National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. SSDP has been advocating for the campaign to be eliminated since 2006, but we've never seen a chamber of Congress actually cut all funding for the program — until now. In July 2011, we learned that a House committee eliminated all funding for the media campaign.

YOUTH REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

In March 2012, SSDP student and youth representatives from Mexico, Colombia and Poland attended the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs with special consultative status. Although these policies disproportionately affect them, youth are rarely in attendance at these high-level policy meetings. SSDP is committed to changing that. The SSDP delegation screened a video produced by chapters in seven countries that highlighted how the drug war impacts young people. SSDP, along with partners, will continue to campaign for greater youth voice at the United Nations.

ILLINOIS ENACTS STATEWIDE OVERDOSE PREVENTION LAW

On February 26, 2012 Illinois became the fifth state to enact a "Call 911 Good Samaritan Policy" when Governor Quinn signed S.B. 1701 into law. Our students and allies played an essential role in advocating for this legislation, including those at Northern Illinois University and Roosevelt University.

UCONN SSDP CHANGES A CAMPUS MARIJUANA POLICY

Following a meeting with student government leaders on January 30, 2012, the University of Connecticut's Office of Community Standards altered its penalties for students found in possession of small amounts of marijuana, equalizing the punishment with underage drinking. The change is largely in response to Connecticut's recent decriminalization of marijuana, which lowered the penalty for possession of under half an ounce of marijuana to a fine of \$150 and a 60-day license suspension for those under 21, rather than up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. SSDP student board member Sam Tracy authored the endorsement as a Senator and later won the race for class President on a platform that included reforming campus marijuana policies.



CONNECTICUT 17TH STATE TO PASS MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW

On May 6, 2012 Connecticut became the 17th state to pass medical marijuana legislation. Connecticut SSDP students worked tirelessly to help gain support for this legislation. Our students worked to host rallies, coordinated student lobbying efforts, testified in front of lawmakers, and personally called members of the House and Senate to express their support for the bill.

ALL GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES "ON THE RECORD"

In January 2012, SSDP sent dozens of students to New Hampshire to attend the 2012 College Convention, a four-day gathering of current presidential candidates in Concord, New Hampshire. Our students were able to get all GOP presidential candidates — including eventual GOP nominee, Mitt Romney — on the record regarding their views on reforming our current drug policies. (Check out SSDP's YouTube channel to watch the footage).

FLORIDA GOVERNOR SIGNS FLORIDA'S 911 GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

On April 6th, 2012, Governor Rick Scott signed Florida's 911 Good Samaritan Act (SB 278). Florida is now the 13th state to enact some form of Good Samaritan legislation. More specifically, Florida is now the 6th state to extend immunity to possession of controlled substances (joining NM, WA, CT, NY, and IL) and the 6th state to add help-seeking as a mitigating factor (joining NM, AK, MD, WA, UT, and IL). Our students and allies in Florida played an instrumental role in the passage of this important bill.

HOUSE VOTES ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA

On May 9, 2012 in the first Federal vote on medical marijuana in the House since 2007, the House voted 262-163 against the Rohrabacher-Hinchey-McClintock-Farr amendment. This amendment would have banned the use of Federal funds to prevent States from implementing their own state laws that authorize use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana in the 17 states and the District of Columbia where medical marijuana is legal. While the amendment was indeed defeated, we are proud to share that 3,626 letters to Congress were sent through SSDP's online action center in just a few short days leading up to the vote.

MEDIA



GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney repeatedly dodged questions about medical marijuana, refusing to engage activists who took to the campaign trail in New Hampshire to press him on the issue.

Asked by a member of Students for Sensible Drug Policy about his views on the drug war, Romney demurred, referring his questioner to his website.

"It's a long ... it's a long question," Romney said at a rally in Bedrock on Jan 9. "It deserves a full answer, and not just in a photo line like this."

"MITT ROMNEY DUCKS MEDICAL MARIJUANA QUESTIONS", *The Huffington Post*, January 10, 2012



"What better time than now to get the community together and discuss the failures of the drug policies?" said Rodrigo "Froggy" Vazquez, an event organizer and a member of Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

"RALLY URGES END TO WAR ON DRUGS", *Los Angeles Times*, June 19, 2011



Groups in favor of legalization seem to have made strides over the years in distancing themselves from the movement's sometimes grungy past. In Richmond, Va., for example, about 300 people came to the city's Monroe Park for a rally organized by a local chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. And while there was a fair share of sandals and shorts, the event also attracted people like Kirby Myers, a contractor for the Federal Aviation Administration and one of many gray-haired attendees.

"THE HOLIDAY FOR FANS OF LIBERALIZED MARIJUANA LAWS", *The New York Times*, April 21, 2012



Before this school year began, Linn State Technical College didn't have a drug-testing program or a chapter of the organization Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

Now it has both, though a lawsuit prompted a federal judge to suspend the testing, at least temporarily. The student chapter began after the school in central Missouri announced it would become the first college in the nation to test all incoming students for drugs, in what it called an effort to prepare them for a world of work where such tests are common.

"LAWSUIT TESTS UNIQUE DRUG-TESTING POLICY AT LINN STATE TECH", *St. Louis Beacon*, Oct 17, 2011



Rebecca McGoldrick, 21, a Brown University senior smokes marijuana to get relief from pain and nausea caused by fibromyalgia.

"Most of my friends are still unaware of its legal status as a medicine," said McGoldrick, who is involved with Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, which advocates decriminalization of drug use.

"NATIONAL DRUG SURVEY SHOWS BIG DROP IN METHAMPHETAMINE USE", *USA Today*, September 8, 2011



Students for Sensible Drug Policy are holding the candidates' feet to the, ahem, fire on their favorite subject.

In a series of videos posted to YouTube, student volunteers have caught the candidates—sometimes awkwardly—along the campaign trail, explaining their stances.

"GOP CANDIDATES ON DRUGS", *The Washington Post*, January 17, 2012



"Casey O'Dea '14 and Jared Moffat '13, members of Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, attended the hearing to testify in favor of the bill. Moffat is a Herald opinions editor. Current laws regarding marijuana are ineffective, O'Dea told The Herald. There is no evidence that suggests decriminalization leads to higher use rates, and half the revenue generated from the new fines would help fund programs to educate minors about drug use, he said."

"LEGISLATION WOULD DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA IN R.I.", *The Brown Daily Herald*, March 22, 2012

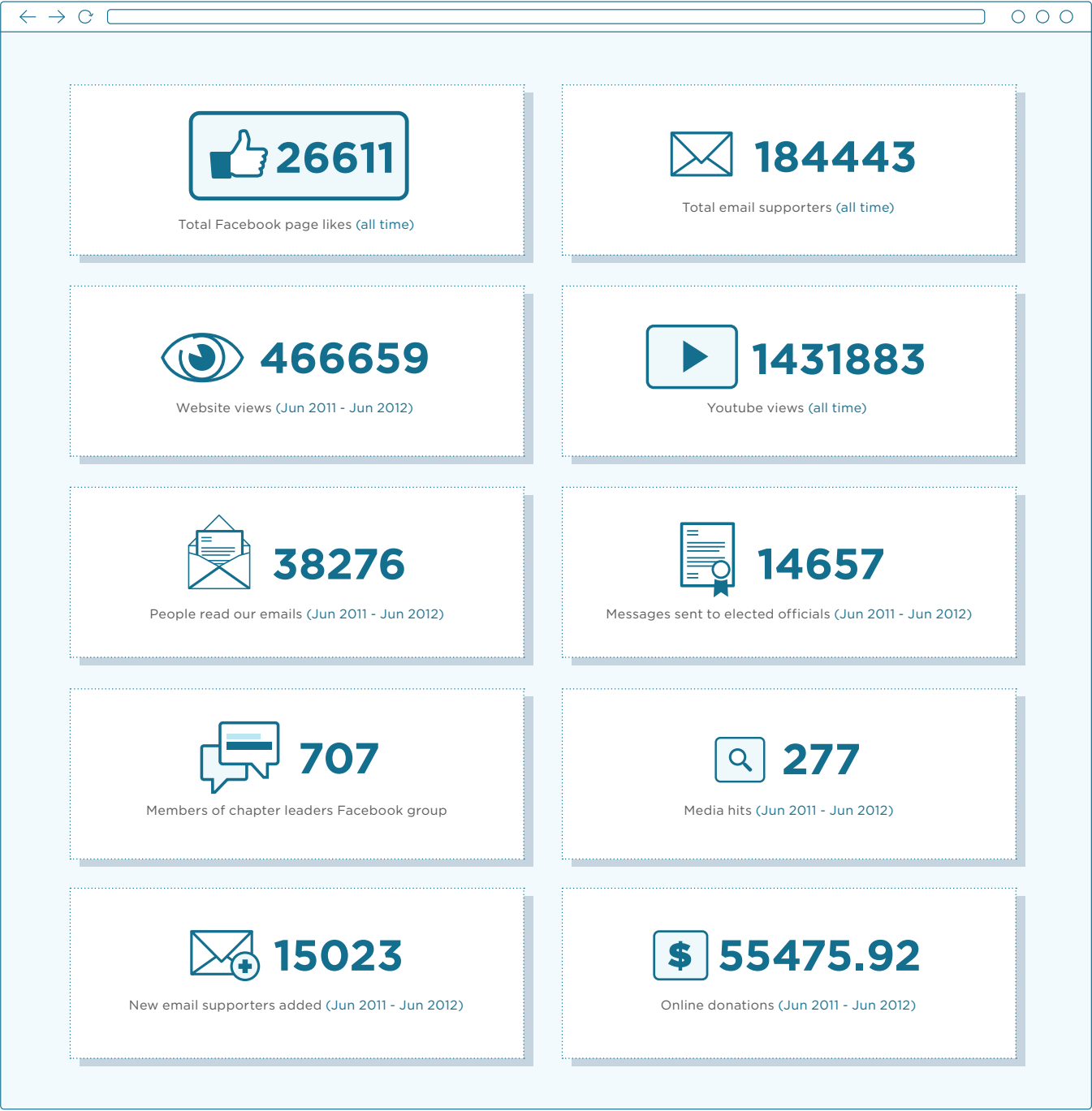


"At the end of the day, our goal is to help save people's lives. I know friends who really should have gotten medical attention but because they were worried about punishment, they didn't seek it out," Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein, CC '12 and a member of SSDP, said. "This makes clear that you won't face any sort of punishment for seeking medical attention."

"GOOD SAMARITAN RULE NOW OFFICIAL POLICY", *Columbia Spectator*, September 8, 2011

ONLINE PRESENCE

Improving quality, not just quantity. Through partnerships with trusted organizations and aggressive social media outreach efforts, we have more than doubled the number of alert subscribers in our database since 2010 (from 62,000 to 129,000) and we have vastly improved the quality of our data as well.



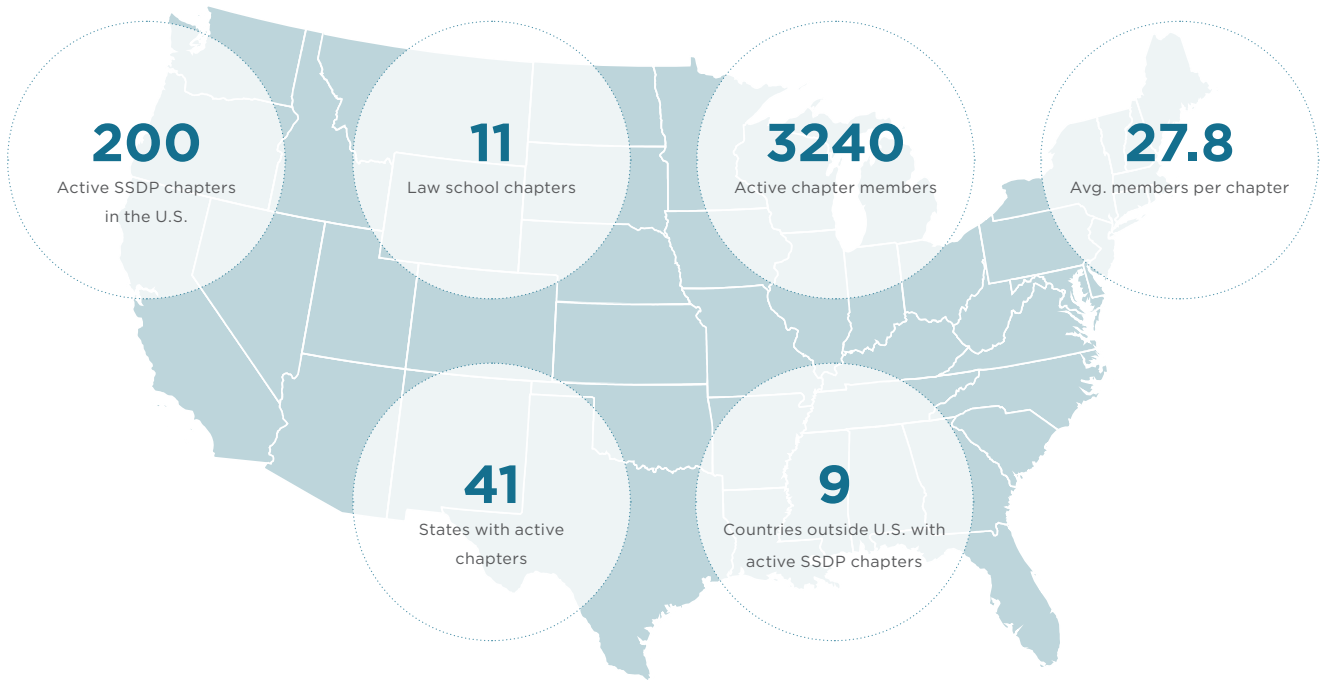


SSDP2012: 13TH ANNUAL STUDENTS FOR
SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY CONFERENCE

DENVER, COLORADO | MARCH 23-25, 2012

CHAPTER NETWORK

We have a much better sense of the quality and quantity of our chapters than we ever had before. In the past two years, in order to ensure consistency and quality across our more than 200 chapters, staff members have developed a four-part test to raise the bar for SSDP chapters. One notable part of that criteria is that each chapter is required to send SSDP’s headquarters a roster listing all active chapter members. We also look at the extent to which a chapter holds regular meetings, whether they are officially recognized by their school, and how frequently they host drug policy forums and leadership development trainings for chapter members.



U.S. CHAPTERS

American University	Chandler-Gilbert Community College	E.O. Smith High School	George Mason University
Appalachian State University	Chemeketa Community College	East Tennessee State University	George Washington University Law School
Arkansas State University	Chico State University	Eastern Illinois University	Georgetown University Law Center
Auburn University	Christopher Newport University	Eastern Michigan University	Georgia State University
Augusta State University	Clark State Community College	Eckerd College	Golden Gate University
Barrington High School	Clark University	Edmonds Community College	Grace College
Boston University	Colgate University	Emerson College	Harvard College
Bridgewater State University	College of Charleston	Fayetteville High School	Harvard Law School
Brooklyn Law School	College of the Sequoias	Florida Atlantic University	Henry W. Grady High School
Brown University	Columbia University	Florida International University	Highland Park High School
Butte Community College	Creighton University	Florida State College Jacksonville	Hiram College
Caddo Magnet High School	CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Florida State University	Illinois Central College
California State University - Fullerton	DePauw University	Fort Lewis College	Illinois Wesleyan University
Catholic University of America	Dickinson College	Francis W. Parker High School	Iowa City West High School
Central Michigan University	Duke University	Franklin and Marshall College	Itasca Community Collage
Central Washington University	Duke University Law School	Franklin Pierce University	Ithaca College

U.S. CHAPTERS (CONT.)

James M. Coughlin High School	Roosevelt University
JFK University	Rowan University
Kalamazoo College	Rutgers University - Camden
Kansas City Community College	Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Keene State College	Saint Charles Community College
Kellam High School	San Diego State University
Kennesaw State University	San Jose State University
Kent State University	Savannah Technical College
Lacey Township High School	Shippensburg University
Lawrence University	St. Cloud State University
Lewis and Clark Law School	Stephen F. Austin State University
Lewis and Clark University	SUNY Adirondack
Linn State Technical College	SUNY Binghamton
Los Angeles City College	SUNY New Paltz
Macon State College	University of San Diego School of Law
Madison Area Technical College	Temple University
Manchester University	The University of Notre Dame
Massachusetts College of Art	Truman University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Tufts University
Metropolitan State College of Denver	Tulane University
Miami University	Tunxis Community College
Michigan State University	University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa
Muskingum University	University of Arkansas
New York University	University of California - Berkeley
North Carolina State	University of California - Hastings Law School
North East High School	University of California - Irvine
Northeastern University	University of California - Merced
Northeastern University Law School	University of California - San Diego
Northern Illinois University	University of California - Santa Cruz
Northern Virginia Community College - Alexandria Campus	University of Cincinnati
Northern Virginia Community College - Woodbridge Campus	University of Colorado - Boulder
Northwest Michigan College	University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
Northwestern Arkansas Community College	University of Colorado - Denver
Northwestern University	University of Colorado - Law
Ohio State University	University of Connecticut
Old Dominion University	University of Dayton
Oregon State University	University of Denver Law School
Piedmont Virginia Community College	University of Hartford
Portland State University	University of Houston
Radford University	University of Idaho
Red Rocks Community College	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Rice University	University of Maine - Farmington
Richland Community College	University of Mary Washington
Robert E. Lee High School	University of Maryland
	University of Maryland - Baltimore County

INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

Birkbeck College - London, England
Carleton University - Canada
College of Law Bloomsbury - London, England
Kings College - London, England
London Metropolitan University - London, England
Queens University - Canada
Simon Fraser University - Canada
Thunder Bay Region - Canada
Toronto Region - Canada
Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de Mexico - Mexico City, Mexico
Universidad Autónoma de México Xochimilco - Mexico City, Mexico
Universidad de Costa Rica - San Jose, Costa Rica
University College of Cork - Cork, Ireland
University of East London - London, England
University of Calgary - Canada
University of Cambridge - England
University of Kent at Canterbury - England
University of Leeds - England
University of Lethbridge - Canada
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - Mexico City, Mexico
Universidad Nacional - Bogota, Colombia
University of Newcastle - England
University of Ontario - Canada
University of Western Ontario - Canada
University of Regina - Canada
University of the West Indies - Mona, Jamaica
University of Winneba - Accra, Ghana
Vancouver Region - Canada
Victoria University - Melbourne, Australia
Whitehorse - Canada
York University - Canada

EVENTS

SSDP2012: 13TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY CONFERENCE

DENVER, COLORADO | MARCH 23 - 25, 2012

More than 400 students, alumni, and supporters were in attendance at SSDP2012 this year.

New student board members were elected during SSDP Congress, where students also offered and debated resolutions regarding the priorities and direction of the organization.

We also collected dozens of video and photo testimonials through our “Story Booth” where participants told stories about why they’re fighting against the war on drugs.

Keynote speakers included Ethan Nadelmann, Rick Doblin, Kris Krane, Adam Smith, and Steve DeAngelo. The conference program included more than two dozen breakout sessions on a variety of topics, from “Finding the Leader Within You” to “Cannabusiness: From Activist to Entrepreneur”. View the entire program online at: conference.ssdp.org.



MIDWEST REGIONAL SSDP CONFERENCE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS | DECEMBER 2-3, 2011

The conference kicked off with “The Collateral Consequences of the War on Drugs”, where representatives from the National Center of Poverty Law, Green Legal Aid, and The Safer Foundation shared their first-hand expertise about lives impacted by the drug war. Later, “Marijuana in the Mid West Context” provided an interesting discussion about the intersection of religious communities and drug policy, led by Walter Boyd, Director of Protestants for the Common Good. Experts from the AIDS Foundation and The Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy presented on “The Importance of 911 Amnesty” where students learned how to hone their arguments to be successful advocates for Call 911 Good Samaritan policies. The distribution of drug law enforcement across racial lines was the topic of discussion during “The War on Drugs, and Growing Racial Disparities,” led by representatives from the Chicago Reader and Target Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC). Finally, our own Devon Tackels led “SSDP 101,” going over the basics of starting and running a successful SSDP chapter.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL SSDP CONFERENCE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS | SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2011

The 2011 Northeast Regional Conference was held at Boston University and over 80 students attended a weekend filled with informative speakers and engaging training and discussions. Students from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and 5 different schools from the Boston area were in attendance.

The conference kicked off with an inspirational talk by Jack Cole, founder and former Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). Next, students participated in two intensive training workshops: one on campus-based policy change led by SSDP staff and another on state-based policy change by Matt Simon Former Executive Director New Hampshire Coalition for Common Sense Marijuana Policy.

Rick Doblin, Executive Director of the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) closed out the day. Doblin unveiled a work in progress that will help educate students on how to help each other in the event of a difficult psychedelic experience without causing the individual to panic. The students in attendance were really impressed with the level of professionalism in Rick’s work and many said this was their first exposure to such a field of study. The conference wrapped up on Sunday with the “Cannabis Curriculum” session led by John Dvorak, which outlined the various ways students, can intertwine their activism and their studies.

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL SSDP CONFERENCE

WOODBIDGE, VIRGINIA | OCTOBER 21-22, 2011

More than 50 students from all over the Mid-Atlantic region convened at the Northern Virginia Community College for the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Regional SSDP Conference. Chapter members traveled from Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and even as far away as Georgia to learn about advocacy from some of the most accomplished names in the movement.

On Friday, attendees participated in an intimate (albeit indoor) “fireside chat” with SSDP Executive Director Aaron Houston. On Saturday, the program was kicked off with “Achieving Reform”, led by Jasmine Tyler, Deputy Director of National Affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance, and Eric Sterling, Founder and President of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation. Next, a panel entitled “Sister to Sister/Women in the Movement,” -- led by Sabrina Fendrick, NORML Women’s Alliance Coordinator, and Brooke Napier, SSDP alumna and former SSDP intern -- educated students about the NORML Women’s Alliance Sister to Sister program, how women can be effective role models, and how to empower women with the connections and confidence to bring them into the drug policy reform movement. Keynote speaker and Candidate Delegate for Virginia’s 40th District, Dianne Blais closed out the day with a discussion on her stances on key issues like drug education, Good Samaritan Policies and how students can get involved with her campaign. Additional student-led workshops included: “Online Organizing”, “Coalition Building”, “Graduate Student Organizing”, “Effective Leadership/Achieving Campus Reform” and “Team Building Exercises”.



INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY REFORM CONFERENCE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | NOVEMBER 2-5, 2011

SSDP was a co-host of the bi-annual Reform Conference organized by the Drug Policy Alliance. Over 70 of our students were in attendance, several of them as speakers. SSDP’s annual Congress convened there to elect new student board members.

Aaron Houston was one of the featured plenary speakers and gave a passionate speech about having honest conversations about drugs and drug policy. Stacia Cosner spoke during the “No More Drug War” rally about the power of young people and their ability to make change.



FLORIDA REGIONAL SSDP CONFERENCE

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA | FEBRUARY 2-3, 2012

In February of 2012, dozens of students gathered at Florida State University for the first ever Florida Regional SSDP Conference. Sunday opened with an incredibly inspiring speech by Greg Newburn, Florida Policy Director of Families Against Mandatory Minimums. Later, the “Effective Leadership and Group Dynamics workshop,” led by chapter leaders from FSU and University of Miami engaged students in a discussion about what effective leadership is and how to harness the energy of chapter members. Students learned how to answer tough questions and how to hold their ground when up against opposing arguments during the “How to Answer Tough Questions about Drug Policy” workshop, led by two of our Florida chapter leaders. Later on, Jodi James, Executive Director of the Florida Cannabis Action Network, informed students about what’s happening in Florida drug policy reform and how SSDP can be a part of the effort. On Monday, conference attendees wrapped up the event with a trip to the Florida legislature, meeting with staffers for Senator Fasano and Senator Margolis to discuss their stances on medical marijuana and to provide them with important statistics and information to pass along to their colleagues.



AWARDS

- CAMPUS CHANGE AWARD
University of Connecticut
- DAVE BORDEN FRIEND OF SSDP
NORML Women's Alliance
- FUNDRAISING AWARD
NOVA Woodbridge
- GRACE UNDER FIRE AWARD
Graham de Barra,
University of Cork, Ireland
- MORGAN LESKO ONLINE ACTIVISM
Oregon SSDP
- OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACTIVIST
Stephen Duke, University of Arkansas
- OUTSTANDING ALUMNA
Shaleen Title, University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign.
- OUTSTANDING ALUMNA
Kathryn Parker, N.C. State
- OUTSTANDING CHAPTER
Northeastern University
- OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACTIVIST
Sabrina Koramblyum,
Florida Atlantic University
- RISING STAR - CHAPTER
University of Colorado Law
- RISING STAR - INDIVIDUAL
Sam Walker, Linn State
Technical College
- STUART ABELSON GOODWILL
Rick Doblin
- TRUTH TO POWER AWARD
Irina Alexander,
University of Maryland
- UNSUNG HERO AWARD
Edward Spriggs
- AMPLIFY OUR VOICE AWARD
Brian Gilbert and Brooke Napier
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Jonathan Perri

WHY DONATE?

Having founded the Brown University chapter of SSDP, I have witnessed first hand what a group of like minded people can contribute to the betterment of society with a little coordination and lots of hard work. I also saw that many people would contribute more if they had the resources to get to conferences and other events that cost money. SSDP for life!

Because the drug policy in this country needs to change and the upcoming generation of professionals need to make that happen.

My daughter is victim of the war on drugs. With one semester left to go in law school, she was arrested with less than an ounce of marijuana and two valium (first offense). She was charged as a felon, and is now unemployed, living in poverty, and severely depressed. I would like to thank you for all that you do to stop this madness, and dedicate my contribution to the crooked police of Live Oak Florida who have caused so much suffering for our family.

Because I have a non-violent, well educated son who did 8 years in prison on a drug charge. Our War on Drugs is criminal. I'm hoping your organization can do something to change the draconian laws.

SSDP and the national office saved my college career. Love you guys!

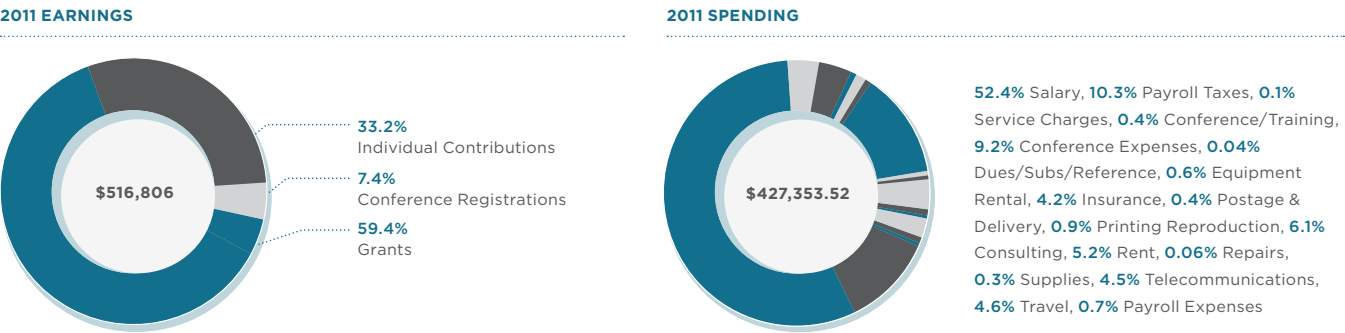
I admire the efforts of students to make a difference in the world around them, especially for a cause that is all too easily criticized by the average citizen.

The progress this and other organizations like this has directly benefited me and I wish to give back.

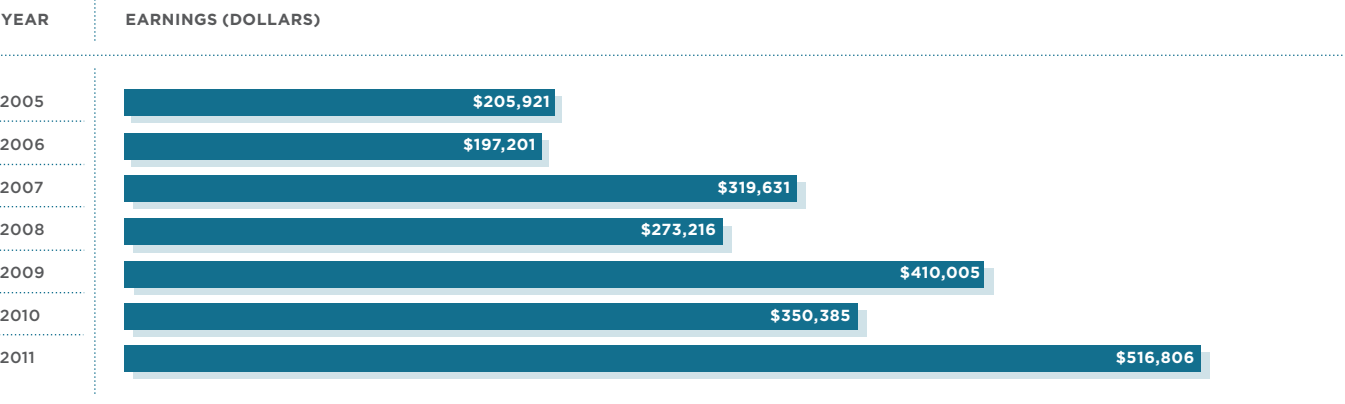
I believe that SSDP represents the truth as I have come to understand it about the drug war. When this truth is presented with the professionalism and earnest hope for a better future that SSDP delivers, it is undeniable. The truth with prevail, and the drug war will fall. I'm convinced of this, and I fully endorse this organization. Though other groups have similar interests and messages, I support SSDP most because it focuses on the prime sufferers of the drug war - students.

As a former college student who happened to have a minor drug offense when I was 16, I am shocked to consider that people in similar situations may now be disqualified from getting education because of such minor problems in their past.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



ANNUAL INCOME 2005 TO 2011



PARTNERS + ALLIES

Since we know that power ebbs and flows, SSDP concertedly builds relationships with groups and individuals from across the political spectrum. We work in some manner with approximately 25 other national organizations to leverage our coalition strength. We actively search for and seize opportunities to collaborate with other groups, particularly when a group represents a traditionally disenfranchised community.

Here is a partial listing of the groups with whom we allied or collaborated in the past year:

American Civil Liberties Union	Center for American Progress	Institute for Humane Studies	Open Society Foundations
American College of Emergency Physicians (delegates)	Center for Progressive Leadership	Law Enforcement Against Prohibition	Reason Magazine
Americans for Safe Access	Center for Strategic and International Studies	Liberty Coalition	SAFER (Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation)
Americans for Tax Reform	Cops Opposing Prohibition	Marijuana Policy Project	Sensible Colorado
California Medical Association (delegates)	Criminal Justice Policy Foundation	Moms for Marijuana	Students for Liberty
Campaign for America's Future	Drug Policy Alliance	Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies	The Constitution Project
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition	Families Against Mandatory Minimums	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	United Food and Commercial Workers
Caravan for Peace	Flex Your Rights	National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws	Vienna NGO Committee
CATO Institute	Innocence Project		YouthRISE

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

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