

Hay Moon Media creates original documentary and narrative content with an emphasis on dynamic characters, compelling issues and smart, funny and powerful stories.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AFM (Press Release) -- Oct 25th, 2017

CHICAGO -- Hay Moon Media completed a successful crowdfunding campaign this week, enabling the company to exhibit its new documentary feature at the American Film Market in Santa Monica, CA, Nov. 3rd-8th. "DARK AGE: The Big Money Attack on Public Education" looks at the rise of dark money being poured into local school board and municipal races by special interest groups.

"Billionaire conservatives like Betsy DeVos, the Koch Brothers, the Broad and Walton families and a handful of others are funding a vast network of conservative think-tanks and fake media outlets, and they've been buying their way into Congress and state legislatures for years," says "DARK AGE" Director, and Hay Moon Media principal Paul Traynor. "The alarming new trend we discovered is the aggressive assault on smaller school board elections, and the way they're trying to use groups like ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) to introduce cookie-cutter legislation to dissolve and consolidate districts all over the country."

Traynor became aware of the reach and coordination of such groups this Spring, when a conservative IL radio host with a string of hyper-partisan local newspapers teamed up with a local Heritage Foundation employee to create a fake national controversy at his kids' suburban Chicago high school. Over the summer things intensified when Traynor's alma mater, Broad Ripple High School in Indianapolis, was closed under pressure from groups controlled by the same forces.

"They are changing the entire fabric of our communities, with the ultimate goal being the privatization of all public education in America," says Traynor. "They've done major damage with school vouchers in Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and all across the country. Now they've set their sights on Chicago, which they believe is a \$6 BILLION market to be exploited."

This year Hay Moon Media has raised over \$32,000 in donations to bring this story to light, exposing national groups with budgets over five hundred times that amount. They are partnering with FoxDog Production Consultants, and will be looking to find national theatrical or streaming distribution for the completed documentary feature for a Fall 2018 release. Interested parties can visit them in Loews Room 311 at AFM, or call (224) 522-2242 with inquiries.