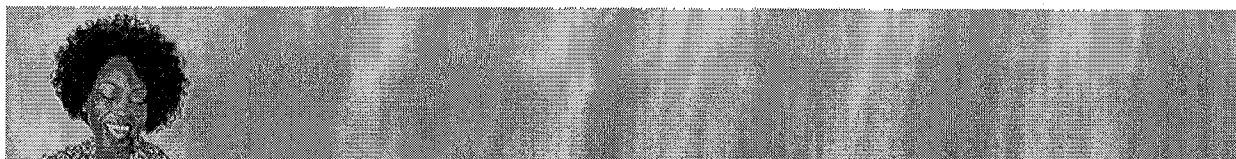




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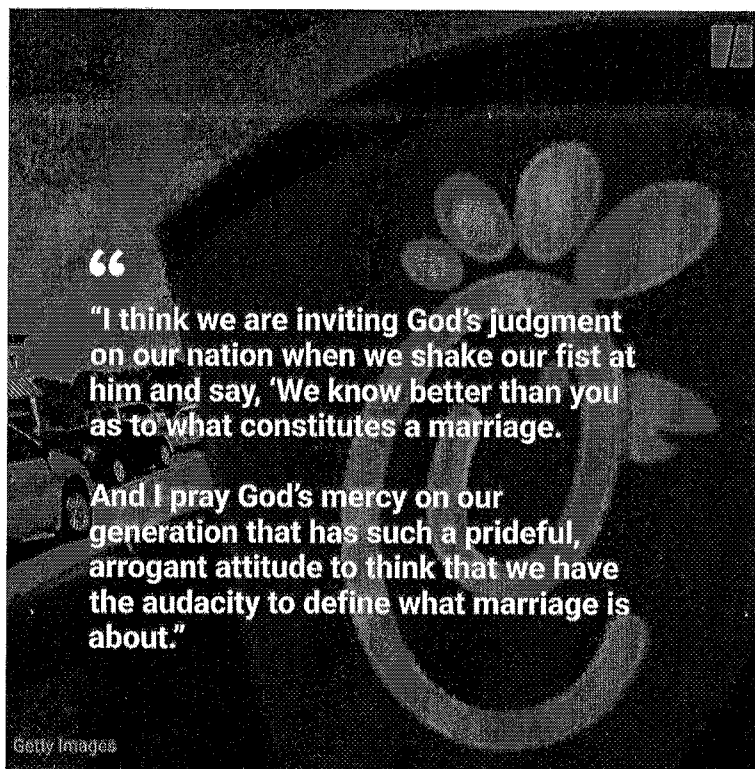
QUEER VOICES 03/21/2019 03:05 pm ET

Chick-fil-A Donated Millions To Anti-LGBTQ Charities In 2017, Records Show

The company claimed its anti-LGBTQ days are a thing of the past. Critics don't clucking believe it.



By Ryan Grenoble



Which came first: the chicken, or the anti-LGBTQ organizations the chicken donates millions to every year?



Chick-fil-A Donated Millions To Anti-LGBTQ Ch...

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Fast food chain Chick-fil-A continued to contribute millions of dollars to organizations with anti-LGBTQ agendas after it promised not to, newly released tax filings obtained by ThinkProgress show.

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The privately owned chain, long associated with anti-LGBTQ causes, publicly pledged not to “have a political or social agenda” after its billionaire CEO, Dan Cathy, stoked outrage and a boycott in 2012 publicly decrying gay marriage.

In 2017 (the most recent tax filing available), Chick-fil-A donated \$9.9 million to charity, of which roughly \$1.8 million went to three groups known to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

Of the three, Chick-fil-A gave the most, \$1.65 million, to an organization called the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Per Chick-fil-A's website, the cash funded “sports camps and school programs for inner-city youth.”

A laudable goal, for sure. Save for the fact the group requires camp leaders to sign a “statement of faith” prior to being admitted. The nine-point contract includes a “sexual purity statement” that prohibits “heterosexual sex outside of marriage” and “any homosexual act.” A second bullet on the contract states that “marriage is exclusively the union of one man and one woman.”

Chick-fil-A notes that camp participants — unlike camp leaders — aren't required to sign the pledge. But that's hardly an argument for giving \$1.65 million to the group, which harbors and preaches anti-gay sentiment.



Chick-fil-A Donated Millions To Anti-LGBTQ Ch...

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PAUL J. RICHARDS VIA GETTY IMAGES

A Chick-fil-A restaurant is seen in Chantilly, Virginia on January 2, 2015.

The company also donated \$150,000 to the Salvation Army, a charity that has drawn increased scrutiny for its long history of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric.

In 2012, a Salvation Army media relations director in Australia told a group of queer journalists that gay people deserve death. (The charity hastily backpedaled from the statement.) And in 2017, the same year as Chick-fil-A's donation, the New York City Commission on Human Rights charged the Salvation Army with discriminating against transgender patients at four of its substance abuse centers.

A third charity with anti-LGBTQ policies that received funds from Chick-fil-A has since been cut off, the company told HuffPost. Tax filings show a \$6,000 donation in 2017 to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, a Georgia-based "Christian residential home for troubled youth" that teaches boys that same-sex marriage is a "rage against Jesus Christ and His values," according to ThinkProgress.

In an emailed statement, Chick-fil-A said its foundation ceased donating to the youth home after determining it "does not meet Chick-fil-A's commitment to creating a welcoming environment to all."

Chick-fil-A pushed back on reports its donations continue to advance anti-LGBTQ policies in a separate statement to HuffPost, claiming the "sole focus" of the company's charity is "to support causes focused on youth and education."



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to support a political or non-inclusive agenda is inaccurate and misleading. To view Chick-fil-A's full stewardship report, please [click here](#)."

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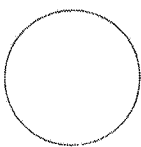
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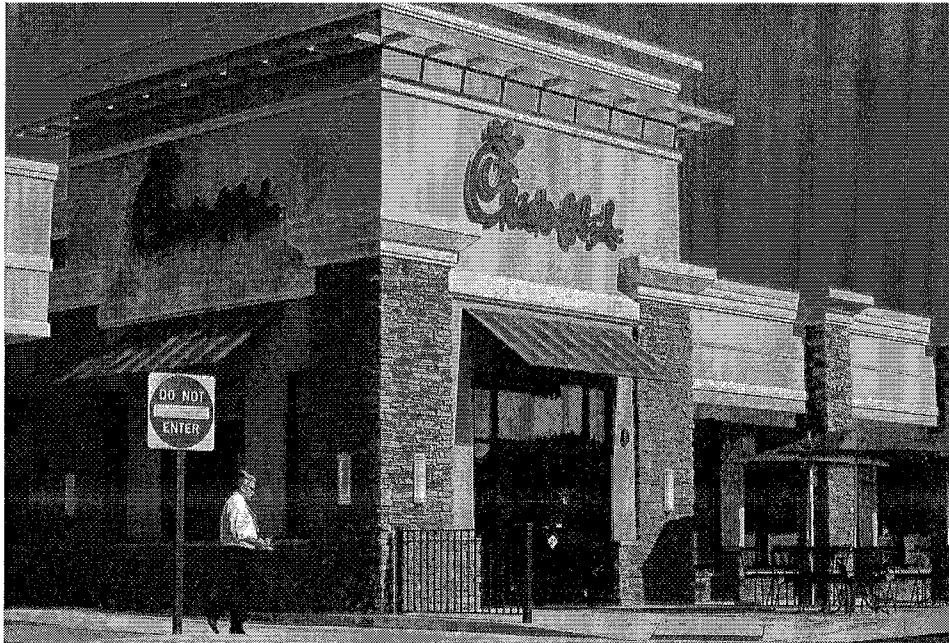




Chick-fil-A's charitable foundation kept donating to anti-LGBTQ groups

In 2012, the company claimed it would "leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government."

By Gaby Del Valle | @gabydvj | gaby.delvalle@voxmedia.com | Updated Mar 22, 2019, 1:01pm EDT



The Chick-fil-A Foundation donated more than \$1.8 million to three groups with a history of anti-LGBTQ discrimination in 2017. | Alex Wong/Getty Images



Chick-fil-A, the Georgia-based fast-food chain known for its juicy chicken sandwiches — and for its executives' **conservative strain of Christianity** — has continued donating to anti-LGBTQ charities through its foundation despite claiming it had no political affiliation, **ThinkProgress** reports.

The Chick-fil-A Foundation donated more than \$1.8 million to three groups with a history of anti-LGBTQ discrimination in 2017, according to recently released tax filings analyzed by

ThinkProgress. That year, Chick-fil-A's charitable arm gave \$1,653,416 to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a religious organization that requires its employees to refrain from "homosexual acts"; \$150,000 to the Salvation Army, which **has been accused of anti-LGBTQ discrimination and advocacy for years** and whose media relations director **once claimed** gay people "deserve death"; and \$6,000 to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, a Christian residential home that teaches young boys that same-sex marriage is a "rage against Jesus Christ and His values."

These donations were made five years after Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy said the US was "inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and we say we know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage." Cathy's comments prompted a nationwide boycott — as well as a counter-boycott, called "**Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day**," created by then-Fox News host Mike Huckabee — and an eventual apology from the company, which claimed it would "leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and the political arena."

People weren't just upset about Cathy's comments; they were angry that the WinShape Foundation, a charitable organization founded in 1984 by Truett Cathy, Cathy's father and the founder of Chick-fil-A, donated money to a number of anti-gay charities like the Marriage & Family Foundation, the Georgia Family Council, and Exodus International, a group that promotes **conversion therapy**.

In response to the inevitable PR crisis caused by Cathy's comments, the fast-food chain even promised to stop donating to anti-gay organizations, the Chicago-based advocacy group Civil Rights Agenda **claimed**.

But as ThinkProgress's report shows, the company kept donating to anti-LGBTQ causes and charities. This news may not be surprising to those who are familiar with Chick-fil-A's contentious history with the LGBTQ community.

In 2012, after the Civil Rights Agenda claimed Chick-fil-A had said it would no longer give money to anti-gay causes, the company declined to confirm whether that was true. "We have no agenda, policy, or position against anyone," a spokesperson told **BuzzFeed** at the time. "We have a 65-year history of providing hospitality for all people and, as a dedicated family business, serving and valuing everyone regardless of their beliefs or opinions." Not present in that statement was any clarification on whether Chick-fil-A would keep donating to anti-gay causes.

Still, the about-face seems to have worked. Chick-fil-A is on track to become **the third-largest fast-food brand** in the United States. In 2018, the International Development Council asked Cathy to give a keynote speech at a conference focused on “equality,” according to the ThinkProgress report. At the time, the council’s president, Jeff Finkle, told ThinkProgress that Chick-fil-A was no longer donating to anti-gay causes. “They said, after this year, there’s only gonna be one group left that some people in the LGBTQ community will object to — that’s the Salvation Army,” Finkle reportedly said, referring to the company’s 2016 donations. “They told us from now forward they are ceasing all other contributions that have been deemed offensive.”

In a statement to ThinkProgress, Chick-fil-A claimed the 2017 donations were used to fund sports camps and children’s programs, not to further an anti-gay agenda. “[S]ince the Chick-fil-A Foundation was created in 2012, our giving has always focused on youth and education,” the company said. “We have never donated with the purpose of supporting a social or political agenda. There are 140,000 people — black, white; gay, straight; Christian, non-Christian — who represent Chick-fil-A. We are the sum of many experiences, but what we all have in common is a commitment to providing great food, genuine hospitality, and a welcoming environment to all of our guests.”

This latest news has reignited opposition to Chick-fil-A. On Thursday, the San Antonio City Council voted to remove a planned Chick-fil-A location from an airport concession agreement, **ThinkProgress** reported. The location would have operated for seven years at the San Antonio International Airport as part of the airport’s contract with the travel retail company Paradies Lagardère. Roberto Treviño, the city council member who advocated for Chick-fil-A’s removal from the plan, cited the company’s anti-LGBTQ donations as the reason for his disapproval.

A Chick-fil-A spokesperson told Vox that the “sole focus of our donations was to support causes focused on youth and education. We are proud of the positive impact we are making in communities across America and have been transparent about our giving on our website. To suggest our giving was done to support a political or non-inclusive agenda is inaccurate and misleading.”

But the problem Chick-fil-A’s critics have isn’t what those organizations do with that money — it’s the values those groups promote, as well as the fact that Chick-fil-A continued to donate to anti-gay groups despite claiming it would remain apolitical.

Chick-fil-A donated to anti-LGBTQ group that bars employees from 'homosexual acts'

The group gave \$1.8 million to discriminatory groups in 2017, despite reportedly claiming it was winding down that practice last year.

JOSH ISRAEL

MAR 20, 2019, 8:00 AM



THE CHICK-FIL-A LOGO IS ON DISPLAY DURING THE PEACH BOWL, IN DECEMBER 2018. CREDIT: BY
MICHAEL WADE/ICON SPORTSWIRE VIA GETTY IMAGES

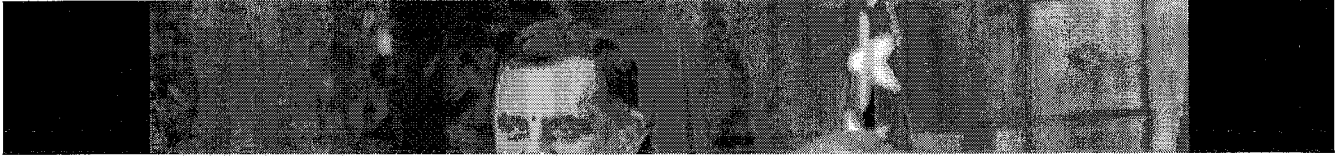
Chick-fil-A has taken great pains to downplay its anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and giving, seven years into a national boycott by LGBTQ and allied diners. But contrary to the company's latest claims that it has no political or social agenda, newly released tax filings show that, in 2017, the Chick-fil-A Foundation gave more than \$1.8 million to a trio of groups with a record of anti-LGBTQ discrimination.

The donations — \$1,653,416 to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, \$6,000 to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, and \$150,000 to the Salvation Army — actually represent a slight increase from the previous year. The foundation's funding comes almost entirely from the corporate treasury and shares leadership with the company.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a religious organization that seeks to spread an anti-LGBTQ message to college athletes and requires a strict "sexual purity" policy for its employees that bars any "homosexual acts." Paul Anderson Youth Home, a "Christian residential home for trouble youth," teaches boys that homosexuality is wrong and that same-sex marriage is "rage against Jesus Christ and His values."

The Salvation Army has a long record of opposing legal protections for LGBTQ Americans and at the time of the donations had a written policy of merely complying with local "relevant employment laws." The organization's website has since changed to indicate a national policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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Rubio's 'personal view' defense of Chick-fil-A is bogus. Here are the receipts.

Chick-fil-A is one of a dwindling number of companies that still refuses to include explicit protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in its employment non-discrimination policy and received a zero from the Human Rights Campaign in its annual buyers guide. Back in 2012, Chick-fil-A's CEO Dan Cathy opined that America is "inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and say we know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage."

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When pressed about the company's anti-gay positions, he responded "Well, guilty as charged." A national boycott ensued, as well as a counter-protest "appreciation day" led by then-Fox News host and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R).

In the wake of the bad publicity, the company posted a Facebook statement that it would focus on making chicken and "leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena." Cathy wooed a prominent LGBTQ activist in 2013 and spun him into believing the company was scaling back its anti-equality giving.

It did not do so. Last summer, ThinkProgress reported that Cathy had been selected to give a keynote speech at an "equality" conference being held by the International Economic Development Council. The council's president, Jeff Finkle, told ThinkProgress in a phone interview at the time that Chick-fil-A had made similar claims of reform.

"I think if you look at where their donations were in 2010, 2011, and 2012 — and where they are in 2018 and in the future — I think you'll see a company that is changing," Finkle said.

Asked about the anti-LGBTQ donations in 2016, he added, "They said, after this year, there's only gonna be one group left that some people in the LGBTQ community will object to — that's the Salvation Army. They told us from now forward they are ceasing all the other contributions that have been deemed offensive." (Cathy's name was removed from the event website prior to the September conference.)

The 2017 numbers show — at least for that year — that did not change.

Reached for comment on Tuesday, Chick-fil-A, Inc. said the company had made a decision in 2017 to no longer donate to the Paul Anderson Youth Home moving forward. "In 2017, a decision was made by the Chick-fil-A Foundation to no longer donate to the

group after a blog post from 2010 surfaced that does not meet Chick-fil-A's commitment to creating a welcoming environment to all," the company told ThinkProgress.

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However the company has not ended its contributions to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes or Salvation Army. It explained that its donations to those groups had been used to support summer sports camps and various children's programs, respectively.

"[S]ince the Chick-fil-A Foundation was created in 2012, our giving has always focused on youth and education," the company said. "We have never donated with the purpose of supporting a social or political agenda. There are 140,000 people — black, white; gay, straight; Christian, non-Christian — who represent Chick-fil-A. We are the sum of many experiences, but what we all have in common is a commitment to providing great food, genuine hospitality, and a welcoming environment to all of our guests."

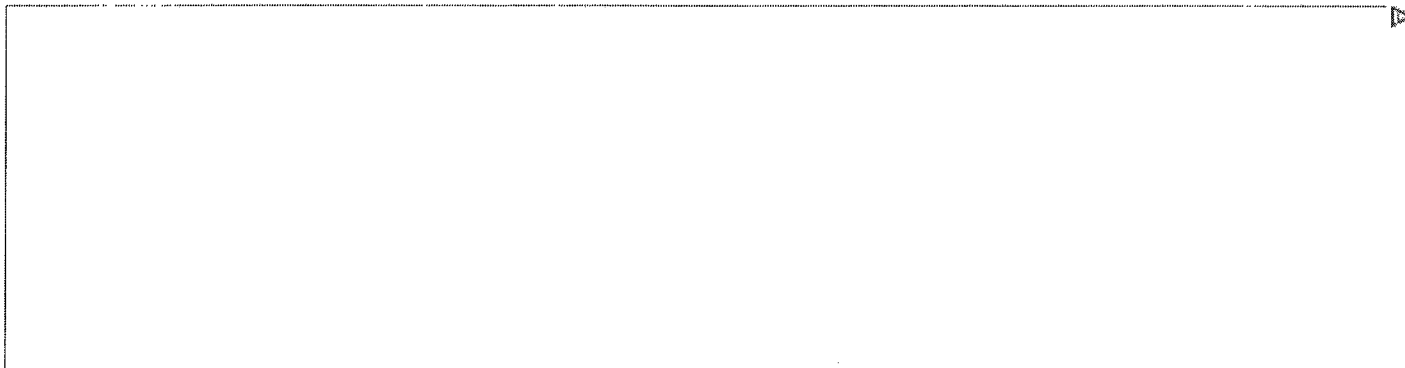
Chick-fil-A's practices made headlines again in recent weeks, after Rider University in New Jersey declined to consider putting a location on campus, in light of the company's record. The company similarly told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in December, "We have no policy of discrimination against any group, and we do not have a political or social agenda."

The then-dean of Rider's College of Business Administration, a self-described "committed follower of Jesus Christ," announced earlier this month that she had resigned over the decision and felt like she had "been punched in the stomach" when the school would not apologize for criticizing Chick-fil-A's "corporate values," which she said were "exactly" like her own.



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U.S. NEWS 05/19/2019 05:23 pm ET

Chick-fil-A Executive Calls Supporting Anti-LGBTQ Organizations A 'Higher Calling'

The fast-food company has continued to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to anti-LGBTQ groups despite backlash.



By Sanjana Karanth

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Chick-fil-A Executive Calls Supporting Anti-LGBTQ Organizatio...

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Rodney Bullard, leader of the Chick-fil-A Foundation, defended the group's donations in an interview published Wednesday in Business Insider, saying they were "relevant and impactful to the community."

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"The calling for us is to ensure that we are relevant and impactful in the community, and that we're helping children and that we're helping them to be everything that they can be," said Bullard, the company's vice president of corporate social responsibility and the executive director of the company's charitable foundation. "For us, that's a much higher calling than any political or cultural war that's being waged. This is really about an authentic problem that is on the ground, that is present and ever present in the lives of many children who can't help themselves."

Bullard told Business Insider that Chick-fil-A is focused on serving low-income and underprivileged children, ignoring the fact that LGBTQ youth are often disproportionately harmed by issues like homelessness, mental illness and poor education.

The company, which is headquartered in Georgia, has long drawn criticism over its donations to anti-LGBTQ organizations. Tax documents obtained in March by ThinkProgress found that the company donated about \$1.8 million in 2017 to groups known to discriminate against the queer community, including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, The Salvation Army and the Paul Anderson Youth Home. Chick-fil-A said it has since stopped donating to the latter organization after learning of its strict policy against same-sex marriage.

Chick-fil-A has also gained heat for not including employee protections for discrimination stemming from sexual orientation and gender identity, according to ThinkProgress. The company also consistently scores a zero in the Human Rights Campaign's annual buyers guide.

The company prompted outrage in the LGBTQ community after billionaire CEO Dan Cathy publicly denounced same-sex marriage in 2012. Chick-fil-A since pledged not to have a political agenda, though its tax filings show differently.

In the months since the filings' release, two airports have banned Chick-fil-A from opening on their premises. San Jose, California, said it would allow a location at its airport if the company encourages hiring LGBTQ employees and if LGBTQ flags are hoisted at the airport to counter queer discrimination.

Some people on Twitter reacted to the Chick-fil-A Foundation's dismissal of criticism over its donations to anti-LGBTQ organizations:



christine teigen
@chrissyteigen



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