

# FOUNDATION FORWARD, INC.

A 501(c)(3)

**Foundation Forward is an Education project** that provides Access to Your Charters of Freedom by building monuments displaying The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and The Bill of Rights in your Community. These monuments are placed in prominent outdoor locations central to the community, where there is high visibility, high foot traffic, and easy access for school children. These monuments are similar to the display of the original founding documents in the Rotunda of The National Archives in Washington, DC.

**Your Charters of Freedom monuments are a gift** from Foundation Forward to your local citizens for the benefit of the local education system, for those in school and the continuing education of others. School classes and community service groups will be encouraged to take field trips to the monuments to see and learn about these documents, our founding fathers, State and Local government, State and Local History, and local heroes. Education materials and programs will be provided by Foundation Forward on an on-going basis.

Foundation Forward set its first Charters of Freedom Monument on the Old Burke County Courthouse Green in Downtown Morganton, North Carolina. The project began on May 3, 2012 and was dedicated July 2, 2014.

Downtown Murphy, North Carolina in Cherokee County was the setting for the second Charters of Freedom Monument; dedicated Constitution Day, September 17, 2014.

Since then, three more monuments have been set in Asheville, NC, Jacksonville, Illinois, and Kokomo, Indiana.

**At each of these five sites the monuments displayed your three founding documents:**

**The Declaration of Independence on the left.**

**The United States Constitution in the center.**

**The Bill of Rights on the right.**

The six documents are the size of the originals on 1/4" etched bronze. Each document weighs over 60 lbs. and is protected by 3/4" laminated glass panel. The structure is made of either 4" polished granite panels, or 4" limestone on a reinforced concrete foundation and core. In the back of the center display is a vault with a time capsule containing letters for local officials, community leaders, organizations, and veterans. All time capsules will be opened Constitution Day, September 17, 2087.

**The monuments are built to last 300 – 500 years.**



# **STEPS TO BUILDING YOUR CHARTERS OF FREEDOM MONUMENT**

## **Phase One – Introduction:**

- We will contact your County Manager or County Administrator and request their assistance and advice in initiating and introducing the project to the County.
- We will contact your County Sheriff or lead law enforcement officer. The person holding this office has a great deal of respect for the United States Constitution and will most likely be an ardent supporter of the project.
- We will contact your Superintendent of Schools. This is an educational project and the local School Superintendent will facilitate building community support for the project from an educational perspective.

## **Phase Two – Initial Presentations and Planning:**

- We will work directly with your County Manager or County Administrator to add the presentation to the public meeting agenda of the county governing body. The initial presentation will include offering Your Charters of Freedom Monuments as a gift to the citizens of your County. Following the presentation, you should allow time for comments, questions, and preliminary approval by consensus from the county governing body.
- Upon approval, Foundation Forward, Inc. will send a Letter of Intent to the county governing body gifting the monument to the county.
- The county will then send a Letter of Intent to Foundation Forward, Inc. stating that they will accept the gift on behalf of the citizens of the county.
- The county governing body will select a site for the Your Charters of Freedom Monuments.
- A Community Board of Advisors should be selected to assist Foundation Forward, Inc. with the following:
  - Community Support and awareness, such as setting up contacts in local Service Groups and Civic Organizations
  - Setting up home gatherings for community support
  - Identifying potential individual project donors
  - Identifying potential corporate sponsorships
- Foundation Forward, Inc. will join the local Chamber of Commerce

## **Phase Three – Community Support and Education:**

- Foundation Forward will open a checking account designated exclusively for the funding of Your Charters of Freedom Monuments for your county
- Initiate Community Support Programs including:
  - Chamber of Commerce Presentations
  - Civic Groups Presentations
  - Service Groups Presentations
  - Home Groups Presentations
  - Community Support drives
  - Other support opportunities unique to your area

## **Phase Four – Construction and Dedication:**

- Funding has been successfully achieved and construction begins on the monuments. The installation will be completed by Foundation Forward, Inc. including foundation, core, stone and masonry settings, bronze, glazing, and finishing.
- Once Your Charters of Freedoms Monuments are completed, a patriotic ceremony of dedication will be planned for the Citizens of your county.



# YOUR Charters of FREEDOM

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The Charters of Freedom are our country's founding documents. These three original documents; The Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution, and The Bill of Rights are on display in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. They are open to the public and free to view.

The Declaration of Independence was primarily penned by Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776. The document was finalized and approved on July 9, 1776. All 13 colonies signed the parchment document by August 2, 1776.

The first draft of The United States Constitution was approved on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1787. Only after the ratification of the first ten amendments, known as our Bill of Rights, was the final draft of The Constitution ratified on September 17, 1787.

During the process of ratification of The Constitution, there was a demand for a bill of rights to defend individual liberties from a possible oppressive government. James Madison worked to get 17 amendments through the House. These were later reduced to 12 amendments by the Senate. Of these 12 amendments, 10 were approved on December 15, 1791 and added to The Constitution. These first 10 amendments are our Bill of Rights.