

A Nation of Flourishing Places

Human Formation, Local Flourishing, for a Civilizational Moment



America's communities are losing their young people, and our young people are losing their communities. Christian Halls has spent five years proving the educational alternative — formation in and for a student's own place. This brief is the short version of a national plan, in four movements: the problem, the model Christian Halls has proven, the ecosystem rising around it, and the ways to engage.

CURRENTLY · 150+ AMERICAN HALLS · 3,000 STUDENTS · 12 ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

OUR TARGET · 3,500+ AMERICAN HALL SITES · 100,000 STUDENTS · A TRANSFORMED AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

THE PROBLEM

The problem is a machine — it forms our best people to leave.

The dominant American education model, designed for the Industrial Revolution, works like an extraction tool: it identifies each community's most promising young people, relocates them for their most formative years, and routes them toward a handful of distant markets. The graduate receives a credential, financial debt, and the promise of an honorable future. His hometown gets a farewell dinner and a billboard at the town entrance.

62% of college graduates leave their home state U.S. Census Bureau · ACS / NCES	\$1.77T total U.S. student loan debt — \$37K per borrower Federal Reserve Bank of New York	53% of rural counties have lost population since 2010 USDA ERS · 2020 U.S. Census
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But the myth of extraction is new — and the counter-story is older than America. For most of Western history, civilization was carried by durable places: the parish, the township, the guild, the college — self-governing communities built and kept by people formed in and for them. America's first two hundred fifty years were built from exactly such places. If the next two hundred fifty are to be built at all, they will be built the same way: by turning formation back toward place.

Staying with intention is one of the most ambitious things a young person can do. We can train you for this story.

The answer is not a reformed machine. It is an older model, rebuilt for this century — and it is already working in more than one hundred fifty American places. That model is the next page of this brief.

THE CHI SOLUTION

What we are building: the Christian Hall.

Christian Halls (CHI) is a national education nonprofit that builds, certifies, and sustains locally-governed Halls — tutorial communities where students earn accredited, affordable, debt-free degrees from partner universities while being formed, face to face, in their own hometowns. The university holds the degrees and credentials; the community and its Hall hold formation and flourishing; Christian Halls holds the standard, the story, and the partnerships.

THE UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Holds the degrees

Accredited universities hold the curriculum, professors, academic standards, and degree-granting authority — full rigor, every method of study.

THE LOCAL HALL

Holds the formation

A self-governing community of tutors and mentors from that place — face to face, daily. The student lives at home, works locally, graduates debt-free.

CHRISTIAN HALLS

Holds the standard

The backbone: the standard, the story, and the partnerships — the architecture that has carried Oxford and Cambridge for eight centuries, replanted in American hometowns.

\$100–450 per credit hour, dual credit through graduate · students graduate debt-free · revenue splits 50 / 25 / 25 across university, Hall, and backbone

Five years in, this is a proven, scaling model.

150+

operating Halls, locally founded and governed

Hundreds more applications in process

3,000

students in the system today

Dual credit through graduate degrees

12

accredited institutions delivering degrees via the Halls

Backbone self-sustaining in 2029

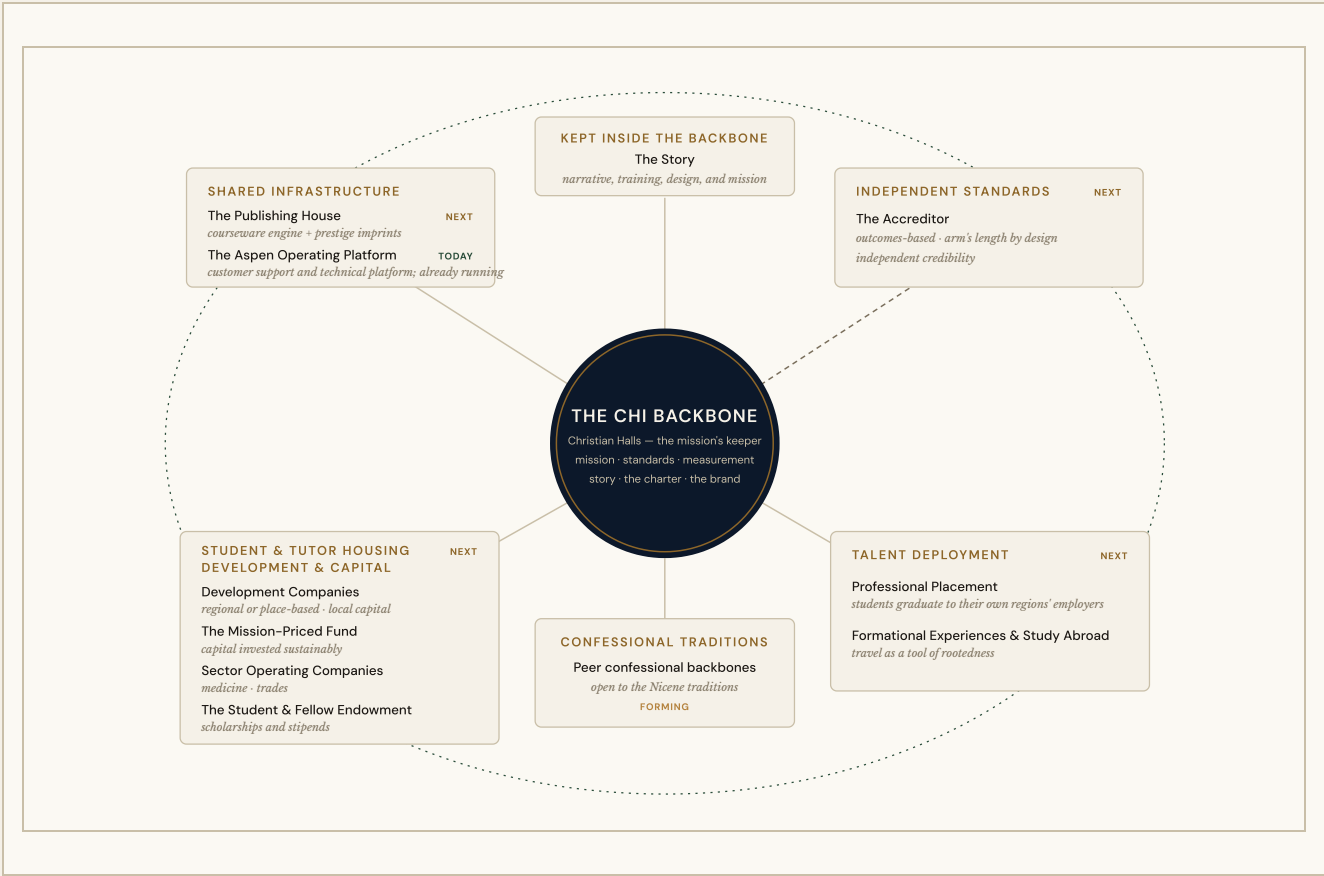
UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Houston Christian · Southeastern · West Texas A&M · Indiana Wesleyan · Colorado Christian · William Jessup · Simpson · Gordon-Conwell · Grace School of Theology · Union School of Theology · Dallas International · Donnelly College

THE ROAD AHEAD

A network of Halls, alone, cannot hold this weight.

A person cannot live purely inside a conviction — he lives inside an economy, a housing market, a set of institutions, and a story. At scale, the mission requires a full set of specialized institutions, built by people who understand their craft: academic publishing, outcomes-based accreditation, housing and place development, mission-priced capital, professional placement, and more. CHI's Halls come first; these institutions rise around them as the work scales. Nothing is owned from the center; everything is aligned to mission — by charter and by the licensed CHI brand. Together they form one interoperable ecosystem:



CHI's Halls come first; every institution above exists to serve them. The ways to engage — as funder, builder, or public leader — are the final page of this brief.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Three doors into this future.

THE PRIMARY ASK

FUND IT

DONORS & FOUNDATIONS

\$5M

Expansion capital for the backbone organization — a lean, time-limited fund bridging to earned self-sustainability in 2029, before philanthropy shifts to regional seeds and scholarships.

INVEST & BUILD IT

FOUNDERS & INVESTORS

The support institutions need their founders: an academic publisher, a housing pilot's designer-developer, fund leadership. Take on the CHI charter and build.

ENABLE IT

PUBLIC LEADERS

Outcomes-based accreditation categories, state authorization that stops penalizing in-person community, and apprenticeship pathways into the professions.

GO DEEPER

Two companion documents carry the full argument — ask us for either, or for a conversation.

10 MINUTES · VISUAL

The Briefing Deck

Nine parts, one argument — the extraction problem, the counter-story, the model made clear, the proof, the ecosystem, and the three doors. Built to be read on a screen or presented in a room.

Ask for: the Christian Halls Briefing

THE FULL ARCHITECTURE · ~55 PAGES

The Vision & Strategy Paper

The complete case: the formational model, every ecosystem institution with its founding brief, the governance that holds it together without central ownership, the campaign phases, and the questions we expect — answered directly.

Ask for: A Nation of Flourishing Places

Well-Formed People. Healthy Places. National Renewal.

Every generation builds institutions to match their needs. *This is our moment of need.*

We can build a better nation, in which a town or county raises, forms, and keeps its own people, and hands its grandchildren a place worth inheriting. If you want to participate in this future, the next step is a conversation.

Dr. Nicholas Ellis, DPhil

nick@christianhalls.org

christianhalls.org