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To: Kevin L. Bryant KevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 12/12/2018 4:02:46 PM
Subject: The Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer Fund

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The Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer Fund

Dear Kevin,

Happy Holidays!

Hope you and yours are taking the time to enjoy this special season of celebration, reflection, and joy.

Over the past 6 and a half years the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) (NICD) has made huge strides in accomplishing our mission to combat incivility and political dysfunction. We have done this through our programs and our ability to facilitate and coordinate face to face interactions and listening for understanding within communities and between people that may not see eye to eye on certain issues.

- We have successfully expanded our academic [Research Network](#) to promote research on the quality of political discourse with the

- range of disciplines offered and political perspectives held. Our research network currently includes over 50 professors from across the country. In early 2019 Routledge Press will be publishing our book *A Crisis of Civility? Political Discourse and its Discontents*, which includes chapters from many members of our Research Network.
- [Next Generation](#), our program designed specifically for state legislatures, has held its "Building Trust through Civil Discourse" workshop in 18 states and has reached 2000 legislators. We are very excited that 5 more states will offer this workshop to their legislatures in 2019. Twice this summer, Next Generation offered its inaugural "Positive Campaigning" workshop in Columbus, Ohio. 9 out of 11 candidates who participated in this workshop and ran in 2018, won their seats. There is high demand for us to lead more workshops leading up to the 2020 election.
- Our initiative to [Revive Civility](#) has answered the need so many communities across the U.S. are experiencing - providing the skills to engage people to reach across divides, to listen for understanding, and find ways to work through everyday problems as Americans, not as "us vs. them". Since this initiative began in 2016 during the presidential election, NICD has now held community conversation events in over 36 states and counting.
- NICD partnered with New Vision Strategies to create "Divided We Fall", a television docu-series created to match the challenges Americans are now experiencing in our political and public discourse. We were inspired to prove on camera: despite profound divisions, Americans are hungry to bridge them. Americans want to talk with and listen to each other. Americans want the core of our democratic experiment - "We the People" to succeed. On the weekend of September 7, 2018 we tested our theory and our approach by bringing together twelve people from opposing views and backgrounds to see if they could create civil dialogue and mutual understanding. Next, we will film in Chicago over a weekend in January and will conclude filming in early February in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The next challenge facing NICD is taking our work to scale. Instead of reaching and impacting tens of thousands of people across the country, we want to reach hundreds of thousands of people. In order to achieve this aspirational and inspirational goal, we have created the Carolyn J.

Lukensmeyer Legacy Fund in recognition of Carolyn's extraordinary leadership. Donations made to this legacy fund will be dedicated solely to expanding our mission of reviving civility and respect in our public and political discourse. This year, especially, we would be grateful if you would choose to make a significant and impactful gift to this fund as part of your year-end giving.

We can do more together than we can do alone.

Together we can **Revive Civility,**
Our Democracy Depends On It

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