



**Episode 1,777: Charity Without the Welfare State: Libertarians Who Put Theory Into Action**

**Guest: David Gay**

**GAY:** Hey, thanks for having me on, Dr. Woods. It's been a while and I think last time I was on the show, I wasn't called David.

**WOODS:** No, we called you Admin Two, which is one of the more peculiar things we've done over the history of the show. I mean, if you've done almost 2,000 episodes, chances are you've done almost everything, and calling somebody Admin Two was one of the sort of oddball things we did. But to explain people why we did that.

**GAY:** Well, I felt at the time that it had to be done, because at the time, my brother and I were very influential in, let's say, diminishing the stature of Hillary Clinton's public image, and we were a bit concerned about revealing our real names on the page. But now everybody knows who we are, so we just kind of ditched that.

**WOODS:** So in the time since we've talked last – and I didn't go back and check how long it's been – your focus has shifted a bit, so let's talk about, first of all, how in a way, Facebook kind of forced you to shift your focus because of what they kept doing to you.

**GAY:** Well, it's actually pretty funny, because I think it's been actually since 2016 since the two of us discussed –

**WOODS:** Oh, that's a long time, okay.

**GAY:** Yeah, since we discussed Liberty Memes and what Facebook was doing to us. At the time, we were among the first to ever be threatened with having our pages just taken down for what we consider to be totally innocent family fair. And so zoom forward to 2018, and there was the great Zucketing where there were about 700 pages taken down, and I think you even did a show about it. Now, that I think was by design, because two weeks before our page was permanently deleted and we weren't given cause or reason, you had already done a show, and the press had already talked about how Facebook had done this. So when we went to make news the way we did in 2016, where we made Breitbart and *Blaze* and we were like the fifth story on Drudge Report, when that came up in 2018, they deleted us two weeks after the main Zucketing, so we just missed the news cycle and really couldn't even call out for help from anybody.

**WOODS:** Yeah, that was an ordeal. And now of course, it's completely off-the-charts crazy about people getting banned and pages getting shut down, with no appeal, no explanation,

just none of the common courtesy that one human being would show to another. Absolutely all of that is out the window. You labor for years and years building up an audience, and then the rug is taken out from under you. It's happening to more and more people. So we'll get back to it –

**GAY:** So –

**WOODS:** Yeah, go ahead.

**GAY:** Oh, sorry. I don't mean to interrupt. So we actually had an audience that I would say within the next year would have gone over 1 million people. We were reaching over 50 million people a month with our message. And at the same time, back all the way back to the beginning of 2018, several months before that happened, we had already refocused to voluntarism in a way, because I created a group called the Liberty Memes Community group. And what I wanted that for, really, I just wanted to know where everybody was and have a way to be in touch with our fans outside of the algorithms of the way they handle pages, with not letting them get in newsfeeds. Because my brother and I had been giving presentations at colleges and at different conventions with Young Americans for Liberty, with Students for Liberty – the Texas State Libertarian Party actually had us speak at their convention in 2016 – and we wanted to continue being able to do that, so we wanted a place where we could be in touch with our audience. Somebody came along and said, well, you guys have good contact with a very active fan base, and maybe you could help this little girl who needs a kidney operation –

**WOODS:** That was the thing that did it, that particular incident?

**GAY:** Well, we always had been active in Ron Paul campaigns and in voluntaristic things and wanting to do more with our audience where we felt, you know, we've got an audience that up to this point is very active and very available to us. We'd like to do more than just post silly cartoons on the internet. And so we wanted to be more responsible with the audience size that we had, and we figured that being involved in voluntaristic campaigns was a great way to do that.

And I'll get into more about how awesome that is, but our inspiration was an organization called Voluntarism in America, which was I think started by a couple of the admins of the page Being Libertarian, and the two of our pages basically grew up together. So I was definitely on board. I knew who they were. And when I found out, hey, I could use my influence to actually help real people in the real world, and maybe even people who have no idea what libertarianism is, and we could flood their campaigns with all sorts of comments that say libertarians care about you, and voluntarism is the way, and Liberty Memes is here for you – and that's actually what has happened. I'm pretty sure we're well over the million-dollar mark in terms of campaigns that we have helped directly. And in campaigns that I can prove, just within the last year, it's been over 300,000.

**WOODS:** Yeah, this is really quite amazing. Now, before we get into some specific examples of people who have been helped, because you were telling me some interesting stories in person last week, how are you handling what I am observing, which is that a lot of people who agree with you and me seem to be ditching Facebook? And that has been the primary platform you guys have used. Are you going to be not necessarily abandoning Facebook, but supplementing it with presence on other platforms?

**GAY:** Yeah, well, fortunately, for example, we already have our Patreon account, and we're not out here saying the N-word or saying anything really awful that would get us de-platformed from there, and that does still give us a direct line of communication to our base, the people who want to help the most or obviously have a little skin in the game. So we do have that available to us if Facebook ever tries to really throttle us completely. But in terms of the charitable groups that we've got going right now, the algorithms haven't been too painful to us in there. So we're still on Facebook for the time being.

**WOODS:** Well, it's not so much that you're worried you're going to be shut down. Are you worried that your audience is fleeing the platform? That's my point.

**GAY:** I'm not really worried about that simply because right now the audience that I'm trying to target isn't necessarily just a libertarian audience. So I'm not trying to bring this message to just libertarians. Say for example, I've got this vessel that you can help people with if you believe in helping people. And you can be a communist who doesn't believe the government is big enough, and I'll say, *Well, if you don't believe the government's big enough and they're not handling this pet issue that you have, well, I've got somebody in need who really fits that pet issue of yours to a tee, and you can come over and you can help.* And once they do that, they'll be like, *Wait a second. This is a group full of libertarians who are giving to people. I've never seen that before.* And maybe they'll come around to our point of view.

**WOODS:** Yeah, I mean, that's not impossible, let's say and you've had very, very impressive success. And sometimes you've been getting anonymous large donations from people who just find out about one or more of your campaigns. Give me a couple of examples. Let's let people get a real sense of what kinds of causes are being helped.

**GAY:** Yeah, so I would call those people our angels. So what I'm going to be discussing right now is actually a group called Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club.

**WOODS:** Yeah, this is the key thing, everybody. This is the thing you want to be part of.

**GAY:** That's the one I want to talk about right now. Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club was started in mid October of last year, so it's only just a little over a year old right now, probably a year and a month next week. And I started this group because for some freaking reason, meme fans don't like to help other people. And so I'm saying that the vast majority of people that we had involved in our groups basically had this way of seeing things as, well, I only came to this group because it's called *Memes*, and that's what I'm here for, so don't tell me other ways that I can spread liberty because that's not what I'm here for.

So I was like, you know, we're doing a really, really great job at helping other people despite the majority of the audience not liking it. So I said, you know what? We're going to take that amount of the audience that actually does want to help people, and we're going to create basically a donor's club or a side group where we can make a clearinghouse of all these causes that come to us. Because what happens is these causes come to us constantly. Anybody finds out that you're good at fundraising, and they're going to say, well, I've got a need. And so we've got to deal with that. But I needed a clearing house where I wasn't offending that part of my audience that didn't want to be involved in that and just saw it as spam.

So we created the Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club, and we started cause number one for car repairs, cause number two for funeral expenses, and you just go down the list. And we've helped almost any area where the left would say, if the government didn't exist or if welfare didn't exist, libertarians who claim they're very charitable but have never done anything for anybody would never fund X. So I can go to my list of causes that we've helped, and I can say, *Oh, well, you're saying we won't care for cancer patients. Here, just two weeks ago, cause number 61, we raised \$53,000 for a family where the primary breadwinner has cancer.* And this is all verifiable, and it's all through libertarians. And all the comments on GoFundMe say libertarians care.

**WOODS:** Let me jump in here, because the thing that impressed me, one of the things impressed me was the number of people we're talking about who are actively involved in a group – you can have a group and have many people in it, but there's always that core of people. Maybe it's the 80/20 rule at work. But the number of people is pretty small.

**GAY:** Okay, yes –

**WOODS:** Obviously, most libertarians have never heard of your group, so it's a small group of people who are having amazing results. That to me is very significant.

**GAY:** Okay, yes, and this is actually where I get very excited to explain this to people. And I was telling you, and you told me, *Shut up, I want you to say this on the show, because you've just got so much awesome stuff to say, I'd rather you say it there.* So we started this group to be just casual involvement where anybody could participate and it wouldn't hurt them in any way at all to be in the group. Because we'll post 2, 3, 4, 5 causes a month, and your pledge as a member of the group is I'm going to give at least five bucks to one of those in the entire month. And that's nothing. And even with that, we were able to raise, with a group of only 2,000 people, we were able to raise \$300,000.

So let's go back and take a look at who was actually involved, and it was only like 150 to 200 members of the group were actually giving to anything. The rest of the group is just dormant and lurkers, and we're still hitting goal on every single fund. And we're still raising \$300,000 divided among like 200 people, which is amazing to show that when you have people who are dedicated, even this tiny little group of people, a tiny group of core supporters, what you can accomplish.

We learned this with the Ron Paul money bombs back in 2007, and that was actually my inspiration. That was actually what told me: you can get involved in these voluntary fundraisers and help other people through your page, because you lived this before. I was at some of the planning meetings for Tea Party '07. I know what this is about and how to get it done. So when people are like, well, I don't want to be involved with you because you just run a memes page, I'm like, well, I actually have a pedigree. I know what I'm doing when it comes to doing this stuff.

So 200 people raising \$300,000 in a year on a casual \$5 pledge, a \$5-per-month pledge is absolutely astonishing. Now, I take that and I say let's turn that over to all the people who are active in the Libertarian Party, all the Ron Paul libertarians who are active in the GOP, all the people who are running for office, all the people who are campaigning for other people who are running for office, all the keyboard warriors who are out there trying to promote liberty candidates and liberty ideals. If every single one of them took that casual pledge to possibly

be involved at \$5 per month, we would have already changed the world to a point where the electorate would see our solutions long before even considering the promises of a politician.

**WOODS:** How do you find the different causes? Do people come to you?

**GAY:** Yes, they come to me. For the most part, they come to me, people who are in desperate need. So for example, this cancer patient for whom we raised \$53,000, this was actually a family that was well known and well respected in Ron Paul campaign circles starting way back in 2007. And really nice family, goes to church, nice, beautiful kids and everything. And one of our mutual friends messaged me and says, *David, we've really got to take care of Chris and Becky, because Chris is out of work because of a back injury. So can we provide some meals or help them keep the lights on?* And I said, *Sure, we'll do that. How much do they need?* And she said, *Well, \$2,000, \$3,000.* And I said, *Yeah, yeah, that's not a problem. We'll run that in the group.* And she came back the next day and she said he went in for an MRI and it's a cancerous tumor wrapped around his spine. And I said, *Well, Felice, we are going to set up a cause.*

And at the time, we're only raising about, if you look around that, we're only raising about \$600, \$700, \$800, \$1,000, \$2,000 for our causes, just like small ones to help people with COVID-layoff-related bills and things like that. And I said, *Felice, we are going to make a fundraiser for them for \$50,000. I have no clue how we're going to raise it, but we're going to do it, because I know what kind of audience we have, and I know how awesome that family is, and how much people are going to love them and understand that they need this.* And sure enough, day one, 10,000; day two, 20,000; day 3, 30,000; day 7, 50,000 dollars.

**WOODS:** That's astonishing.

**GAY:** It is. And I was on Facebook looking at other charitable organizations, and something hit my news feed, and it was some international aid organization. It said, "Congratulations, everybody. 30 grand in 30 days." And I said, I just beat that in like three.

**WOODS:** Yeah, that's amazing. Now, that must have surprised even you, I would assume.

**GAY:** It did, except, again, a student of the Ron Paul money bombs, I know what we're capable of. So I'm more disappointed in everybody when we don't do stuff like that, because I know what we're capable of, even at a casual participation level.

**WOODS:** All right, give me another, because I have a list here of like a gazillion different things that you guys have funded. It's unbelievable.

**GAY:** Okay, sure. So let's go with cause number 66. That happened a week and a half after that one. Actually, I'll circle back to that first one, because there's another detail about that that I've really got to tell you. But cause number 66, I traveled – and I'm ridiculous. I'm a road warrior. I actually care about this stuff a lot more than just typing on the internet. So I was invited to go and be the emcee for a rally of the Libertarian Party in Houston last month. And I said, All right, I'll do it, and I'm going to drive there. And by driving there, I was able to meet with all sorts of other people who were in need, and I just have an eye for people who are stranded by the side of the road or homeless people who are actually homeless and we could actually give them help. So I like to drive around the country, because when I go to

these events that I'm invited at, I can help other people along the way, and I can spread the message, and I can direct them back to the Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club.

So for example, there was a girl, a woman who was stranded in the middle of backwoods Tennessee in a town called Bucksport, which you've never heard of before. It's somewhere between Nashville and Memphis. And I said, Here's two \$50 gift cards to help you with what you need today, but you really need to look up Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club. I'm the admin. Send me a message. I will buy you a new car through my group. We will do that for you. So I'm always looking for those opportunities.

Anyway, I was invited to speak as the emcee for Spike Cohen at his rally in Houston, and because I do this travel-the-country thing, I got there within 20 minutes of my scheduled speaking time. And I reminded everybody in the crowd that Texas was the home state of Ron Paul, and people were really, really happy to hear somebody in the LP talk about Ron Paul, let me tell you. And so every single person who took the stage, most of them were candidates for lower-level races, they all had to give a hat tip to Ron Paul during their speech. It was the greatest thing.

And so up comes Spike Cohen, and he starts giving examples of how voluntaryism has solved many issues in our country and how liberty is a solution. And then the next day, he posted on Facebook that people should join the Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club if they really want to make a difference in the world outside of elections. On his post on Facebook was a family who had been desperately trying to find aid because they have an autistic daughter who elopes. She escapes the house and escapes the backyard, and she ends up around town in – she's only I think eight or nine years old, and she says she's a beautiful kid, and anything horrible could happen to her. So I saw that because Spike Cohen posted about it on his Facebook page. And someone commented that they had this need, and I said, *We've got you*. So 10 days later, we raised \$9,000 for her family so that they could update their security equipment in the house.

**WOODS:** Again, that's just amazing. I like your thing about, *Hey, in my group, we can get you a new car*. And you just know that you can deliver on a claim like that.

**GAY:** I know we can do it. We actually did a thing where – and this was through my own money, because I also have a Patreon, so there's [Patreon.com/LibertyMemes](https://www.patreon.com/LibertyMemes). And that basically allows me to live this lifestyle where I can travel the country, preaching voluntaryism and liberty, and I can afford some of the projects that help us lead by example. So driving the country and giving out gift cards isn't something that we're raising money for in our groups; that's something that I'm taking for my own Patreon. We even gave away a car, which we still haven't released the video, but we just bought a car for someone we thought would be a good example of someone who needs a car that we can help. So we did that.

But I know whenever someone comes to me with a need, I can find a way to get it for them, and there's other tricks that I use. So for example, if someone comes to me with a need that either I'm leery of, kind of like suspect, or it could be a need that's actually very real but the price tag is too high for our group to see it as feasible, or we're at a time where there's a lull in participation, I'll tell them, *Okay, I can still get you what you need, but it won't be because I'm featuring it. Now take down notes, because I'm going to give you advice on exactly how I do this*.

And my advice is golden, I'll give my advice to somebody and say: this is how you get your family and friends involved in your cost. Because like I've seen with my group, it only takes about 150 to 200 active participants to get something done. So there was one guy who said we need to raise \$30,000 to \$50,000 for a girl who is in a coma because she had the flu, and she's my next door neighbor. And I said I can't raise that amount of money right now, because our group just isn't active enough at the time. And that was cause number — let me go back really fast. That was cause number 19, a friend of ours named Brandon Weber, who was a supporter of Liberty Memes at the time, came to me and wanted to do this. And I said, Well, I will give you advice on how to run it exactly as I would and how to get attention for it and how to get press for it. And wouldn't you know? That cause got featured by CNN and raised the 50,000 it needed.

**WOODS:** It's an extraordinary thing. An absolutely extraordinary thing.

**GAY:** Now, before you say extraordinary, remember, CNN obviously would pick up a story because there's propaganda value. So they wanted to say, *Oh, you guys all need to get your flu shots, because look at this little girl.* But the fact remains that she got what she needed.

**WOODS:** Yeah, that is what matters. She got what she needed.

**GAY:** And not only that, she was blind by this flu for over a month, and the therapy that that fundraiser was able to pay for, about 15 days after she got out of the hospital, her mother noticed that she was walking down the hall without touching the walls anymore. She could see.

**WOODS:** Yeah, that's amazing. So what I'm going to do, because unfortunately a Facebook link is a little tricky — you can give it out if you want, but I'll link to the group and also to the Patreon at [TomWoods.com/1777](https://www.patreon.com/TomWoods.com/1777). Now, as show notes page numbers go, that's not too hard to remember, [TomWoods.com/1777](https://www.patreon.com/TomWoods.com/1777). You go right there, and what we've been talking about will be there. And I'd like to link, actually, to what you sent me because I assume obviously that that post is publicly posted for the whole world to read. Is that so, listing all the different causes?

**GAY:** I will send you the link to see all the different causes that's actually on our main page, and on our main page is a link to Liberty Memes \$5 Charity Club's most recent posts that we've made, so I'll send you the link to that post.

I did want to tell you, there's a lot more involved when we do help someone. So you touched on the issue of angel donors who will just show up and throw \$10,000 on a cause if it's not doing well. And we get that a lot, where everybody's giving their \$5, and people are giving 20, maybe even 100, maybe even 300, which is a lot of money for most people. And then suddenly, somebody will say, *This isn't moving as fast as I want it to be. Here's 10 grand.*

Now, I personally know who these people are, but they're very good at hiding in plain sight in some of my groups and just pretending to be the regular among us poor. And they'll do that, and then once a fund hits its goal, they'll send me a message and say, *You know what? I want to go the extra mile* — which I already thought we were doing by raising \$50,000 for them — and he says, *I want to go the extra mile. I need their address, because I'm going to send them a gift.* And knowing him the way I know him, it's probably going to be the maximum allowable

tax-free gift for every single member of the family. It's probably going to make the fundraiser itself look like a midget compared to what he gives them and just something out of his pocket change.

And then he says, *I also want you to know that those kids have someone they can come to for the rest of their lives.* I mean, you're talking about a family that was on the brink of total destitution just a month ago, and now you've got some angel investor millionaire, saying I just kind of want to adopt those kids just in case anything happens and just always be there for them.

This stuff really does change the world. And we're talking about only 200 people being involved in it. This is my message and a reason I drove to Texas to be at Ron Paul's party to talk to you in person about like, I traveled the whole freaking country just to give you this message: if every single libertarian activist was involved in this or in something identical to this, we would already have won.

**WOODS:** Well, it's amazing work. I'm going to leave it there,<sup>1</sup> because I want people to see for themselves of what you've been doing. And they should join and take part in this, because what a great example it is for us, for other libertarians, for the world. It's tremendous. So the link once again is [TomWoods.com/1777](https://TomWoods.com/1777). That's where you'll find the group itself and the Patreon to help support them. So all I can say is continued success with this, because especially in 2020, it's a cliché these days about what a terrible year it is and how depressing everything is. But this is the opposite of that, and for that alone, we owe you some gratitude.

**GAY:** Yeah, it doesn't have to be so horrible. Even in the case of – well, the left says we wouldn't fund X, we wouldn't be able to take care of these COVID layoffs without a stimulus check. And I say, well, I can go to cause number X, X, X, X – there's like 20 of them – where I could say that we took care of people in our community that were laid off because of COVID. And we paid their rent, or we paid their mortgage, or we paid their bills, and we sent them groceries. We've got all these different examples. So even in this year with as bleak as it has been, we have still been able to rally around people and do this.

So anybody who's like, what do I do now that the Libertarian Party lost the election, or that Donald Trump lost the election, or whatever cause you believe in isn't getting anywhere? Here's what you do: help people in the real world. Attach your message to helping people in the real world. Actually touch their lives where a politician who has promised for decades has never touched them, and you will make a difference, and people will see why liberty is the superior way.

**WOODS:** Well, excellent. So once again, [TomWoods.com/1777](https://TomWoods.com/1777), go there. This is an order from Woods himself. This effort of course has the Woods seal of approval, hundred percent. So I hope you get the notorious *Tom Woods Show* bump in what you're doing. And thanks again.

**GAY:** I appreciate it, Dr. Woods. You have a great day.