

# Annual Report 2008





Elizabeth Whelan



*In the United States, “The price of food purchased for in-home use has increased 7.9% since 2006, including a 9.7% increase on cereals and bakery, a 14.8% increase on dairy, and a 10.3% increase on fruits and vegetables. An increase in demand for grains for animal feed and biofuels coupled with an increase in fuel prices have contributed to the rising costs. Americans with low and moderate incomes, who spend a larger portion of their income on staples, are affected the most substantially,” the Hunger Caucus reported.*

## Table of Contents

- 2 Letter from the Executive Director
- 3 Letter from the CHC Board Co-Chairs
- 4 The Congressional Hunger Center Vision and Programs
- 5 Fighting Hunger at Home
- 6 Fighting Hunger Abroad
- 8 CHC Partner Sites 1994–2008
- 10 The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program
- 17 The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program
- 22 How CHC Funds Are Spent
- 23 Contributors and Partners 2007–2008
- 24 CHC 15th Anniversary Gala
- 25 CHC Tribute Evening, Life and Legacy of Mickey Leland May 2009

Cover photos, clockwise from top left:

Frank Abdale presents Ed Cooney and the staff of CHC with the “Red Heart Award” at the 2008 ANSA Conference

Representative Frank Wolf speaks with 14th class Emerson National Hunger Fellows David Kane, Elizabeth Oquendo and Gagan Gupta (photo by Sonny Odom)

Current Mickey Leland Fellow, Meaghan Murphy working on her case study in Mongolia (see page 18)

14th class fellows meet with Members of Congress Jo Ann Emerson, John Lewis and Jim McGovern



Margaret M. Zeigler

### **The Global Food Price Crisis**

High food prices are a matter of daily struggle for more than 2 billion people around the world. High prices threaten to increase malnutrition, already an underlying cause of death in over 3.5 million children a year.

- Between 130 and 155 million people have fallen into poverty from 2006–2008
- Since 2006, there has been an 83 percent increase in overall global food prices. Prices are expected to stay high through 2015

Source: The World Bank Policy Brief, "Rising food prices: Policy options and the World Bank Response," 2008.

### **Our Mission:**

CHC trains and inspires leaders who work to end hunger, and advocates public policies that create a food secure world.

### **Our Vision:**

CHC is a leader in the movement to ensure access to food as a basic human right for all people. We create and nurture a community of innovative and inspiring leaders who act as change agents, bridging the gap between grassroots efforts and national and international public policy to provide access to nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food.



Elizabeth Whelan

# Letter from the Executive Director



Edward M. Cooney

2008 was a year of expansion, reunion, and recognition for CHC and its wonderful staff. We rehired **Kristin Anderson**, formerly the Director of the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship Program for 5 years. She is now our Director of Operations and Special Projects. **Twana Jemerson** has been hired as Human Resources Manager. We now have three members of the 10th Class of Emerson Fellows on staff or working on projects with CHC: **Shana McDavis-Conway** is a Co-Director of the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship Program, **Elizabeth Whelan** is the Associate Director of the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program, and **Patience Butler** is assisting with development and fundraising.

In the spring of 2008, CHC celebrated its 15th anniversary at the U.S. Botanic Garden. We honored **Representatives Frank Wolf** and **Rosa DeLauro** and **Senator Tom Harkin**. CHC Co-Chairs **James P. McGovern** and **Jo Ann Emerson** received the 7th Annual World Food Program Leaders Award. CHC Board Co-Chair McGovern and former CHC board member Representative Wolf together serve as co-chairs of the House Human Rights Caucus. CHC staff person **Aileen Carr**, Co-Director of the Emerson Fellows Program, was honored at the 25th OMB Watch Anniversary event as a "Public Interest Rising Star" and I was honored to receive the 2008 Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition. CHC and its staff received the Red Heart Award from the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA) for our work on hunger relief for people with HIV/AIDS and in ending hunger by developing leaders.



CHC Executive Director, Edward M. Cooney, receives the "2008 Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition"

On other fronts, CHC played a very active role as policy advisor during the debate and ultimate enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill with our other partners: Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Feeding America, the Center on Budget Priorities, and Bread for the World. CHC has played a similar advisory role in the development of policy proposals regarding nutrition standards and child nutrition program improvements and expansion for the upcoming Child Nutrition Program reauthorization legislation (see National Policy Report for further details).



Aileen Carr, CHC Emerson Fellowship Program Co-Director, received OMB Watch's "Public Interest Rising Star Award"

We worked to finish major strategic goals and objectives for 2009–2012 in our first-ever organizational Strategic Plan. Our biggest challenge, especially in the current economic climate, is fundraising, but we know that our friends and partners will continue to support the Emerson and Leland Fellowship Programs as long-term investments in leadership development and in the fight to end hunger and poverty. With our highly competent and dedicated staff, we have begun 2009, looking forward to all the rewards and challenges that the year may bring.

I would like to thank Altria; the General Mills Foundation; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Kraft; Sodexo; Darden Restaurants; General Motors; Land O'Lakes, Inc.; ConAgra Foods Foundation; Monsanto; Archer Daniels Midland; Grocery Manufacturers Association; Mars, Inc.; MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger; and Victory Wholesale Group for their generous donations to CHC in 2008. We are also grateful for core funding used in the administration of our grant for the Emerson and Leland Fellowship Programs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward M. Cooney".

Edward M. Cooney

# Letter from the CHC Board Co-Chairs, Representative Jo Ann Emerson and Representative James P. McGovern

Representative Jo Ann Emerson  
Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Senator Byron Dorgan  
Member of Congress

Representative Dennis Hertel  
Member of Congress (Retired)  
Senior Counselor  
The Livingston Group, L.L.C.

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Ms. Ashley Aakesson  
Executive Director  
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti

Mr. David Beckmann  
President  
Bread for the World

Ms. Karen Coble Edwards  
Principal  
KCE Public Affairs Association

Ms. Elizabeth Emerson-Leger  
President  
The Leger Company, Inc.

Ms. Vicki B. Escarra  
President and CEO  
Feeding America

Mr. Brian Folkerts  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Kraft Foods, Inc.

Mr. Al Franken  
Actor/Author

Mr. Lou Gerber  
Legislative Director  
Communications Workers of America

Mr. Daniel Kahn, Esq.  
Davis Polk & Wardwell

Mr. David Kantor  
President  
Victory Wholesale Group

Mr. Marshall Matz  
Partner  
Olsson, Frank and Weeda, P.C.

Mr. Manly Molpus  
President  
The Molpus Advisory Group, L.L.C.

Mr. John R. Sander  
Management Consultant  
U.S. Department of State (Retired)

Mr. Jim Scheibel  
Executive in Residence  
Hamline University

Ms. Mary Catherine Toker  
Vice President, Government Relations  
General Mills, Inc.

Mr. Wolfgang von Maack  
CHC Treasurer

Edward M. Cooney  
Executive Director

Dr. Margaret M. Zeigler  
Deputy Director

Ambassador Tony P. Hall  
Founder

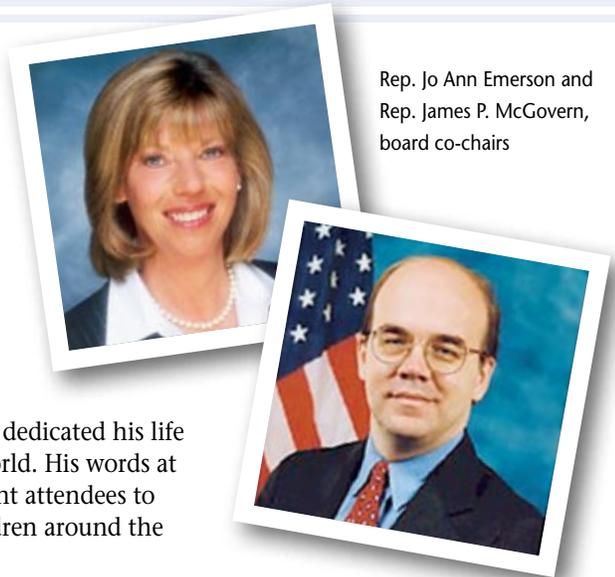
Ambassador Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey  
Founding Director

The year 2008 was exciting for CHC. The organization and staff celebrated our colorful 15th anniversary event at the U.S. Botanic Garden, and raised crucial funds for our Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Fellowship Programs.

As board co-chairs, we were pleased and honored to receive together on July 8, 2008, the Friends of the World Food Program Leaders Award. The highlight of the evening was the opportunity to spend time with former Senator and Ambassador **George McGovern**, who has dedicated his life to eradicating childhood hunger around the world. His words at the award ceremony inspired us and all the event attendees to continue working together to feed hungry children around the world.

We salute the work of the Emerson and Leland fellows who served in the CHC's programs in 2008. Emerson fellows served in 10 states, including Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, New Orleans, Vermont, and Washington, in programs such as food stamp outreach, migrant farm worker support, disaster preparedness, and child nutrition. And around the world—in such locations as Cambodia, Haiti, Mali, Mongolia, Niger, South Africa, and Zambia—Leland fellows worked in their field placements to improve nutrition and school feeding programs, support pastoralists, improve farmers' health and business skills, and help them protect their environmental assets. The dedication and commitment of the fellows to becoming effective anti-hunger leaders continues to inspire us and others with whom they work at their host organizations. This report highlights their work and we hope it inspires you as well.

As board co-chairs, we continue to work closely with CHC and the Congressional Hunger Caucus to raise awareness about and find solutions to end hunger. We thank our fellow board members for their support to CHC and invite you to join us in the coming years as we continue "*Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders.*"



Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and  
Rep. James P. McGovern,  
board co-chairs

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson

Rep. James P. McGovern



Representative James P. McGovern, former  
Senator and Ambassador, George McGovern, and  
Representative Jo Ann Emerson at the Friends of the  
World Food Program Leaders Award Ceremony

# The Congressional Hunger Center Vision and Programs

## New Directions for CHC's Mission and Vision in 2008

In 2008 CHC finalized its strategic review and organizational plan for 2009–2012. We are grateful to Altria Corporate Services for the funding they provided for this year-long research and planning process. With the input of our host organizations, board of directors, alumni, staff, and field and policy partners, we refined and clarified our vision, mission, and programs.

We have reoriented our mission to incorporate a rights-based approach to ending hunger, which will be woven throughout our programs, operations, communications, and advocacy work in the coming years. We will strive to make our vision—stated below—a reality in future years.

### CHC's Mission

*CHC trains and inspires leaders who work to end hunger, and advocates public policies that create a food-secure world.*

### CHC's Vision

*CHC is a leader in the movement to ensure access to food as a basic human right for all people. We create and nurture a community of innovative and inspiring leaders who act as change agents, bridging the gap between grassroots efforts and national and international public policy to provide access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.*

## CHC's History: 1993–2008

The Congressional Hunger Center has fought to make domestic and international hunger a priority for leaders in the U.S. government and to train a new generation of leaders to fight hunger. Its success in educating leaders to fight hunger comes in part from its connection to the former House Select Committee on Hunger. Founded in 1983 by **Congressmen Benjamin Gilman, Mickey Leland, and Tony Hall**, the Select Committee on Hunger was known for its efforts

to find real solutions to national and international hunger and poverty.

Congressman Mickey Leland (D-TX) chaired the Select Committee until he lost his life during a humanitarian mission to Ethiopia in 1989. Congressman Tony Hall (D-OH) succeeded Leland as chairman of the Select Committee on Hunger and served in this position until the House of Representatives unexpectedly voted to eliminate all its Select Committees in 1993. Hall responded by embarking on a 22-day fast, an act that helped to bring Republicans and Democrats together to create the Congressional Hunger Center. In 1994, former **Congressman Bill Emerson** (R-MO) joined Tony Hall as the first co-chair of our bipartisan center. Today, CHC is co-chaired by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and **Rep. James P. McGovern** (D-MA).

## Facilitating Collaborative Efforts between Grassroots Programs and National and International Policy

CHC's programs and advocacy initiatives emphasize the link between grassroots, field-based solutions to hunger and effective policy work. Since our founding in 1993, CHC has organized and hosted numerous workshops, national and international hunger forums, and briefings for Members of Congress and policymakers. CHC's many friends and partners include Members of Congress, Congressional staff who focus on hunger and poverty, and hundreds of anti-hunger organizations throughout the U.S. and overseas.

## Training Leaders about the Causes of and Solutions to Hunger

CHC also serves as a unique training center where over 500 young men and women have gained the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to become effective anti-hunger leaders. Our leadership training programs include the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program and the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program. In 2008, we are proud to celebrate more  
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CHC Board Members participate in Strategic Planning Retreat

# Fighting Hunger at Home

## National Policy Report

The global skyrocketing food and energy prices of 2008 created the specter of a significant increase in domestic hunger. Action by Congress to enact the 2008 Farm Bill offset the impact of some of these price increases on the domestic front, and CHC staff played critical roles in achieving the progressive policies set forth in the Bill.

### CHC's Work on Progressive Domestic Nutrition Programs and Policies

Over the last 3 years, CHC staff have advised many allied organizations on the enactment of progressive food and nutrition policy in the Farm Bill. CHC's primary focus was on the Nutrition Title of this legislation. When we began the process, there were no dedicated funds for increases in the most important weapon in the fight against hunger—the Food Stamp Program. Through the leadership of CHC Co-Chair **Rep. James P. McGovern**, the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

Resolution included the creation of a \$20 billion contingency fund for new money for the Nutrition Title of the Farm Bill. However, this money had to come from increased taxes or cuts in other programs. Congress eventually found enough financial offsets to fund the needed food stamp funding increases.

CHC plays a unique role in the legislative process. We do very little direct lobbying and virtually no grassroots lobbying. Rather, to aid in the achievement of legislative goals, we serve as advisors on political strategy, coalition building, and analysis of proposal design. By consulting with our board, and employing our staffs' expertise on food stamps and child nutrition programs and policies, CHC works with allied groups to assist them in enacting progressive legislation. For example, the combined efforts of CHC, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Feeding America, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Bread for the World and

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### The Congressional Hunger Center Vision and Programs

than 15 years of *"Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders."*

Each year, 20–24 young leaders are chosen from a large pool of applicants to participate in the *Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program*. Emerson fellows are placed for 6 months throughout the United States with urban and rural community-based organizations, such as food banks, community kitchens, and local advocacy agencies. Then they move to Washington, D.C. to complete the year-long program with 6 months of work at national policy organizations, including think tanks, federal agencies, and national advocacy institutes. Emerson fellows also receive over 40 days of intensive training throughout the year, and national anti-hunger leaders serve as mentors and employers, both during and after the fellowship.

CHC's *Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program* provides exceptional individuals with service opportunities at United Nations and U.S. government agencies and with private

sector organizations. The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, with a field placement in a developing country for the first year, followed by a second year in a policy environment in either Washington, D.C. or Rome, Italy at the United Nations food agency headquarters. The field placement allows each fellow to take part in grassroots efforts and includes emergency food aid operations to support a variety of anti-hunger efforts—from agriculture to nutrition and school feeding projects. The subsequent policy placement allows fellows to use their field experience to influence policies and programs that end global hunger.

Emerson and Leland fellows continue to dedicate their time, talent, and energy to ending hunger in the United States and overseas. They are living memorials to the late U.S. Representatives Mickey Leland and Bill Emerson, two outstanding leaders who exemplified a bipartisan spirit of cooperation in the fight against hunger and poverty.

# Fighting Hunger Abroad

## International Policy Report

### Linking Field Information with Policymakers

In late 2007 and throughout 2008, prices of commodities such as rice, corn, wheat, and soybeans increased between 30 and 60 percent. Along with an increase in fuel costs, the outcome has meant disaster for the world's poorest people, requiring them to spend between 40 and 90 percent of their weekly incomes just to purchase food. The causes of this sudden price spike for commodities are varied, and range from increasing global demand for food and meat (requiring more feed for animals), diversion of certain crops to fuels, and drought and natural disasters in commodity-producing nations, to hoarding and export restrictions by other commodity-producing nations. Taken together, these contributing factors have created, according to World Bank President **Robert Zoellick**, a man-made disaster that will require a "New Deal for global food policy" to assist the 100 million newly hungry people who have been pushed into poverty.

In response to the crisis, CHC worked with our Board Member **Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee**

Leland Fellow Alumna, Amanda Rives Argenal, with CHC Deputy Director, Margaret Zeigler, at the House Children's Caucus and CHC briefing



to organize a policy briefing with the U.S.

House of Representatives' Children's Caucus entitled "The Global Food Crisis and the Impact on Children." Held on May 8, 2008 in the Rayburn House Office Building, the briefing provided an overview of the global food price crisis and its impact on children's nutritional status. Attendees included staff from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, Congressional Committees, and representatives from voluntary organizations and the private sector.

Rep. Jackson Lee was joined by **Reps. Donald Payne** and **Diane Watson**, as well as several other Members of Congress during the session. The lead witness was actor and international social activist, **Danny Glover**, who appeared

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Actor and activist Danny Glover testifies with CHC board member, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee at the House Children's Caucus and CHC briefing

### Fighting Hunger at Home

the extensive support networks of these groups resulted in over \$10 billion in new benefits for low-income people participating in the Food Stamp Program. These changes resulted in real dollars being made available to low-income groups through broadening the dependant care and standard deductions for households and allowing greater assets to be held by low-income families while retaining program eligibility. Program recommendations from the Bush Administration were incorporated, including the income exclusion of education, retirement accounts, and certain military payments.

CHC also offered advice to the Community Food Security Coalition on how to secure \$5 million in funds for community food projects. These small programs have a large impact in their local communities by providing support for community gardens, farmers markets, farm-to-school

programs, and the formation of food policy councils. CHC provided guidance to the Coalition on legislative strategy and directions for obtaining legislative drafting assistance. The \$5 million community food projects program, set to expire, was renewed as part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

CHC is a member of the Child Nutrition Forum (CNF) Steering Committee. We also act as an advisor to CNF Co-Chairs **Marshall Matz**, who is also a CHC board member, and **Ellen Teller**, also of FRAC. The major focus of CNF in 2008 was drafting a Statement of Principles for Child Nutrition for the upcoming Child Nutrition reauthorization in 2009. The most challenging aspect of this effort was forging an agreement on legislative language for the establishment of nutrition standards for "foods that compete with school meals." School meals are a multibillion-

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Representative James P. McGovern, Representative Jo Ann Emerson and CHC Founder, Ambassador Tony P. Hall at the press conference release of the Roadmap to End Hunger



with representatives from UNICEF, the World Food Program, Save the Children, and World Vision. Mickey Leland fellow alumna **Amanda Rives Argenal** represented the Christian Children's Fund at the hearing and shared first-hand the impact that the food price crisis was having on the work of that organization on the ground in Honduras, Zambia, and Ethiopia.

### Assisting Allied Organizations

CHC collaborated with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to host a seminar covering the topic of "Labor Saving Technologies for Rural Women: Lightening the Load." This seminar was attended by some 50 representatives of organizations including Bread for the World, Oxfam America, Heifer International, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Winrock International. **Dr. Marilyn Carr**, a development economist, presented her research covering new technologies that save women time and labor in the developing world.

At the request of our founder **Ambassador Tony P. Hall**, CHC staff began working in

August 2008 with staff from Mercy Corps and a broad-based coalition of nongovernmental organizations, advocacy groups, and religious organizations to craft a comprehensive plan to guide the U.S. Congress and the incoming Administration on the reduction of global hunger. CHC hosted a series of meetings in which interested organizations framed, discussed, and debated the contents of the plan until agreement was reached.

The joint effort of private voluntary humanitarian organizations resulted in a visionary document entitled "A Roadmap for U.S. Leadership to End Global Hunger."

The "Roadmap" calls on the new Administration and Congress to work together with governments and citizens all over the world to reach the established international Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of cutting global hunger in half by 2015. Specific recommendations will be presented to Congress and the Administration in 2009 as part of a national campaign.

### Fighting Hunger at Home

dollar business and the interests of children, parents, educators, administrators, corporations selling products to schools, and the anti-hunger community are all in play during any consideration of legislation. CHC staff played an instrumental role in the development of language on nutrition standards that all of these groups agreed upon.

### CHC Achieves Support for the Emerson and Leland Fellowship Programs

The Emerson and Leland Hunger Fellowship Programs are authorized in the Farm Bill and are among the very few fellowship programs completely controlled by "statute." This means that any change in the programs can occur only through amendments to the legislation. CHC was able to secure an amendment to the Farm

Bill, finally authorizing the Emerson and Leland Fellowship Programs to be administered through CHC. It took 6 years to achieve this legislative milestone, which should preserve the two programs for the future.

### CHC's Work on the Victory against Hunger Awards Program

Thanks to the generosity of the **Kantor family** and the Victory Wholesale Group of Boca Raton, Florida and Springboro, Ohio, CHC and the National Farm to School Network were able to make 25 \$1,000 grants to programs operating local "farm-to-school" projects. **Lauren Flax** of CHC, along with **Marion Kalb** and **Debra Eschmeyer** of the Network, worked tirelessly to achieve success in the Victory Against Hunger Awards program.

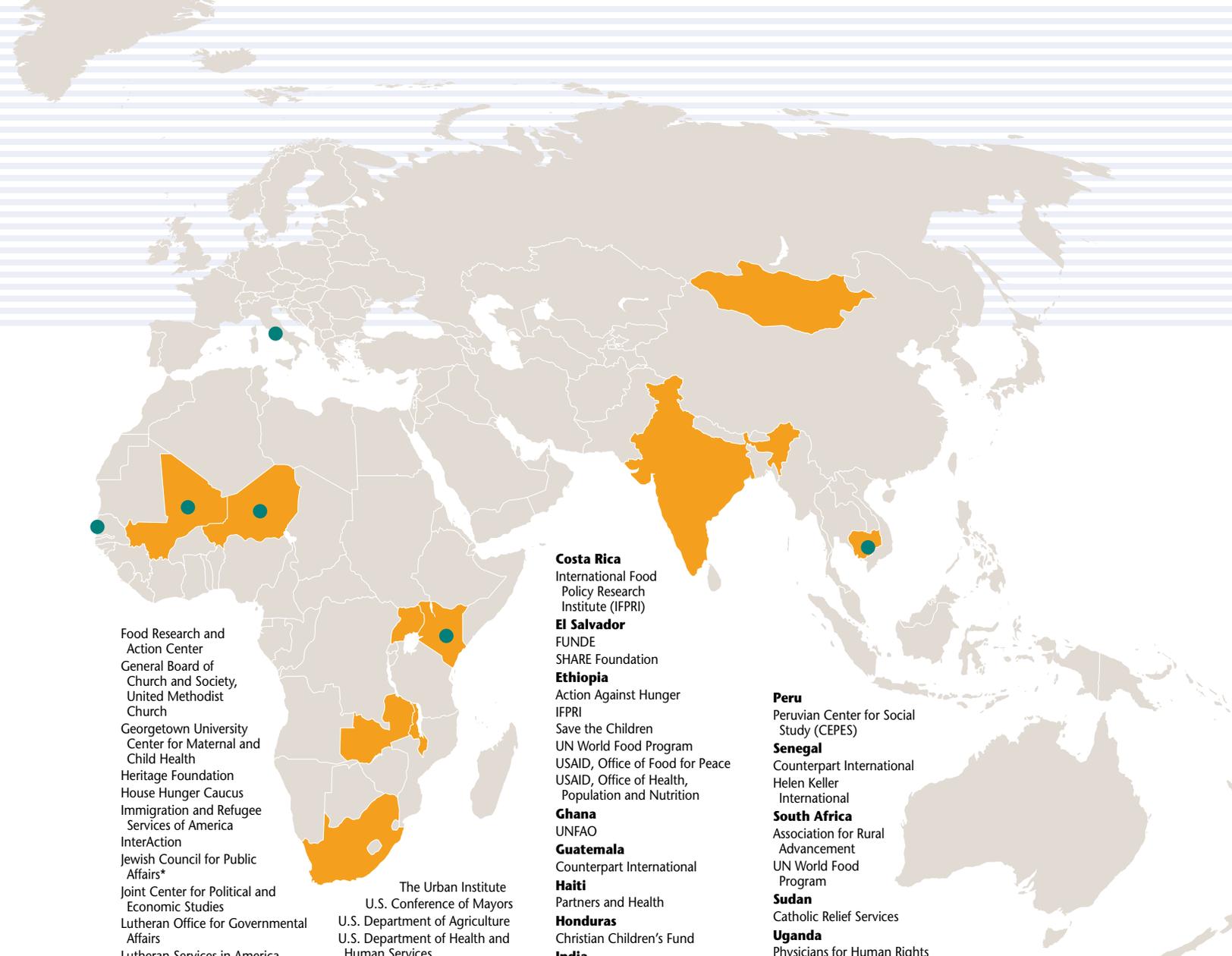
# CHC Partner Sites 1994–2008

- 2008–2009 Bill Emerson Fellows' Field Sites
- 2007–2008 Bill Emerson Fellows' Policy Sites
- 2007–2009 Mickey Leland Fellows' Field Sites
- 2007–2009 Mickey Leland Fellows' Policy Sites

## Emerson National Field Partners

- Alabama**  
Alabama Coalition Against Hunger, Auburn
- Alaska**  
Food Bank of Alaska, Anchorage
- Arizona**  
Association of Arizona Food Banks, Phoenix  
Community Food Bank, Tucson  
Tohono O'odham Community Action, Sells  
Westside Food Bank, Phoenix
- California**  
Alameda County Community Food Bank, Oakland  
Alameda County Social Services Agency, Oakland  
California Association of Food Banks, Sacramento  
California Emergency Food Link, Sacramento  
California Department of Health Services, Public Health Institute, Oakland  
California Food Policy Advocates, Los Angeles  
Community Action Commission, Santa Barbara  
Foodlink of Tulare County, Visalia  
Fresno Community Food Bank, Fresno  
Fresno Metropolitan Ministry, Fresno  
Homeless Garden Project, Santa Cruz  
Interfaith Hunger Coalition, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Los Angeles  
Sacramento Hunger Commission, Sacramento  
San Francisco Department of Human Services, San Francisco  
USDA Western Regional Office, San Francisco
- Colorado**  
USDA Mountain Plains Regional Office, Denver
- Connecticut**  
Connecticut Food Bank, New Haven  
End Hunger CTI, Hartford  
The Hartford Food System, Hartford
- Delaware**  
Teaching Health for Life Ministries, Wilmington
- Florida**  
Alliance for Fair Food, Immokalee  
Farm Share, Florida City  
Florida Association for Community Action, Gainesville  
Florida Impact, Tallahassee  
Human Services Coalition, Miami
- South Florida Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Miami
- Georgia**  
Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta
- Hawaii**  
Full Plate, Inc., Kaneohe  
Hawaii Food Bank, Honolulu  
Kauai District Health Office, Kauai  
Kauai Economic Opportunity, Kauai
- Idaho**  
Idaho Community Action Network, Boise
- Illinois**  
Center for Economic Progress, Chicago  
Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, Chicago  
Hyde Park-Kenwood Interfaith Council, Chicago  
Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Chicago
- Iowa**  
Drake University Law School, Agricultural Law Center, Des Moines
- Indiana**  
Haven House Services, Jeffersonville
- Kansas**  
Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, Wichita
- Kentucky**  
Community Farm Alliance, Louisville  
Kentucky River Foothills Development Corp., Berea
- Louisiana**  
Hope House of New Orleans, New Orleans  
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness, New Orleans  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans, New Orleans
- Maine**  
Maine Coalition for Food Security, Portland
- Maryland**  
Maryland Food Bank, Baltimore\*  
Maryland Hunger Solutions, Baltimore\*  
Project PLASE, Baltimore
- Massachusetts**  
Boston Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics, Boston  
Boston Medical Center, Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Boston  
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield  
The Food Project, Boston\*  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston
- Worcester County Food Bank, Worcester

- Michigan**  
Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan, Detroit  
Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank, Grand Rapids
- Minnesota**  
St. Paul Second Harvest Food Bank, St. Paul
- Missouri**  
The Campus Kitchens Project at St. Louis University, St. Louis  
Operation Food Search, Inc., St. Louis
- Montana**  
Missoula Food Bank, Inc., Missoula  
Montana People's Action, Missoula  
Northern Cheyenne Food Bank, Lame Deer
- Nebraska**  
Applesseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Lincoln
- Nevada**  
Project M.A.N.A., Incline Village
- New Mexico**  
Farm to Table, Santa Fe  
The Food Depot, Santa Fe  
Second Harvest Roadrunner Food Bank, Albuquerque
- New York**  
Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse, Binghamton  
FoodChange, New York  
Godian Fellowship Church, Jamaica  
New Yorkers Against Hunger Project at SENSES, Albany  
Nutrition Consortium of New York State, Albany
- North Carolina**  
Food Bank of North Carolina, Raleigh  
Second Harvest Metrolina Food Bank, Charlotte
- North Dakota**  
Red River Valley Community Action, Grand Forks
- Ohio**  
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks, Columbus  
Operation Food Share, Dayton  
Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Center, Logan
- Oklahoma**  
Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah
- Oregon**  
Children First of Oregon, Portland  
FOOD for Lane County, Eugene  
Oregon Child Development Coalition, Portland\*  
Oregon Faith Roundtable, Portland  
Oregon Food Bank, Portland  
Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, Portland
- Pennsylvania**  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Pittsburgh  
Just Harvest, Pittsburgh
- Puerto Rico**  
La Fondita De Jesus, Santurce
- South Carolina**  
Harvest Hope Food Bank, Columbia
- Texas**  
End Hunger Network, Houston  
San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio  
South Plains Food Bank, Lubbock
- Vermont**  
Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, Burlington  
Vermont Foodbank, Inc., South Barre
- Virginia**  
Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Portsmouth
- Washington**  
Children's Alliance, Seattle  
The Fremont Public Association, Seattle  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Seattle\*  
Solid Ground, Seattle  
Washington Citizen's Action Education and Research Fund, Seattle  
Washington Food Coalition, Seattle
- Washington, D.C.**  
Capital Area Food Bank  
Community Harvest  
D.C. Central Kitchen  
D.C. Hunger Solutions Food and Friends
- Wisconsin**  
Fondy Food Center, Inc., Milwaukee  
Hunger Task Force, Milwaukee
- Emerson National Policy Partners**
- Washington, DC**  
Academy for Educational Development  
Alliance to End Hunger  
Association for Career and Technical Education  
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
- American Dietetic Association  
American Public Human Services Association  
American Red Cross  
America's Second Harvest  
Bread for the World  
Call to Renewal  
Catholic Charities USA  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Concern/Presbyterian Hunger Program  
Center for Women's Policy Studies  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
CFED  
Christian Children's Fund  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Food Security Coalition  
Connect for Kids  
Domestic Policy Council, The White House  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Washington Office  
Families USA



Food Research and Action Center  
 General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church  
 Georgetown University Center for Maternal and Child Health  
 Heritage Foundation  
 House Hunger Caucus  
 Immigration and Refugee Services of America  
 InterAction  
 Jewish Council for Public Affairs\*  
 Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
 Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs  
 Lutheran Services in America  
 March of Dimes  
 Migrant Legal Action Program  
 National Coalition for the Homeless  
 National Conference of State Legislatures  
 National Council of La Raza  
 National Head Start Association  
 National Immigration Law Center  
 National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
 National League of Cities  
 National Network for Youth  
 National Security Council, The White House  
 National Women's Law Center  
 NETWORK  
 New America Foundation  
 Northeast-Midwest Institute  
 Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln  
 Oxfam America  
 Partners for Livable Communities  
 Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
 Presbyterian Church USA  
 RESULTS, Inc.  
 Rural Coalition  
 School Nutrition Association  
 Share Our Strength  
 Sojourners

The Urban Institute  
 U.S. Conference of Mayors  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed and Seed  
 Volunteers of America  
 Welfare Information Network  
 Welfare to Work  
 Workforce Alliance

**Leland International Field Partners**

**Bangladesh**  
 Land O' Lakes (LOL)  
 UN World Food Program

**Benin**  
 Catholic Relief Services

**Bolivia**  
 Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
 Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI)  
 PROINPA  
 Save the Children

**Cambodia**  
 PACT  
 UN World Food Program

**Chad**  
 Catholic Relief Services

**Chile**  
 UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)

**Costa Rica**  
 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**El Salvador**  
 FUNDE  
 SHARE Foundation

**Ethiopia**  
 Action Against Hunger  
 IFPRI  
 Save the Children  
 UN World Food Program  
 USAID, Office of Food for Peace  
 USAID, Office of Health, Population and Nutrition

**Ghana**  
 UNFAO

**Guatemala**  
 Counterpart International

**Haiti**  
 Partners and Health

**Honduras**  
 Christian Children's Fund

**India**  
 Akshaya Patra Foundation

**Indonesia**  
 International Land Coalition  
 Land O' Lakes

**Kenya**  
 AMREF  
 Catholic Relief Services  
 International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications  
 Land O'Lakes  
 PACT

**Malawi**  
 CARE  
 United Nations Development Programme

**Mali**  
 Helen Keller International  
 Millennium Challenge Corporation

**Mexico**  
 CIMMYT  
 The News

**Mongolia**  
 Mercy Corps

**Morocco**  
 Management Systems International

**Niger**  
 International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics

**Peru**  
 Peruvian Center for Social Study (CEPES)

**Senegal**  
 Counterpart International  
 Helen Keller International

**South Africa**  
 Association for Rural Advancement  
 UN World Food Program

**Sudan**  
 Catholic Relief Services

**Uganda**  
 Physicians for Human Rights  
 Save the Children  
 Uganda Land Alliance  
 UN World Food Program  
 USAID

**Washington, DC**  
 Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa

**Zambia**  
 Christian Children's Fund

**Leland International Policy Partners**

**Washington, DC Region**  
 ACDI/VOCA\*  
 Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
 American Red Cross  
 Bread for the World  
 CARE  
 Catholic Relief Services  
 Christian Children's Fund  
 Counterpart International  
 FANTA  
 Global Child Nutrition Forum\*  
 IFPRI  
 Land O'Lakes  
 Management Systems International  
 Mercy Corps International  
 National Family Farm Coalition

PACT  
 Save the Children  
 Scripps Howard News Service  
 USAID, Africa Bureau  
 USAID, Office of Food for Peace

**Dakar, Senegal**  
 Helen Keller International

**Nairobi, Kenya**  
 PACT

**Coutounou, Benin**  
 Catholic Relief Services

**Cambodia**  
 UN World Food Program

**London, United Kingdom**  
 Action Against Hunger

**Ethiopia**  
 IFPRI

**Rome, Italy**  
 International Land Coalition  
 IPGRI  
 UN Food and Agriculture Organization  
 UN International Fund for Agriculture Development  
 UN World Food Program

\* New site in 2008

# The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program

## About the Program

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program is a unique leadership development opportunity for young professionals seeking to eliminate domestic hunger and poverty. The year-long fellowship is divided into two 6-month periods, in which fellows are first placed in community-based organizations in 10 cities across the United States and then with national policy organizations in Washington, D.C.

As part of CHC's strategic planning process, the Emerson Program developed a new statement of vision, as follows.

The **Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program** is a social justice program that trains, inspires, and sustains leaders. We support a diversity of local and national approaches to eliminate hunger, poverty, and oppression and nurture an innovative national network of creative and inspiring change agents who share our vision of a just world. The Emerson Program seeks to craft successful and mutually beneficial partnerships between fellows and partner organizations while developing a new generation of hunger and poverty leaders. Ultimately, we hope to create a country free from hunger and poverty where access to

15th class Emerson fellows at the U.S. Capitol.



nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food is recognized as a basic human right.

### **Emerson Fellows will:**

- Actively work to end hunger, poverty, and oppression both during and after the Fellowship.
- Gain an understanding of and commitment to their roles as social justice leaders.
- Contribute their expertise, knowledge, and energy to their field and policy projects.
- Be a positive force for change in their host organizations and communities.
- Develop in a supportive environment where curiosity and teamwork are valued.
- Have opportunities to collaborate with diverse people, communities, and institutions.
- Share resources and ideas with each other and Emerson Program partners.
- Build a fellow, alumni, and partner network for now and the future.

### **Emerson partner organizations will:**

- Represent varied approaches and strategies to ending hunger and poverty.
- Be supported as they develop projects that meet the needs of their communities and organizational missions.
- Actively work to eliminate oppression and injustice.
- Provide opportunities for fellows to develop their leadership potential.
- Link efforts to fight the symptoms of hunger with strategies to impact root causes.
- Build partnerships with individuals and communities directly impacted by hunger and poverty.

### **Training and Leadership Development:**

To prepare fellows for their field and policy projects and to encourage ongoing reflection and learning throughout the year, the Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program provides a comprehensive annual training program of field training, mid-field retreat, policy training, mid-policy retreat, and professional development days. We



Fellows Stephany Whitaker and Cristina Sepe attend a community event in Baltimore, Maryland.

explore research, program, and policy issues related to leadership and community development, hunger and poverty, food systems, social justice work (service, advocacy, research, and organizing), and connections among poverty, social inequalities, and oppression. The training program also provides opportunities to develop the skill sets needed by young leaders in social justice, such as community-based program development, public speaking, project management, field research, and policy writing.

The goals for the Emerson annual training program are to:

- Equip fellows with the skills and the knowledge base on a range of issues related to hunger and poverty allowing them to make meaningful contributions to their field, policy organizations, and the people they serve;
- Create and promote a community environment for fellows to make personal and professional connections during the program year;
- Create space for individuals and group reflections and goal setting;
- Integrate fellows into CHC, the Emerson Program, and larger fellowship community;
- Promote fellows and their work to CHC partners and stakeholders;
- Examine approaches to change within the anti-hunger and antipoverty movements;
- Challenge fellows to reflect on their personal aspirations, values and contribution to social change efforts; and
- Begin to explore the connections between hunger and other manifestations of social inequality, particularly racism.

### Spotlight on the Fellows: 2008 Field Work Highlights (15th Class)

**Veronica Conti** worked with the Logan Square Neighborhood Association in Chicago. She created a wellness council at a local middle school, bringing together parents, community members, school staff, and students to improve



Fellow Sarah Custer is working with farmers' markets that accept food stamps, and vouchers for seniors and WIC moms.

the health of the middle school community. Veronica also worked to increase participation among middle school students in universal school breakfast programs by evaluating students' experience with the current program and making recommendations for improvement.

**Sarah Custer** worked with the Prevention Center at Tulane University in New Orleans on a community health and food security project. She collaborated with the Food Policy Advisory Committee on advocacy and implementation strategies to bring grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other healthy food retailers into underserved areas of New Orleans. She also provided important research and support for the Louisiana State Senate's Healthy Food Retail Study Group.

**Kelly Meredith** conducted a statewide assessment for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Wilsonville, Oregon. She examined why small, home-based day care providers aren't receiving federal reimbursements for food through the Child and Adult Care Food Program



Fellow Michael Richardson leads other fellows in a training exercise



(CACFP). Kelly interviewed and surveyed CACFP participants, program sponsors, state officials, farm worker families, and Spanish-speaking day care providers to identify barriers to participation and recommend solutions.

While working with a team of attorneys at Boston Medical Center's Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, **Morenike Mosuro** collaborated with pediatricians and community health centers to address the hunger and nutrition issues of low-income families. She helped patient families apply for food stamps and utility discounts and advocated for clients with government agencies. She also studied the effectiveness of collocation of resources at Boston Medical Center, where a food stamp eligibility worker visits the hospital regularly to process food stamp applications.

**Nico Quintana** worked with the Food Project in Boston, where she evaluated the impact of a pilot program that introduced food stamp machines at farmers' markets in low-income Boston neighborhoods by conducting surveys and interviews and working with community members to find potential areas of improvement. Nico also educated Boston elementary school children about healthy food choices and supported the efforts of the Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness. She organized a community meeting series to discuss the project findings and identify policy priorities for the implementation phase of the project.

During his field placement at Solid Ground in Seattle, **Collin Siu** partnered with University of Washington to study the effects of federally funded supportive services programs on the health outcomes of Seattle seniors and people with disabilities in public housing. His study measured the impact of case management, grocery delivery, social activities, and referral services in several of Seattle's public housing programs.

### Spotlight on the Fellows: 2008 Policy Work Highlights (14th Class)

At the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), **Fatima Carson** worked to make food stamps more accessible to elderly Americans. She created a toolkit focusing on hunger among elderly people and their Food Stamp Program participation and visited District of Columbia senior centers to educate seniors about their rights in the Food Stamp Program. She also analyzed Food Stamp Program participation and practices in 25 large cities for a FRAC publication called *Food Stamp Access in Urban America: A City by City Snapshot*. Fatima is now pursuing a Masters degree in public policy at Indiana University.

**Cody Fischer** created an informational guide to 2008 Presidential candidates for members of the Network Education Program (NEP), a national Catholic social justice lobby. He also helped NEP reach out to new members through the *Convention for the Common Good*, a conference focused on engaging Catholics in social justice. After the event, Cody supported participants as they built on the momentum achieved at the convention back in their own communities. Cody went on to organize faith voters in Pennsylvania



Members of Congress Jo Ann Emerson, John Lewis, and Jim McGovern listen to 14th Class class reports on policy work.



14th Class Fellows meet with Members of Congress Jo Ann Emerson, John Lewis, and Jim McGovern.

for the Obama Presidential campaign and is now in Senegal serving as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

**Gagan Gupta** worked on RESULTS Education Fund's 2008 Health Care for All Campaign, focused on eliminating health disparities. Gagan worked with RESULTS members and organizational partners to determine the scope and long-term goals of the organization's health policy work. He also organized two of the three domestic plenary meetings at the RESULTS International Conference, both on trends in health care policy. Gagan went on to be a field organizer for the Obama Presidential Campaign in Colorado.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), **Amber Herman** worked with the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships, and Outreach (OSIPO) to develop partnerships with non-governmental organizations that provide services to low income Americans. She evaluated existing FNS partnerships and identified new collaboration opportunities in the areas of food security and nutrition promotion, especially with organizations serving seniors and Latino communities. Amber also supported the ongoing evaluation of new Partnership Initiatives by creating methods to monitor and evaluate future partnerships. Subsequently hired by FNS, she now serves as a Program Analyst at OSIPO.

At the Corporation for Enterprise Development, **Will Perreault** researched and analyzed federal asset-building policies to promote savings options for low-income people. By working to build alliances with economic development practitioners, private businesses and

nontraditional constituencies, Will promoted the broader adoption of automatic employee enrollment into savings and investment features.

With the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, **Bianca Pullen** conducted research on the social determinants of obesity. Her findings supported the work of a Joint Center project called *Place Matters* that identifies and addresses social determinants of health disparities at the local level. Bianca also co-authored an article on racial health disparities for *Focus Magazine* and helped to strengthen partnerships between the Joint Center and anti-hunger organizations. After the Fellowship, she returned to her field site, the Boston Medical Center, where she now works in pediatrics at the Grow Clinic.

### Rising Food Prices: a national policy issue

Emerson Fellows **Rachel Winch** and **David Kane** contributed to public policy efforts to search for solutions to the crisis of rising food prices. The fellows worked to publicize the crisis, educate policymakers and the public about its impact on low-income Americans, and explore potential policy solutions.

In her policy placement with the Hunger Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rachel Winch worked with Caucus Co-Chairs **Jim McGovern** and **Jo Ann Emerson** to educate members of Congress and their staff about the food price crisis. Rachel coordinated several formal briefings in the House that addressed the impact of rising food costs in the United States and abroad and potential strategies for preventing increased hunger and food insecurity. She coordinated economists, administration officials, and national and international experts in speaking at the briefings, publicized the briefings, and conducted targeted outreach to legislative staff. Panelists included **Dr. Ephraim Leibtag** of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jared Bernstein of the Economic Policy Institute, and **Jim Weill** of the Food Research and Action Center, and they discussed the impact of rising food prices in the U.S.

## The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program

Emerson Fellow Rachel Winch moderates a House Hunger Caucus briefing on the impact of rising food prices in the U.S.



In the United States, “The price of food purchased for in-home use has increased 7.9% since 2006, including a 9.7% increase on cereals and bakery, a 14.8% increase on dairy, and a 10.3% increase on fruits and vegetables. An increase in demand for grains for animal feed and biofuels coupled with an increase in fuel prices have contributed to the rising costs. Americans with low and moderate incomes, who spend a larger portion of their income on staples, are affected the most substantially,” the Hunger Caucus reported.

With Rachel’s help, the House Hunger Caucus also addressed the impact of rising food costs on international food aid and potential strategies for alleviating this year’s food aid shortage. Rising food prices have had a dramatic impact on international food assistance programs in poor countries. “Food prices have reached unprecedented levels, with commodity prices up 40% since mid-2007. Increased demand for grains for animal feed and biofuels, as well as decreased crop yields in some areas because of global warming, contributed to the skyrocketing costs. Furthermore, high oil prices have doubled the costs of shipping U.S. commodities to countries in need of assistance, as well as in-country transportation costs,” the House Hunger Caucus wrote. Panelists discussing the impact of rising costs on international food assistance included **W. Kirk Miller**, USDA Foreign Agriculture Service; **Jeff Borns**,

USAID; **Michael Usnick**, World Food Program; **Doug Norell**, Catholic Relief Services; and **John Ziolkowski**, CARE/USA.

The impact of the briefings was felt immediately by the Caucus. “The overwhelming attendance at the briefings illustrated how concerned Members of Congress were with the food crisis,” Rachel said. “Most briefings were standing room only, and Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson actually invited people to sit on the floor at our briefing on Long Term Solutions to the Food Crisis because there was not enough room in the back for the overflow of people to stand. We received dozens of phone calls and e-mail after each briefing requesting to join the Hunger Caucus and to discuss how they could address hunger both abroad and in their districts. These briefings helped to raise the profile on hunger issues at a critical time,” Rachel concluded.

In his policy placement with the Center for American Progress (CAP), David Kane worked with the Poverty to Prosperity Program. He conducted research on federal, state, and local efforts to improve the economic conditions of the poor and middle class and provided communications support for the Campaign to Cut Poverty in Half by 2017. One of his research projects focused on the crisis of rising food prices in the U.S. In his article published on the CAP’s website to document the effects of the crisis on low-income Americans, David wrote, “When prices for all consumers increase, low-income families in the United States are hit hardest. Even during times of normal food price inflation, poor families often pay more for groceries.”

David went beyond broad policy analysis to illustrate the consequences of the crisis in families and communities around the U.S. He reported that Americans were turning to food pantries and community kitchens more often and that enrollment in the Food Stamp Program has risen dramatically. “In families with children, who already make up the majority of food stamp recipient households, increased food insecurity that may result from higher prices can have serious health consequences. And as prices of healthy food

options increase, some predict that these high costs will force families to purchase cheaper, but less healthy, food items, potentially worsening the obesity epidemic,” he wrote.

David’s report helped to shape the debate through an inclusive, progressive lens and make a policy issue relevant to a broad group of people. His target audiences included bloggers, radio show hosts, news outlet representatives, policy-makers and their staffs, advocates in the field, other research groups, and the public. Much of the mainstream media coverage about the rising cost of food in spring 2008 was describing the experiences of middle and upper middle-income families being newly squeezed by price inflation. “We wanted to bring the experiences of low-income Americans into the dialogue by highlighting their struggles long before the food crisis hit,” David said. “Doing so helps to broaden the discussion from poverty in ‘others’ to a collective struggle to make ends meet—a struggle that is being faced by more than just low-income families,” David said.

To read the complete article, please see: [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/05/food\\_prices.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/05/food_prices.html)

### Focus on Alumni

Fellows carry the rich experiences gained in the Emerson Program’s training, field placements, and policy work as they move on to make an impact in academia, government, and social justice organizations. Meet two of our amazing 292 national hunger fellow program alumni!

#### **David Coffman, Food Bank of Greater New Orleans**

As a fellow in 2006–2007, David was placed at the Food Bank of Greater New Orleans, where he created a disaster preparedness manual to help the Food Bank in its ongoing efforts to transition from disaster relief to disaster recovery. Using the technology of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), David mapped emergency food distribution agencies before and after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He also worked to recruit new food bank member agencies to begin the process

of rebuilding the emergency food network. He documented his experience in New Orleans with a report called *just don’t forget about us: The Story of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and their Impact on the Food Bank*, which chronicled the impact of the 2006 storms, assessed current needs, and shared the personal stories of hurricane survivors and emergency food providers during the storm.

During his Washington, D.C. policy placement with the National Coalition for the Homeless, David documented hate crimes and civil rights abuses against the homeless as part of the National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project. He also helped prepare an interim report on the “20 Meanest Cities,” aimed at educating the public about hate crimes and worked on the “You Don’t Need a Home to Vote” homeless voters’ rights campaign.

Serving as an Emerson hunger fellow played an essential role in shaping David’s career. Shortly after the fellowship, David relocated to New Orleans to work full time for his former field site. He now serves the food bank as community health education coordinator, working to increase community access to healthy food in southern Louisiana. “We are trying to rebuild the food system after devastating hurricanes. Farmers need to grow more food and have reliable markets where they can sell the food. Families need grocery stores and kids need healthy food in schools,” he said.

Of his time as a hunger fellow, David said “The Emerson program gave me the skills and understanding to effectively study and organize a community around food access issues.” Experiencing both field and policy work in the same year gave David the perspective he needs to be successful in his work in New Orleans. “I really understand the national response to hunger and hunger issues. I understand how it fits all together now, and how to effectively channel communities’ energy toward filling the gap between what the federal government provides and what communities need,” he said. “I couldn’t have developed that crucial perspective without serving as a hunger fellow.”



David Coffman, Emerson Program alumnus from the 13th class



Alejandra Lopez-Fernandini,  
Hunger Fellow alumna from  
the 7th Class

Last year, David served as a field site supervisor to 14th class fellow **Adrienne Alexander**. “I really enjoyed working with ‘Dri.’ She brought great energy and expertise to her project and it was rewarding for me to support a fellow so capable of creating real change so soon after I completed my fellowship,” he said.

David holds a B.A. in sustainable development from Kentucky’s Berea College where he served as a Bonner Scholar for 4 years. His extensive service included leading fellow students through service activities and providing training on poverty and hunger issues in the U.S. For his senior capstone project he studied sustainable communities and race relations in Brazil.

*David Coffman was a member of the 13th class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows.*

**Alejandra Lopez-Fernandini**

As a hunger fellow, Alejandra worked at the Missoula Food Bank in Missoula, Montana and the Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) in Washington, D.C. In Missoula, Alejandra conducted a needs assessment, did outreach in Native American communities, and

developed new programs, including a food delivery program for homebound, low-income seniors and a small food pantry with culturally appropriate foods at a local Native American center. At PRRAC she provided research, analysis, and policy reviews on issues of civil rights, education policy, and federal housing policy.

In February 2008, Alejandra began her work with the Asset Program at the New America Foundation (a frequent policy site for Emerson Fellows), where she works with **Ray Boshara**, a longtime friend of CHC who has served as a trainer, policy supervisor, and advisor to the Hunger Fellows program. Alejandra has been working to promote savings policies and other asset building strategies. USA Today published her editorial co-written with a colleague on the importance of saving in a recession.

Alejandra earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology and international peace studies from the University of Notre Dame in 2000 and a Masters of public policy from Duke University in 2007.

*Alejandra was a member of the 7th class of the National Hunger Fellows Program.*

**Members of the 14th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Adrienne Alexander | Elizabeth Oquendo    |
| Lindsey Baker      | JoEllen Pederson     |
| Fatima Carson      | Will Perreault       |
| Katherine Chen     | Isha Plynton         |
| Cody Fischer       | Bianca Pullen        |
| Gagan Gupta        | David Tian           |
| Amber Herman       | Alexander Villaverde |
| Brad Johnson       | Rachel Winch         |
| David Kane         | Corey Yarbrough      |
| Katherine Moos     |                      |

**Members of the 15th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows**

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Benjamin Bowman | Raquel Oriol       |
| Veronica Conti  | Nico Quintana      |
| Sarah Custer    | Michael Richardson |
| Kayleigh Gamble | Cristina Sepe      |
| Eric Hoffman    | Collin Siu         |
| Mickey Hubbard  | Mark Stovell       |
| Eileen Hyde     | Christine Tran     |
| Sofya Leonova   | Stephany Whitaker  |
| Kelly Meredith  | Ayanna Williams    |
| Morenike Mosuro | Renita Woolford    |

# The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program

## Program Overview

The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is a unique 2-year program giving talented individuals the opportunity to pursue international hunger and food-security and poverty issues at both the field and policy levels. The program seeks committed leaders who come with significant academic and overseas experience. Leland Fellows are valuable assets to the organizations and communities they serve.

Key pillars of the Mickey Leland Fellows Program include linking field work to policy work so that grassroots solutions and programs can inform policies at country, regional, and international levels. Another pillar of the program is professional development of the Fellows. Leland Fellows are given the opportunity to participate in training before each field and policy year, collaborate in an overseas country policy study, and take part in regular professional development days during the policy year of the program. They also are awarded professional development funds

Leland Fellows attend a briefing at the World Bank during their Policy Training in Washington, DC, July 2008



While working with Physicians for Human Rights, Emily Bancroft participates in a Health Care Worker rally at the Mexico City AIDS Conference in August 2008.

to acquire related skills and knowledge. Other foci of the Fellowship include mentorship and community building. As the network of alumni grows, Fellows and

alumni are increasingly forging professional connections and serving as mentors and colleagues to each other.

Understanding that hunger affects, and is affected by, a wide variety of issues ranging from nutrition education and land rights to market systems and beyond, the program works to foster linkages not only among the Fellows but also across development sectors. The organizations that host Fellows subscribe to a variety of development methodologies and strategies. In addition, their organizational structures and geographical locations vary widely. The Leland Program works with national organizations, research institutes, international nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, and UN agencies. Host organizations for the 4th class of Fellows include: the United Nations World Food Program, Physicians for Human Rights, the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the International Food Policy Research Institute.

## Training and Leadership Development

A 10-day retreat and policy training in July 2008 marked the mid-point of the Fellowship for the 4th class of Leland Fellows and served as a transition point between their field and policy years. The training included an informal lunch with CHC board co-chairs **Reps. Jo Ann Emerson** and **James P. McGovern**. Emerson and McGovern encouraged the Leland Fellows to bring them recommendations from their field

experiences, as the Representatives began to craft legislation for the coming year to improve international hunger programs and to address the global hunger crisis. At their retreat, the Fellows had the opportunity to share challenges and successes and to delve more deeply into their varied experiences at their host agencies. They also took the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory and analyzed their personality types as well as their leadership styles.

Following the retreat, Fellows spent a full day reporting on their field work to supervisors, guests, and colleagues from the Washington, D.C. policy community. For the remainder of the week, Fellows learned about advocacy and policy efforts from a diverse panel of experts from GAO, the Congressional Research Service, the House Agricultural Sub-Committee on Foreign Agriculture, the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), CARE, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Famine Early Warning System (FEWSNET), and ACDI/VOCA, among others. These briefings and panel discussions covered topics as varied as the U.S. legislative process, multisectoral approaches to development, and the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report on African government and donor efforts to address hunger in Africa. Fellows enhanced their knowledge on international food aid programs, changes enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill, U.S. foreign assistance and prospects for reform, non-US approaches to foreign development assistance, impacts of climate change on development and mitigation strategies, the international food price crisis, and rights-based approaches to fighting hunger and poverty.

### Spotlight on Fellows

The summer of 2008 closed the field year of the Fellowship program. Fellows were able to contribute greatly to the work of their field organizations, and continue to serve these organizations during their policy year.

**Meaghan Murphy** spent her field year with Mercy Corps Mongolia (MCM), which supports rural communities in mobilizing resources to meet their economic and social needs. MCM emphasizes support for the creation of income generation and value-added opportunities for the rural herder, nonherder, and urban populations through integrated local economic development. Meaghan developed a case study of the Gobi Initiative, a 10-year economic development initiative, and coordinated an assessment of the value chain of a local fruit, sea-buckthorn berries, to identify their production and market potential to inform initial pilot activities as well as future phases of a project in the western region of Mongolia. In her policy placement, she works within the MCM Food Security Technical Unit,

Meaghan Murphy conducts research in a market in Mongolia on the production and market potential of local sea-buckthorn berries.



providing technical support to various Mercy Corps programs that address issues of food access, availability, and utilization. Meaghan also has been assisting Mercy Corps in developing strategic hunger policy positions for the agency as the organization responds to growing programming demands and rolls out its Action Center to End World Hunger in New York City.

**Ira Frydman** worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Malawi to integrate disaster risk reduction into contingency planning, food security, and environmental areas with a focus on floods and droughts. With the threat of floods in Malawi a high concern this past rainy season, Ira initially worked on an initiative connected with the government's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) to help build capacity and conduct reviews of the current contingency plans for threatened districts. The great majority of his work was organizing and helping to facilitate reviews of district-level contingency plans in four of the most flood-prone districts. Ira also took an active role in helping to create a UN interagency flood contingency plan and several appeals for funds in order to better prepare the UN system to act in the event of a flood. He then shifted toward looking at more food security issues, specifically how hazards such as floods and droughts affect food security in Malawi.

Currently in Nairobi at the UNDP regional office for his policy year, Ira's primary responsibility is to manage The African Drought Risk and Development Network (ADDN). The ADDN, which is sponsored by UNDP's Dryland Development Centre and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), was established as a multi-disciplinary platform to address the relationship between drought risk and development in Africa. One of the core activities of ADDN is sponsoring The African Drought Adaptation Forum, which took place in early fall in Addis Ababa. Ira contributed to a primer on climate change adaptation presented at the conference, which brought together some 80 policymakers, government officials, UN agencies,



With the Association For Rural Advancement's in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, Fellow Alexis Jones stands in front of a billboard of newspaper articles highlighting the organization's land rights advocacy efforts.

donors, practitioners, the media, and applied researchers from around Africa and the Arab states.

**Alexis Jones** worked with the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA), a local NGO in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa, which endeavors to improve land access and tenure security to strengthen the livelihoods of the rural poor. At AFRA, her main objectives were to support research and improve internal capacity building. Alexis organized a steering group to coordinate research at AFRA, which developed a strategic framework to guide future research and provided support for research projects in progress. She coordinated an internal capacity-building program. Alexis played a supporting role in proposal writing and fundraising, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as the development of a gender policy at AFRA. She also assisted another South African nongovernmental land organization in mobilizing a regional network of civil society organizations working on land issues.

At the International Land Coalition (ILC), Alexis continues work on the same broad theme—secure land access for the poor—in a new institutional context: a global network of civil society organizations (AFRA among them) and



Alder Keleman and CIMMYT colleague conducted interviews with vendors at a market outside of Mexico City.

intergovernmental organizations. While AFRA's work focuses on land policies at the national level, the ILC supports local actors and activities similar to AFRA's. In addition, the ILC works through global and regional organizations and processes which help to influence the adoption of effective policies, including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the African Union Land Policy Guidelines development process. Alexis' work at ILC includes supporting regional programming in Asia, coordinating preparations for the biannual Assembly of Members, and supporting the development of a strategy for ILC global initiatives. Finally, Alexis is helping to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework.

In her field-placement year, **Alder Keleman** worked in the Impacts, Targeting, and Assessment Unit of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). Broadly, her job was to study the relationship(s) between maize biodiversity, agricultural policy, and markets in Mexico. These topics include a strong poverty and livelihoods focus, given that maize diversity in Mexico is maintained primarily by poor, small-scale farmers. This work was conducted in field sites in two states: Chiapas, where research dealt with the conditions created for small-scale maize farming by agricultural and rural development

policy, and the state of Mexico, where the goal was to explore the extent to which maize landraces are accepted in local value chains. Outputs of her field placement will include up to six peer-reviewed articles. Two articles have already been accepted for publication, another two are in peer review, and two are being readied for submission to a journal. Alder also produced a 100-page report on maize value chains in the state of Mexico to help guide CIMMYT maize breeding for the region.

Alder's work in her policy-year placement at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy continues to address crop diversity and markets. In addition to finishing writing projects from her placement at CIMMYT, she is assisting in editing a book reporting on a 5-country study on crop diversity and markets. Alder also is helping to organize a conference on the potential for local seed markets to contribute to agricultural development in Africa.

### Spotlight on Staff

Serving as Leland Program Director since August 2004, **Jose Ravano** has proved to be a leader and mentor to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes of Leland Fellows. Jose contributed to the development of the program's vision and helped to develop and grow the Leland Fellowship into the meaningful, well-established, and highly regarded program that it is today. After finishing his law degree from Georgetown University, Jose accepted a position with American Red Cross in Sri Lanka as Head of Programs.

Leland alumna, **Grace Jones**, from the 2nd class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows, has recently taken over the Director of the program. Grace comes to CHC after having been a Senior Program Officer at Counterpart International. As a Fellow, Grace worked with a counterpart in Guatemala where she was an agriculture technical advisor. With nearly 10 years of professional experience, Grace comes to the position with a dual masters degree in agronomy and international agriculture development from the University of California, Davis.

### Host Organizations: 2009–2011

The selection process for host organizations for the 5th class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows was completed this year. Host organizations comprise a mixture of new and previous partners, such as Physicians for Human Rights, World Food Program, Bioversity International, Helen Keller International, Mercy Corps, USDA, Catholic Relief Services, the World Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, among others. The next class of Fellows will be working on issues including: agricultural development, gender, climate change, monitoring and evaluation, HIV/AIDS, and school feeding.

### Focus on Alumni

Over the year, Leland alumni have continued to prove themselves as anti-hunger leaders.

From the first class of Leland Fellows, **Amy Damon** secured a tenure track professor position at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She

teaches in the economics department, specifically focusing on economic development. Her courses include one on the economics of global food problems.

Second class alumnus **Andrew Fuys** is currently a program officer at Church World Service working on the Durable Solutions for the Displaced Program, which supports internally displaced persons and refugees, both in the U.S. and overseas.

**Michael Manske** (3rd class) joined Leland alumni **Daniel Abbott** (3rd class), **Mette Karlsen** (2nd class), and **Jodi Fonseca** (2nd class) at Save the Children as a health and nutrition specialist in the Hunger and Malnutrition Unit.

After spending a year with the School for International Training, **Michaela Hackner** (3rd class) accepted a position with Forum One Communications, a web strategy and development firm assisting nonprofits, foundations, and the U.S. government in making a positive impact on issues including health, environment, and poverty. At Forum One, Michaela has begun working as a senior project officer, primarily supporting the Gates Foundation in the development and community management of several online grantee collaboration platforms.

**Bapu Vaitla**, from the 3rd class of Fellows, enrolled in the fall as a PhD candidate at Tufts Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy after co-authoring *Seasons of Hunger: Fighting Cycles of Quiet Starvation among the World's Rural Poor*. This book was published by Hunger Watch, a policy research and advocacy department of Action Against Hunger, where Bapu served as a Leland Fellow.

Following a consultancy for the International Land Coalition in Rome, where he served as a Leland Fellow from 2005–2007, **Peter Giampaoli** (3rd class) joined ARD, Inc. in Vermont this year as a land tenure/property rights specialist.

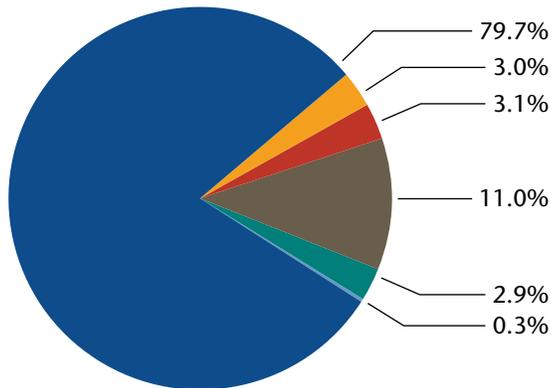
Kurt Burja works with a World Food Program colleague to supervise a food distribution in Kampong Thom, Cambodia.



# How CHC Funds Are Spent

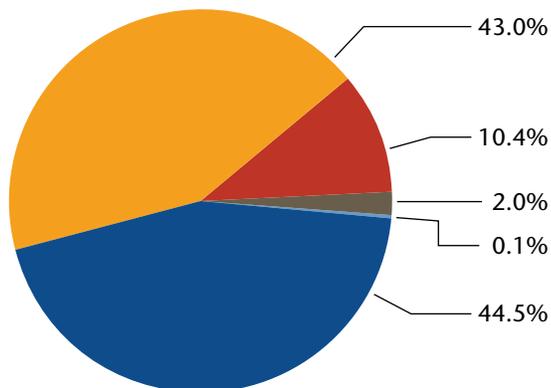
## 2008 Source of Funds

Grant—USDA	\$ 2,524,243
Interest from Investment	\$ 96,316
Foundation	\$ 97,500
Corporation and Events	\$ 347,100
Site matches	\$ 91,500
Individual and Other Income	\$ 9,544



## 2008 Application of Funds

Emerson National Hunger Fellows	\$ 1,329,438
Leland International Hunger Fellows	\$ 1,284,863
General and Administration	\$ 310,061
Fundraising	\$ 59,392
Lobbying	\$ 2,773



## Statements of Financial Position

September 30, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash—unrestricted	\$ 230,585	\$ 19,788
Cash—temporarily restricted	3,533,244	3,632,626
Accounts receivable	68,900	42,361
Prepaid expenses	33,313	41,979
Property and equipment	115,751	128,691
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,981,793</u>	<u>\$ 3,865,445</u>

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	2008	2007
Accounts payable	\$ 34,127	\$ 40,610
Deferred revenue	2,450,675	2,596,492
Obligation under capital leases	20,219	20,219
Total current liabilities	<u>2,505,021</u>	<u>2,657,321</u>

Long term liabilities	2008	2007
Deferred revenue	936,973	827,781
Obligation under capital leases	26,457	46,677
Total long term liabilities	<u>963,430</u>	<u>874,458</u>
Total liabilities	<u>3,468,451</u>	<u>3,531,779</u>

Net Assets	2008	2007
Unrestricted	289,307	152,149
Temporarily restricted	224,035	181,517
Total net assets	<u>513,342</u>	<u>333,666</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 3,981,793</u>	<u>\$ 3,865,445</u>

# Contributors and Partners 2007–2008

## ***Organizations, Foundations, and Corporations***

3M Government Markets  
Alliance for Food Aid  
Altria Group  
American Beverage Association  
American Farm Bureau  
Federation  
American Frozen Food Institute  
Archer Daniels Midland  
Company  
Association of Nutrition Services  
Agencies (ANSA)  
AT&T  
Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation  
Bread for the World  
Bunge North America, Inc.  
C&S Wholesale Grocers  
Campbell Soup Company  
Care First, BCBS  
Center on Budget & Policy  
Priorities  
Community Food Security  
Coalition  
Cornerstone Government  
Affairs  
Darden Restaurants  
East Side Entrees, Inc.  
Feeding America  
Food Research and Action  
Center  
Ford and Harrison LLP  
Friends of WFP, Inc.  
General Mills Foundation  
General Motors  
Goozman, Berstein & Markuski  
Grocery Manufacturers  
Association  
Heifer International  
International Dairy Foods

International Fund for  
Agricultural Development  
International Relief &  
Development  
Kraft  
Land O'Lakes  
The Macon Edwards Company  
Mars, Inc.  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to  
Hunger  
Monsanto Company  
National Confectioners  
Association  
Network For Good  
North American Millers'  
Association  
Philip & Linda Lesourd Lader  
Foundation  
Roll Call  
Saint John's Abbey and  
University  
Snack Food Association  
Sodexo Foundation  
Students Team Up to Fight  
Hunger  
Tosi Maritime Consultants, LLC  
The UPS Foundation  
Victory Wholesale Group  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Worcester Historical Museum  
World Hunger Year

## ***Individuals***

David and Patricia Anderson  
Barbara S. Belmont  
R.J. Boshara  
Mary T. & Dean T. Chambliss  
Katherine L. Clancy  
Vernon J. & Johanna Ehlers  
Max Finberg & Katherine Reed  
Finberg  
Edward L. Fink  
Daniel R. Glickman  
Dennis & Cindy Hertel  
Timothy A. & Eleanor L. Krieger  
David P. Lambert  
Michael D. & Linda Locke  
Sally Allen Lunn  
Andrea Maresca  
Deborah & Marshall Matz  
Manly Molpus  
Benjamin & Magdalene  
Palumbo  
Sara Lynn Parker  
Lisa & Larry Sablosky  
Deborah Schwabes  
Roger A. Schwartz  
Dave & Natalie Thompson  
Barry & Sandra Yatt  
Diana H. Zeigler  
Richard Zeigler

During 2008, CHC applied for and has now received a \$250,000 grant from the ConAgra Foods Foundation for the CHILD Project. CHILD is the Child Hunger Initiative on Learning and Development. This initiative will fund the field and policy placements of four Emerson National Hunger Fellows. The Emerson Fellows will focus on increasing access to and improving the nutritional quality of foods provided in federal child nutrition programs. We would like to thank Feeding America and Share Our Strength (SOS) for their support on this initiative.

# CHC 15th Anniversary Gala

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) celebrated its 15th Anniversary on February 27, 2008 at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. Our 250 guests included members of Congress, senior officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), corporate and nonprofit leaders, as well as current Emerson and Leland Hunger Fellows, former fellows, and CHC board members and staff.

We celebrated the invaluable intellectual and professional contributions our current and former fellows continue to make; highlighted more than fifteen years of accomplishments by CHC; and proudly honored three leading policy makers who continue to fight hunger and poverty in our communities and throughout the world. Congratulations to our honorees, CHC founding board member **Representative Frank Wolf**, **Representative Rosa DeLauro** and **Senator Tom Harkin!**

Rep. DeLauro and Rep. Emerson (center) with 14th Class Emerson Fellows Fatima Carson (far left) and JoEllen Pederson (far right).



From left to right, Katherine Chen, 14th class Emerson Fellow; Amb. Tony P. Hall; Rep. Frank Wolf (center); and Cory Yarbrough, also a 14th class Emerson Fellow.

Our gratitude goes out to all of our corporate, foundation, and individual contributors. CHC raised a total of \$314,000 for the 15th Anniversary Gala. Because of the generosity of our contributors and sponsors, not only was this event a true success, but these partnerships have allowed for CHC to advance its mission to train and inspire leaders who work to end hunger, and to advocate public policies that create a food secure world.

From left to right, 3rd class Leland Fellow Anne-Claire Harvey; 14th class Emerson Fellow Isha Plynton; Senator Tom Harkin; Rep. James P. McGovern; and Will Perreault, 14th class Emerson Fellow.



# CHC Tribute Evening, Life and Legacy of Mickey Leland May 2009

On Tuesday, May 19th, CHC is hosting a Capitol Hill tribute in honor of **Mickey Leland**, former Representative from Houston, Texas. Representative Leland and 15 others died in a tragic plane crash during a famine mission in Ethiopia. August 7, 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of his death.

Please join CHC in celebrating Mickey Leland's life and legacy, and the bi-partisan approach taken by both Representative Mickey Leland, and **Representative Bill Emerson** in the fight to eradicate hunger. At the event, CHC will memorialize Mickey Leland by honoring **Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr., Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Herb Kohl** and **Representative Donald Payne**, for their work to fight hunger around the world and in the United States.

The evening will include recognition of Leland's work on the House Select Committee on Hunger, his bi-partisan friendships, and his fact finding trips in the U.S. and Africa. The House and Senate Hunger Caucuses and The Congressional Hunger Center will be recognized as the successor organizations to the House Select Committee on Hunger. CHC's Fellows will also be honored at the event, as the Bill Emerson National Hunger

Fellows and the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows serve as a living legacy to former Congressman Bill Emerson and Congressman Mickey Leland.



Marty Lator



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