



THE EVOLUTION INSTITUTE



2025

# IMPACT REPORT

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Applying science-based solutions to solve today's most pressing social issues

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# Overview

Dear Friends of the Evolution Institute,

Welcome to EI's annual Impact Report as we begin our 16<sup>th</sup> year. As an educational, science-based think tank, we not only research best practices, but implement them to improve the quality of lives in underserved communities – both local and worldwide. We have identified early learning centers and worker-owned cooperatives as two major routes for elevating quality of life.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values support our commitment, as we forge partnerships and apply research, knowledge, and expertise to elevate quality of life – advancing social justice and financial security along the way.

Locally, East Pasco Academy at Tommytown in Florida benefits from our knowledge of early learning curricula in Norway and Mondragon, Spain, as well as evolutionary scientists in the US.



A representative from Mondragon International visited East Pasco in October 2019 and wrote a Territorial Analysis for launching potential worker-owned cooperatives. In addition to partnerships with Mondragon Corporation and Mondragon University, we continue to learn more about worker-owned cooperatives throughout Europe.

Board members Gin and Jerry Lieberman introduce EI's Overarching Project – Elevating Quality of Life: how it came to be, how it is measured, how we selected Norway and Mondragon, Spain for developing long-term partnerships, and the major obstacles we see as impeding further progress. These include growing inequality, authoritarianism, privatization, and hostility toward immigrants and people fleeing tyranny and poverty. Consequently, EI works to strengthen interest and capacity for worker-owned cooperatives in the US and abroad.

Our Project Highlight this year is East Pasco Academy and Expanding Its Vision. Director Cathy Fisher describes growth in enrollment, awards for excellence in professional development and scholarships for three staff members, pre-Kindergarten rating of “above expectations” and improved school readiness scores in our overall program, enhanced indoor and outdoor

## Overview Continued

spaces, and outreach to families and the community. Early Learning Program Director, Ljubica Sevic, details our aspiration for EPA's future: From Model to Movement - Expanding the East Pasco Academy Vision. What began as a neighborhood-based early learning program has grown into a model for community transformation. East Pasco Academy continues to demonstrate that high-quality early education, rooted in trust and community partnership, can serve as a powerful anchor for long-term economic, educational, and social mobility, thus elevating sustainable quality of life indicators.

A Project Spotlight features the Cambridge Elements Series. Board Member Dave Bjorklund facilitated EI's receipt of a 5-year contract with Cambridge University Press to produce publications in the Applied Evolution Series. Three were published in 2024: "Strengths and Weaknesses of Two Theories for Explaining 15 Universal Sex Differences in Cognition and Behavior" by Lee Ellis; "Evolution and the Fate of Humankind" by Peter A. Corning; and "Evolution in International Relations" by Jeremy Garlick. Cambridge recently extended the agreement for three more years.

We also include two Partner Spotlights: Legacoop in Italy and PLZ Spółdzielnia in Poland. Although Legacoop was founded in 1886 and represents over 10,000 cooperatives, unlike Mondragon, it has no significant presence in the US.



Due to EI president Jerome Warren's introductions to key personnel there, EI is working to formalize its collaboration for sharing best practices: Community Development Corporations are an American social and economic innovation, and integrated cooperative institutions and practices are an Italian success. Both serve to foster sustainable, community-led economic development.

Dr. Jan Oleszczuk-Zygmuntowski is co-chairman of the Polish Economic Network and president of the management board of PLZ Spółdzielnia - an organization led by young, cooperative entrepreneurs developing advanced technologies. The mission and goals of EI and PLZ are well-aligned and complementary, making PLZ capable of fostering cooperative and community development where EI is already

# Overview Continued

engaged in places like Spain, Italy, Norway, and most recently Germany, in addition to Poland. A memorandum of understanding is in the works and likely to be approved in early 2026.

Jerry Lieberman concludes the 2025 Impact Report with Looking Forward. In it, he envisions a possible collaboration with the American Humanist Association, working with states such as Minnesota, as well as identified countries in Europe, and building on existing networks to promote further development of worker-owned cooperatives. Additionally, Ljubica Sevic and Roneé Wilson are preparing a grant proposal, “Built Together: Advancing Safe and Healthy Tommytown,” and East Pasco Academy at Tommytown is adding a kindergarten and first grade class for next year to accommodate its graduating class and former students.

Our excellent rating as a non-profit from the highly reputable organizations Charity Navigator and GuideStar can be attributed to the numerous ways our board members support EI including: financial support; outstanding credentials; career prominence; and time commitment. Specifically Executive Committee members Rafael Wittek, Nina Witoszek, Heather Parker, and Jerry Lieberman met monthly to provide oversight. Following our November board meeting, Jerome Warren joined the EC as president and Roneé Wilson later joined as an at-large member.

As administrators, Nina has kept our relationships with Norway and Poland alive, and Rafael and Heather have secured interns for our programming. Newcomers Jerome assists with worker-owned cooperative development, and Roneé E Wilson assists in the safety and health initiative for Tommytown.



Photo credits: Steve Knobl, E.D. of Pasco Hernando Early Learning Coalition joins EPATT staff upon completing the Torsh Talent Platform, August 2025; Second Minister of Social Economy of the Spanish Government, Yolanda Diaz, presenting at closing of ASETT Forum in Mondragon, Spain, May 2025; and current EI Board Members, March 2026.

# MISSION

**Our mission is to apply science-based solutions and use evidence-based best practices to solve today's most pressing social issues and improve quality of life.**

We bring science experts and practitioners together, resulting in a new agenda for research, policy formulation, and policy implementation. Many of our projects are focused on serving underserved neighborhoods in Tampa Bay and Pasco County, Florida with the aim to develop innovative yet practical approaches that meet the specific needs and opportunities of communities.

# VISION

Our vision is to apply research, knowledge and expertise in order to elevate quality of life, advance social justice and human equality, and add value to issues affecting humanity for the benefit of all people.

# VALUES

**We are committed to being part of the solution.**

- We believe in a just and fair society. Everything we do is oriented toward the welfare of others and society as a whole.
- We believe in the importance of scientific knowledge, research, evidence and facts and the importance in applying these to help others and improve the world.
- We value quality of life for humans, and the environment that sustains them, now and for future generations.
- We value diversity and have respect for all communities and cultures.
- We value democratic practices, secular education, free inquiry, and humanistic philosophy and ethics.
- We value cooperation and collaboration and believe in working together to help others and to improve the world.
- We value inclusivity and believe that first and foremost every human being deserves the same rights and respect.
- We value an understanding of cultural evolution and believe we can learn from our history, to improve our future.
- We value innovation and creativity and believe that we can all contribute to improving the world in which we live.
- We value integrity and professionalism and operate within a framework of accountability, transparency and fiscal responsibility.



East Pasco Academy at Tommytown, 2025

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

# EAST PASCO ACADEMY AT TOMMYTOWN

East Pasco Academy is Tommytown community's first early learning center that provides a quality, bilingual, culturally sensitive education for a diverse group of low-income families. The 2025 school year demonstrated steady growth and continued improvement for East Pasco Academy. Throughout the year, our enrollment remained consistent serving children from birth through age five. Our focus remained clear: strengthen instructional quality, support our educators, enhancing our learning spaces, and deepen partnerships with families and the community.

### - Cathy Fisher, Director & Ljubica Sevic, Early Learning Program Developer

We were honored by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties for excellence in professional development and our strong investment in staff training. We believe that when teachers grow, children thrive. Ongoing coaching and professional learning opportunities helped our team strengthen classroom practices and deliver high-quality instruction every day.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program received an "Above Expectations" rating from the Florida Department of Education. This recognition highlights the strong instructional practices and meaningful student progress achieved throughout the year. We are proud of our teachers and students for their dedication and hard work, and we remain committed to maintaining and exceeding this high standard of quality.

For the 2024-2025 program year, our



While Hurricane Milton left most of the school unscathed, we did lose most of our garden and some of our trees. We will be working with the University of South Florida (USF) to move and improve the garden this spring. We continue to hold classes twice a year

We strengthened our overall program quality in 2025, resulting in improving CLASS assessment scores in both our School Readiness (SR) and VPK classrooms. CLASS® (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is an observation tool that measures what matters in early learning: the quality of educator-child interactions. Growth in these scores reflects stronger emotional support, more effective classroom organization, and higher-quality instructional support – key elements that directly impact children’s learning and development.

Throughout the year, we continued improving both our indoor classrooms and our outdoor learning spaces. Updates were made to ensure children have engaging, developmentally appropriate materials and safe, stimulating areas to explore and grow.

Three of our staff members were awarded TEACH (Early Childhood® Scholarship

Program) scholarships to continue advancing their education and professional development. This opportunity supports their progress towards higher credentials and degrees in early childhood education. Investing in our team ensures that our children benefit from well-prepared, highly skilled, and dedicated educators.

We developed and administrated our very first parent and family survey. The feedback provided meaningful insight into family experiences, communication, and opportunities for growth. Strengthening trust and partnership with families remains central to our work.

East Pasco Academy participated in two community events in 2025, helping us build stronger relationships with local families and partners. These events increased awareness of our program and reinforced our commitment to serving the Tommytown community.

We are proud of the steady progress made in 2025 and grateful for the families, staff, and partners who make this work possible. We look forward to continuing to grow, improve, and serve our children with excellence in the year ahead.



**Pastor Bruce Edwards**

**Operations Manager**



**Cathy Fisher**

**East Pasco Academy Director**



**Ljubica Sevic**

**Early Learning Program Developer**



**Michelle Jackson**

**Assistant Director**



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

# FROM MODEL TO MOVEMENT: EXPANDING THE EAST PASCO ACADEMY AT TOMMYTOWN VISION

- Ljubica Sevic, Early Learning Program Developer

What began as a neighborhood-based early learning program has grown into a model for community transformation. East Pasco Academy at Tommytown (EPATT) continues to demonstrate that high-quality early education, rooted in trust and community partnership, can serve as a powerful anchor for long-term economic, educational, and social mobility.

Over the past year, EPATT has deepened its impact in Tommytown by strengthening instructional quality, expanding family engagement, and enhancing wraparound supports. Our bilingual, community-based approach continues to integrate academic excellence with whole-family support—recognizing that children flourish when families are empowered.

A major milestone this year was the launch of

our first comprehensive parent and family survey. The results were clear - The majority of families expressed a strong desire to keep their children at EPATT beyond VPK and continue with us into kindergarten. This feedback confirmed what we have long believed—families see East Pasco Academy at Tommytown not simply as a childcare provider, but as a trusted educational home for their children. In response to this demonstrated need, we are preparing to launch our first kindergarten and first grade class for the 2026–2027 program year.

This expansion represents a natural and much-needed progression for our community. Families in Tommytown and the greater Dade City area have limited access to high-quality, community-centered early elementary options.

By extending into kindergarten, we will:

- Provide continuity of care and instruction for children already thriving in our program
- Strengthen early literacy and foundational academic skills
- Reduce transition disruption for families
- Deepen long-term impact on student achievement
- Expand our role as an anchor institution in the broader Dade City community

Our goal is clear: to be fully prepared to offer kindergarten services to the families who have expressed their desire to remain with us—and to maximize the long-term positive impact this opportunity can bring to the community. Planning efforts are currently focused on curriculum alignment, staffing, facility readiness, regulatory requirements, and sustainable financial modeling to ensure the program launches with excellence and stability.

In addition to expanding our program, we have been actively preparing to begin serving daily, nutritious meals on-site. This initiative will directly benefit the children we serve by supporting their physical development, focus, and overall well-being, while also easing the financial burden on families. By integrating meal

service into our model, we further strengthen our commitment to whole-child development and comprehensive family support.

### Early Learning as an Anchor Institution

A high-quality early learning center can serve as far more than a school. It can become a hub for community development and wealth building. At East Pasco Academy, this vision continues to take shape:

- Creating meaningful local employment opportunities
- Serving as a gathering place for families
- Strengthening partnerships
- Preparing for expansion into the primary grades, beginning with kindergarten
- Exploring long-term plans that further stabilize families and foster upward mobility

By integrating education, family support, and neighborhood investment, we are working toward a model that strengthens entire communities—not just individual classrooms. What began in Tommytown is now expanding outward - building opportunity, continuity, and hope for families across the greater Dade City area.

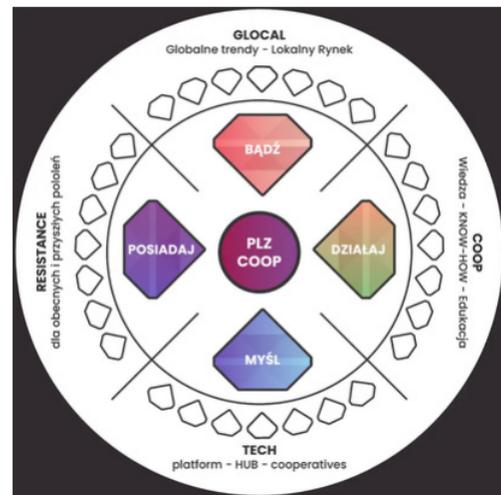
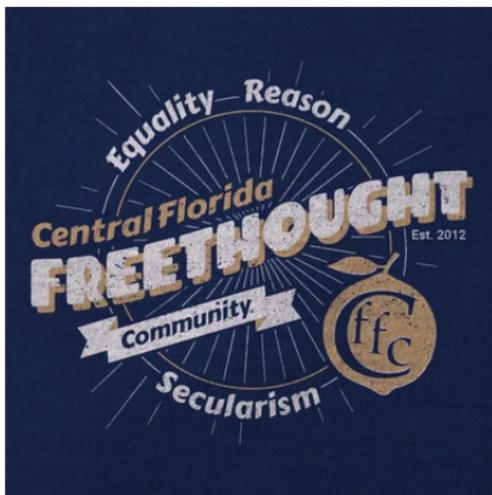
The progress of East Pasco Academy demonstrates what is possible when research, relationships, and responsiveness come together. By listening to families and acting on their feedback, we are transforming a successful early learning center into a sustained educational pathway that can impact generations.



# PARTNERSHIPS

Our mission to apply science-based solutions to solve today’s most pressing social issues and improve quality of life would not be possible without the expertise and dedication of our partners:

- Early Learning Coalition Pasco-Hernando
- Farmworkers Self-Help
- Resurrection House
- American Humanist Association
- Legacoop
- Moore Mickens School
- Secular Student Alliance
- Catalyst Miami
- FL Service Employees International Union
- Lanki Institute of Cooperative Research
- Arne Naess Center University of Oslo
- St. Timothy Lutheran Church, ELCA
- Grace Alone Ministries, ELCA
- Cooperative Development Institute
- Saint Leo University
- Mondragon University
- ASETT - Arizmendiarieta Social Economy Think Tank
- Vermont Museum of Natural History
- Florence Villa Community Development Corporation
- PLZ Spoldzieienia
- Central Florida Freethought Community
- Florida Rising
- Hillsborough County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

# PLZ SPOTDZIELNIA

In late spring 2023, the Evolution Institute supported the Democracy Ground-up summit in Warsaw, Poland just prior to the national parliamentary elections in collaboration with the European Union and Collegium Civitas. Board member Nina Witoszek played a pivotal role in organizing the summit and recruiting the co-hosts and sponsors. El fully participated in the event and provided most of the funding.

The summit in Warsaw resulted in an appreciation that the nation could avert the decline of the rule of law and democratic institutions and practices. Shortly after the summit a new majority was elected to the parliament that was committed to strengthening the rule of law and reversing the actions of the previous government that were believed to be taking the nation in a direction akin to Hungary's. However, it was clear that much work remained to be done to improve economic conditions in the country that included reducing inequality, improving education, recruiting and

engaging youth, and addressing disparities between urban and rural communities.

We gave considerable thought to what role EI could play after the summit and how this could relate to its goals of improving quality of life, strengthening democracy, and reducing inequality and social disparities. Simultaneously, how could this be done in a manner that would foster cooperative and community development where EI was already engaged in places like Spain, Italy, Norway, and most recently Germany? It was clear that unlike in Florida, there was little capacity to engage meaningfully and effectively in Poland, as well as the aforementioned countries. So EI needed a realistic plan, and to achieve it, there needed to be knowledgeable, competent, and respected local people to engage – sometimes referred to as “boots on the ground” – to accomplish anything. Further, this would take time and a real investment of resources along with a well written and measurable memorandum of understanding.



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...

After exploring many options for effectively increasing engagement in Poland and beyond, EI determined there was a local organization that is very well-suited and in viable position for partnership: PLZ Spółdzielnia. It was advanced in developing new technology, led by young cooperative entrepreneurs, and a national network. Dr. Jan Oleszczuk-Zygmuntowski is president of the management board, co-chairman of the Polish Economics Network, and a lecturer in Management and AI in the Digital Society. To learn more about him and his organization, Gin and Jerry Lieberman invited him as their guest to the Arizmendiarieta Social Economy Think Tank 1st Edition in San Sebastian, Spain May 27-30, 2025.

The mission and goals of the Polish and US based organization are well-aligned and complementary, with great synergistic potential. The Polish group espouses cooperation and building of a just world



based on a sustainable and locally rooted economy that serves the well-being of the entire community and excludes no one. It considers the cooperative to be one of the best ways of building a just world and designing technologies that serve people, not the other way around.

Toward the end of 2025, details of a MoU between EI and PLZ were agreed upon in principle. We are confident the agreement will be signed early in 2026 and that it will soon be presented to those who follow our activities through the newsletter.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

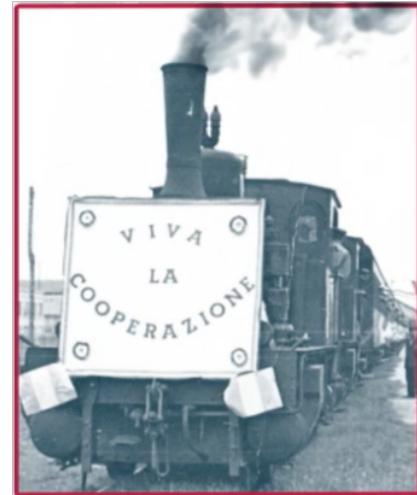
# LEGACOOP

### - Jerry Lieberman, EI Co-Founder

The Italian Cooperative Alliance, referred to as Legacoop, is the oldest federation of its kind in Italy. Founded in 1886, Legacoop represents over 10,000 cooperatives across various economic and social enterprises. It advocates that cooperatives promote mutualism and nonprofit goals to improve quality of life, reduce inequality, and ensure people inhabit healthy and vibrant communities in Italy and beyond. Additionally, it seeks to foster and enrich societies in which people and communities are responsive, active, and supportive of one another – believing this is essential for ensuring and sustaining a strong democracy.

Historically, Legacoop has not had a significant presence in the United States. Unlike Mondragon Corporation in Spain, which has had a strong presence in the US – including an office in Washington, D.C. and numerous ongoing contacts and relationships with labor unions, communities, universities etc. – Legacoop is lesser known. EI seeks to increase awareness and has identified Legacoop’s goals and practices in Italy and internationally are well aligned with what is most needed in the US for community and territorial development. This is of paramount importance to EI, as it is deeply engaged in improving neighborhoods in distressed communities and learning of best practices, thus maximizing positive and measurable outcomes.

EI has had some success using best practices employed in the US, but learning what the Italians are doing offers further advancement and the prospects of mutual improvement. Here we refer to Community Development Corporations (CDC’s) which is an American social and economic innovation. When CDC’s are merged with cooperative institutions and practices, they can achieve more rapid results and community transformations.



EI has been focusing and learning more about Italian cooperatives for the past several years in order to elevate community engagement and accelerate improvements in the level of quality of life. During 2025, this has involved direct contact between representatives of Legacoop and EI. Initially the conversations were highly informal and basic: What does each organization do, how, and why? What are their respective plans for the future? Are these plans likely to be impacted by what is going on in Europe and the US? Was there a basis for further discussion that might lead to formal collaboration?

By the latter part of 2025, Legacoop and EI reached the conclusion that there is a rationale for formalizing collaboration and began the process of conceptualizing and outlining what a MoU would entail. It is important to note that what added credibility toward this effort was the entrance of a new board member to EI, Jerome Warren, with extensive knowledge and contacts with key personnel at Legacoop. Both parties anticipated a framework in 2026 for a commitment to fostering sustainable, community-led economic development, with a focus on cooperative models that empower communities – especially in fragile or vulnerable territories -- establishing a foundation for mutual learning, joint initiatives, and a strategic partnership.

## UPDATE

# Cambridge Elements Series

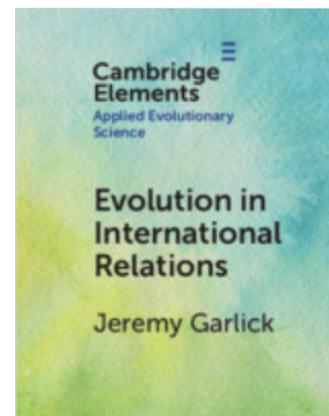
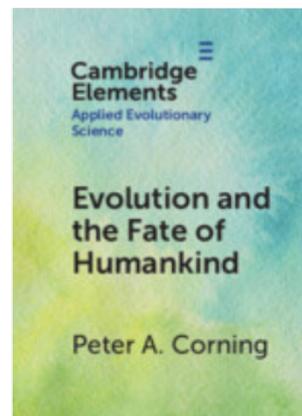
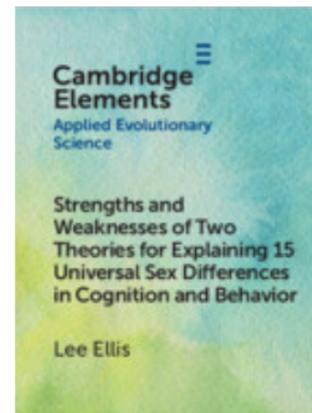
In July 2021 Cambridge University Press awarded EI a five-year contract to provide up to five Elements each year for its Cambridge Elements in Applied Evolutionary Science series. EI has contributed **13 issues over the past 3 years**. This series presents an advanced introduction to both foundational and emerging topics in Applied Evolutionary Science. Elements aims for broad coverage of all major topics within Applied Evolutionary Science, including: child and adolescent development; education; evolutionary medicine; public health; inequality; marriage, family, and mating; public policy; and group/social relations, among others.

Individual Cambridge Elements will be of interest to scholars, various types of practitioners (e.g., educators, social workers, community organizers), and public policymakers. At 20,000-30,000 words (40 to 75 pages), Elements are significantly longer than journal articles but shorter than a typical book. This hybrid format is in part a response to the frustration of authors in the social sciences with journal-article requirements that do not allow space to adequately contextualize and present research. By allowing greater freedom in word and page counts, the series enables authors to **publish their work at its natural length**.

The aim of Cambridge Elements in Applied Evolutionary Science is to become a leading reference publication in the field.

Research and reviews are presented in ways that are engaging for a range of readers - from interested laypeople to students and research academics.

Three publications are slated for 2026, and these appeared in 2025: “Strengths and Weaknesses of Two Theories for Explaining 15 Universal Sex Differences in Cognition and Behavior” by Lee Ellis; “Evolution and the Fate of Humankind” by Peter A. Corning; and “Evolution in International Relations” by Jeremy Garlick.



# Looking Forward

- Jerry Lieberman, EI Co-founder & Secretary / Treasurer

As we enter the second quarter of the 21st century and the 16th year of EI becoming an independent non-profit 501c-3 organization, EI continues to perceive social enterprises, especially early learning centers and worker-owned cooperatives as initial vehicles for elevating quality of life.

Few may remember our 2008 incubation in a chapter of the American Humanist Association (AHA): the Humanists of Florida Association (HFA). EI's departure from HFA was based on a successful proof-of-concept workshop at the University of Miami that evolutionary science offers profound insights into human development. Recruiting interdisciplinary evolutionary scholars from an array of disciplines from anthropology to behavioral psychology, our focus became, "What does evolutionary theory have to say about early human development - and specifically, how do children learn"?

The workshop's acclaimed success in November 2008 led to the 2010 establishment of EI - the first humanist think tank in the world to develop an evolutionary science approach to human and planetary advancement, grounded in humanist ethics and principles.

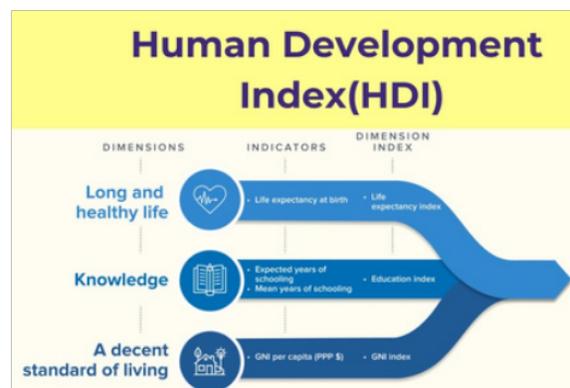
As of 2020, we have an early learning center, where civic and humanist organizations can visit and conceive of applications for their own communities: East Pasco Academy at Tommytown (EPATT) plans to add a Kindergarten and first grade classroom for the 2026-2027 school year and continue adding

sequential classrooms as students age. EPATT serves as a hub for community development and wealth-building, as we're writing a grant to advance safety and health, and we're envisioning an on-site free health clinic.

EPATT has recently reconnected with AHA with the prospect of closer collaboration. The new and young leadership of the organization, with about 200 chapters in the US, is energized by the idea of "applied humanism." We envision that 2026 will be the year that AHA and EI explore a new formative relationship.

During EI's first decade, we also began our research of "under what conditions will humans, as well as cultures, thrive?" and found answers both quantifiable and qualitative. We look to the United Nations Human Development Index - a largely universally agreed upon measure of what constitutes a high quality of life - and the Gini coefficient that gauges the extent, and results, of inequality.

Epidemiologists Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett in *The Spirit Level*



## Looking forward, continued...



graphically demonstrate that greater equality makes societies stronger. In societies with greater income disparity, social and physical illnesses (i.e. addiction and diabetes) are rampant. Consequently, the entire society – regardless of location – has a reduced standard of living and democracy suffers.

Such research led us first to Mondragon in the Basque region of Spain and its worker-owned cooperatives. Farmworkers Self-Help founder, Margarita Romo, and Tommytown Lutheran Pastor, Bruce Edwards, later accompanied Gin and Jerry Lieberman in 2019 to see possibilities for elevating quality of life in their Tommytown community. Looking ahead, together with community members, we'll revisit the Territorial Analysis a representative from Mondragon Internation compiled in (pre-Covid) October 2019.

By building on existing networks, EI will explore serving as a facilitator and catalyst to promote further development of worker-owned cooperatives in the

United States and abroad because they democratize workplaces, thereby increasing equality and decreasing income disparity.

Through his work EI President Jerome Warren has identified states such as Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Wisconsin as exhibiting vibrant cooperative ecosystems. Minnesota has developed an advanced cooperative ecosystem with numerous key stakeholders: Cooperative entrepreneurs, incubators, researchers and policy/government stakeholders, as well as numerous “pioneer” communities. Minnesota shares key affiliations and coordination with neighboring Wisconsin, which shares a similar tradition, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison has university research centers in both states.

Additionally, a long-term goal may be to connect US stakeholders to Canadian and Mexican social economy organizations that would embrace the concept of worker-owned cooperatives as have countries in Europe.

EI is continuing discussions for collaboration with representatives from Legacoop in Italy, which is one of the most developed countries in the world with regard to cooperatives: As partners, we could benefit from mutual knowledge transfer, particularly with respect to replicating Italy's community cooperative model and its overall cooperative development model in East Pasco County.

Warren also identified Serbia, Germany, Poland, and the Nordic countries as

## Looking forward, continued...

countries ripe for development of worker-owned cooperatives. The Institute for Economic Democracy in Serbia, founded in 2025, has developed a functioning model of employee-ownership that has seen recent legislative success in Slovenia. Warren, living in Germany, has recently initiated a similar campaign there.

Several years ago, EI convened representatives from Norway and Mondragon University in Oslo to reflect on how the best of the two could bring together political and workplace democratic practices, which is a perfect fusion for cooperative development. We look forward to continuing this dialogue.

Finally, building on an existing relationship in Poland with Dr. Jan Oleszczuk-Zygmuntowski, an MoU was reached that outlined how Oleszczuk-Zygmuntowski's organization, PLZ Spoldzielnia, will provide advisory and consulting services to EI that include comprehensive, planned community development, and a three-year strategic plan for European engagement.

One of EI's great strengths, deriving from its emergence from the Humanist tradition, is its board members' academic expertise and affiliations. Most board members are university professors, deans, or otherwise involved in education. This fact has been drawn on to promote various collaborations with external organizations and consortia in developing various curricula in line with EI's fundamental philosophy promoting cultural evolution



as a means to solve social problems and create resilient communities.

Specifically, numerous EI partners and potential partners – including Mondragon, Legacoop, Minnesota, and Massachusetts cooperative practitioners – have in the past expressed interest in developing, deepening, and distributing a curriculum based on cooperation. Additionally, the current economics and business school curriculum, so vital for shaping business leaders and future philanthropists, is facing an unprecedented legitimacy crisis. This creates opportunities for promoting a “cradle to retirement” curriculum in line with humanistic, progressive, and evolutionary notions of human and organizational agency that promote human dignity, community wealth, and local autonomy. Warren and EI co-founder and board member, Jerry Lieberman, continue their work to create such a curriculum, and Warren and others contributed to the 2026 publication of *Global Cooperative Economics and Movements: A Research Companion*.



*Evolutionary science shows that altruism is deeply rooted in human nature, and quality of life depends on people like you who care for others.*

**Donate today and join us on our mission.**

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