



# Sustenance

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The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

## Update on the CHILD Project

**C**CHILD is the Child Hunger Initiative on Learning and Development. ConAgra Foods Foundation funds this initiative. Four of the CHC Emerson National Hunger Fellows are working on field projects affiliated with the CHILD project, focusing on increasing access to and improving the nutritional quality of foods provided in federal nutrition programs. These fellows are currently placed at the California Association of Food Banks (working on SNAP outreach and accessibility), the Boston-Medical Center, Medical Legal Partnership for Children (providing SNAP application assistance

for patients' families with children), Oregon Child Development Coalition (increasing access to the Child and Adult Care Food Program through child care providers) and the Oregon Hunger Relief Taskforce (assisting with creation of a statewide anti-hunger plan).

The CHILD initiative also funds approximately one third of CHC's domestic policy work, including our efforts to help write the Statement of Principles for the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization. This document lays out the three guiding principles for Congressional action on improving access to and the availability of child nutrition

programs. The principles are as follows:

- To assure program access to child nutrition programs by underserved children and communities
- To enhance the quality of meals served to participating children
- To modernize technology and simplifying program administration and operation

CHC staff assisted the development of the Statement of Principles working jointly with FRAC (Food Research and Action Center) and the School Nutrition Association. These organizations co-chair the Child Nutrition Forum (CNF), a group of

250 national organizations representing over 20 million people. Congress has relied upon the recommendations provided by CNF for each of the major child nutrition bills since 1979.

CHC staff also participated in the drafting of the Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger by 2015 with Feeding America, Share Our Strength, and other national anti-hunger organizations. This document lays out nine specific action steps by which allied groups and the U.S. Congress can assist the Obama Administration in achieving its pledge of ending childhood hunger by 2015. ●

## National Hunger Fellow Alumni in Federal Government Service

**C**HC believes that it takes strong leadership in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors to make real progress toward ending hunger, poverty, and oppression. All approaches to change (service, advocacy, research, organizing) are encouraged in the national fellowship program. We are proud to have so many alumni working in and leading organizations representing all of these approaches, and

are confident that they will continue to be agents of change.

In recent years, increasing numbers of alumni have also begun careers in federal government service. Former fellows are currently holding both career and political positions in more than half of the federal executive departments and others are working in Congressional committees and in the White House.

*continued on page 3*



Emerson Hunger Fellow alumni from the 12th and 13th classes celebrate the wedding of Indivar Dutta-Gupta and Shally Venugopal (center) in Bali, August, 2009.



# Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



## CHC's Unique Role in Domestic and International Food Security Policy

CHC plays an integral role in helping shape domestic and international programs and policy to end hunger. For leadership on policy analysis and legislative options designed to end hunger in America, policymakers on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch of government generally rely on three national groups: the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Feeding America, and the Center on Budget and Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). The main focus of these groups is to ensure access to federal nutrition programs for all eligible individuals and families.

CHC's unique role in this arena is that of adviser on policy and strategy. CHC is able to excel in this role due to the integration of several critical components: staff expertise, influential and knowledgeable board members, CHC's leadership position within key allied organizations and contributions from Emerson Hunger Fellows, their host organizations and Emerson Fellows alumni. CHC's executive director is able to draw upon his policy development and legislative experience when advising allied groups since he has been an active participant in legislative policy debate on every child nutrition bill since 1975 and every food stamp policy initiative since 1977.

CHC has a board of directors with vast experience

on public policy. CHC is fortunate to have **Representatives Jo Ann Emerson** and **James P. McGovern** as our board chairs. They also are the co-chairs of the House Hunger Caucus. Representative Emerson is a member of the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Agriculture. Representative McGovern is Vice-Chair of the House Rules Committee through which all legislation proceeds. Each of these Representatives is viewed as key leaders on hunger and nutrition in the House of Representatives. All major national anti-hunger groups seek their counsel. The Senate's newest member, **Senator Al Franken**, an original CHC board member, is a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. He is an active player in the current health care debate and has always been available to CHC staff for counsel. CHC also has key advisers from the private sector from board members **Mary Catherine Toker** (General Mills), **Marshall Matz** (Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz PC), and **Brian Folkerts** (Kraft) and from the anti-hunger community, **Vicki Escarra** (Feeding America) and **David Beckmann** (Bread for the World). As individuals and together as a board they provide leadership and expert advice to CHC and help us serve as a source of quality

information and strategic advice on crafting legislation.

Another valuable resource relates to CHC's executive director key leadership role in major anti hunger and food security organizations. Currently, I am vice-chair of the National Anti Hunger Coalition (NAHO), an advisor to the Child Nutrition Forum steering committee, a member of the executive committee of the Community Food Security Coalition board of directors, an ex-officio member of the National Child and Adult Care Food Forum and an outside agency member of the Stakeholder subcommittee of Feeding America's Board of Directors. This vantage point gives CHC influence in the development of allied groups' policy positions.

Perhaps our most useful source of knowledge and influence for ending domestic hunger comes from our Emerson National Hunger Fellows. CHC now has compiled Hunger Free Community Reports from over 300 Emerson Fellows over the last 16 years. Emerson Fellows have helped CHC establish alliances with host organizations in all U.S. Department of Agriculture regions and nearly all 50 states. Emerson Fellows alumni have held or currently hold important policy positions in the Bush and Obama administrations and in the U.S. Congress. Alumni are currently employed in the departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development,

Commerce, Labor and the White House. Fellows have also been on staff in numerous Congressional offices and held positions of authority on the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Budget and Banking as well as the House Ways and Means Committee.

CHC staff have also played an integral role in shaping international food security policy and programs in the past year. **Margaret Zeigler**, CHC's deputy director, collaborated with a dedicated group of international non-governmental organizations including Mercy Corps, Friends of the World Food Program, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, and Save the Children, to write a landmark document, *The Roadmap To End Global Hunger*. Released in March, 2009, the Roadmap lays out a comprehensive vision to improve agriculture for poor farmers in the developing world, improve maternal and child nutrition, and to establish safety net programs like school meals for children across Africa, Asia and Latin America. With the input of Mickey Leland alumni and fellows, CHC continues to provide timely and fresh field perspectives on global food security and to connect programs that work on the ground with policy-makers' legislative efforts. See *International Policy Report* in this issue of *Sustenance* for more information on our global work. ●

# Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Aileen Carr

## National Hunger Fellow Alumni in Federal Government Service *continued from page 1*

### Why Government?

Emerson Alumni from both political parties have chosen to work for change within the government structures. "I think there's a sense that it's worthwhile to work from within government... I've been motivated by the idea that a government that actually works well is the most effective way to address inequality issues. The problem is that government isn't always sensitive to the same issues that advocates are sensitive to. So I think the idea of getting people who are

sensitive to those issues into government has some value," said **Justin Weinstein-Tull** at the Department of Justice.

Alumni are working inside the government to shape the policies and programs that they learned about as fellows in their field and policy placements. "The federal government, with its resources and responsibilities, has such a tremendous impact on so many people's lives—and therefore, a small improvement in a federal government program can be a big deal because it can impact so many people," said **Laura Tatum** at the Department of Labor.

Alumni working in government seem to share a certain sense of idealism;

*"The Fellowship taught me more in 12 months than I could have learned about domestic anti-poverty politics and policy doing anything else I can think of. I learned about a wide range of programs and policies, how they are implemented, and how they translate into impacting individuals in different communities."*

**Indivar Dutta-Gupta**, House Ways and Means Committee

they believe that government can be a positive force for addressing society's biggest challenges. "I wanted to serve my country, and for me the federal government was, and remains, a good fit," said **Eric Steiner** at the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (and formerly of U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture).

"As someone generally motivated by social justice and a strong interest in the federal political process, I jumped at the opportunity to serve the President and the American people. This economic crisis has given those of us who believe in a positive role for government an opportunity to rebuild people's faith and trust in the institution, and to be able to work towards that goal is truly exciting," said **Amrit Mehra** at NOAA.

### Alumni in Federal Government Service

Heidi Hattenbach	1st class	U.S. Department of State
Kelvin Coleman	2nd class	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Karolina Arias	6th class	Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury.
Elizabeth Wroe	7th class	U.S. Senate Budget Committee
Kate (Sablosky) Elengold	8th class	Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice
Liz Aloi	8th class	Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice
Robert Campbell	9th class	Government Accountability Office
Hun Quach	9th class	U.S. Senate Finance Committee
Eric Steiner	9th class	U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Justin Weinstein-Tull	9th class	Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice
Jeanine Valles	10th class	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Mariestella Fischer-Vélez	11th class	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Laura Tatum	11th class	U.S. Department of Labor
Katy Mastman	11th class	U.S. Department of Labor
Miles Patrie	12th class	U.S. Department of Agriculture
David Pope	12th class	White House Domestic Policy Council
Indivar Dutta-Gupta	12th class	U.S. House Ways and Means Committee
Amrit Mehra	13th class	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (U.S. Department of Commerce)
Sarah Sibley	13th class	White House Office of Presidential Correspondence
Amber Herman	14th class	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Gagan Gupta	14th class	Corporation for National and Community Service

### Path from Hunger Fellow to Public Servant

In interviews about how the Emerson Hunger Fellowship influenced their decisions to work in government and prepared them for the work they are doing now, alumni discussed the Emerson Program's local and national approach to anti-hunger work, the intensive leadership development opportunities afforded to fellows, and the personal and professional networks nurtured by CHC.

### Perspectives from the Field

The field placement provides fellows with community experience and perspective that is critical to designing successful national policies and often missing from policy

*continued on page 4*

**National Hunger Fellow**  
**Alumni in Federal**  
**Government Service**  
*continued from page 3*

circles in Washington, D.C. "As a Hunger Fellow, I learned firsthand just how significant the decisions made at the national level can be, because you see the effects right down to a child in a classroom or a person seeking nutrition assistance. The beauty of the fellowship program is that it is aware of how extensive the reach of government truly is. We also get to experience the perspective of government policies through the eyes of non-profits, food banks, local governments and community/faith-based organizations. This allows us to better understand what those at the national level can often miss," said **Mariestella Fischer-Vélez** at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Alumni value the field perspective and continue to seek it out as they develop and evaluate programs and policies. "As a Hunger Fellow working in central California, I learned a good bit about the ways in which public policy decisions positively and

negatively impact people's lives—sometimes in ways that policymakers may not have expected. The whole experience left me strongly dedicated to developing, enacting, and implementing sound policy," said Laura Tatum.

**Policy in Practice**

Fellows develop a critical framework of government at all levels through their placements and trainings. Their exposure to government systems and work with national advocacy groups are still having an impact on how they work today. "At my policy placement, we examined and evaluated government programs, always hoping to encourage some government programs, discourage others. And in my field site in Oregon we worked with the department of human services to help them rewrite their social services forms and make them easier to understand. I think that throughout the fellowship, we approached the government with a critical frame of mind, one that's concerned about excluded stakeholders. That perspective was ingrained into our brains, and I think it will affect the

way we work to make government work well," said Justin Weinstein-Tull.

**Leadership Development**

The challenging projects undertaken by fellows in their field and policy sites provide valuable experience with project management, creative problem solving, and collaboration, all of which prepare them for demanding work in government agencies. "Now that I'm officially an employee of the administration, I have come to understand the real professional benefits of the program. The transition into a fast-paced environment with a vertical learning curve is no longer overwhelming. I became a contributing member of my team in a few short weeks, quickly fusing an understanding of the [agency's] work in the field with our policy efforts in D.C., a familiar experience to be sure," said **Gagan Gupta** at the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Other alumni appreciated the opportunity to build strong expertise in an issue area and apply that to work at the federal government. For example, **Karolina Arias** started working on asset building policy and programs in her policy site at the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), continued to do so in her first government job on a Senate committee, and is still building on that experience 10 years later at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. She now oversees grant making to some of the same organizations that she first collaborated with as a fellow at CFED.

"The Emerson Hunger Fellowship helped me realize working for the government was one avenue I could pursue to help others. The Fellowship

provided an introduction to federal food and nutrition assistance programs, and served as a springboard to my government service. My field site experience helped lead to employment in the U.S. Senate, where my responsibilities included developing policy changes and writing legislation for the [child nutrition] programs' reauthorization. Later in my career, I was responsible for implementing the new law while serving at the Department of Agriculture" in the Bush Administration, said Eric Steiner.

**Network of Emerging Leaders Nurtured by CHC**

The extended networks of the CHC—fellows, alumni, CHC staff, field and policy site supervisors, trainers, board members, and informal advisors—are committed to the continued development and success of fellows beyond the end of their fellowship experience. Alumni now working in federal government were assisted and guided by mentors and colleagues that they met through their association with CHC.

"With the help of alumni and others in the Congressional Hunger Center network, I pursued a job working on agriculture and nutrition issues on the Hill after the Fellowship and was able to secure a position in then Senator Obama's office. I was successful in that position in part because of the relationship I built with the alumni who were also working on the Hill for various Members and committees at the same time," said Amrit Mehra. "I would not be where I am without the professional development opportunities I was provided and the network of alumni I met through the Congressional Hunger Center." ●



Alumni gather in San Francisco to meet new fellows. Back row from left: Jenna Churchman (9th class), Sarah Garrett and Sean Coffey (10th class), Etan Newman (current fellow), Aileen Carr (Emerson Program Co-Director). Front row: David Kane (14th class), Tim Shadix (current fellow), Jimmy Purvis (13th class), Matt Lewis (12th class), and Anna Krieger (9th class).

# 16th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows

The Emerson Program is excited to welcome the 16th Class Fellows in August 2009 and announce their Field Sites!

## 16th Class Field Sites

Our partners this year include • Food banks • Emergency food providers • City governments • Community organizing groups • Schools • City-wide advocacy • State-wide advocacy • Hospital • Community

foundation • Legal clinic  
• University • Food policy council •

Fellows' work focuses on issues including • child care • SNAP/food stamps • health • nutrition • child hunger • senior hunger • school meals • emergency food • urban agriculture • anti-racism • EBT at farmers markets •

*continued on page 6*

16th Class Emerson Fellows gather for field training, August 2009.



Emerson Hunger Fellow	College	Hometown	Field Site Organization	Location
Tasha Askew	Delaware State University	Newport News, VA	Hunger Task Force	Milwaukee, WI
Jennifer Bailey	Tufts University	Quincy, IL	Food Security Partners of Middle Tennessee	Nashville, TN
Daniel Burke	Illinois Wesleyan University	Monee, IL	Community Farm Alliance	Louisville, KY
Linda Edouard	University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	Las Vegas, NV	Boston Medical Center, Medical-Legal Partnership Boston	Boston, MA
Amara Foster	Sarah Lawrence College	Boston, MA	The Prevention Research Center at Tulane University	New Orleans, LA
Kate Geronemus	New York University	Westport, CT	Center for Health Equity	Louisville, KY
Lindsay Guge	University of North Carolina	Fletcher, NC	Oregon Child Development Coalition	Portland, OR
Amy Johnson	Willamette University	Albany, CA	Bread for the City	Washington, DC
Gina Kim	Western Washington University	Seattle, WA	The Food Project	Boston, MA
Daniel Lau	University of California at San Diego and Boston University	San Diego, CA	New Mexico Community Foundation	Albuquerque, NM
Donna Leuchten	St. Joseph's University	Poughkeepsie, NY	Hunger Task Force	Milwaukee, WI
Sarah Lyons	University of Notre Dame	Barrington, IL	NYC Department of Health	New York, NY
Meisha McDaniel	Guilford College	Irmo, SC	D.C. Hunger Solutions	Washington, DC
Megan Mills-Novoa	Lewis and Clark College	St. Cloud, MN	New Mexico Community Foundation	Albuquerque, NM
Patrice Mobley	North Carolina Central University	Charlotte, NC	New Orleans Food and Farm Network	New Orleans, LA
Etan Newman	Brown University	Minneapolis, MN	Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties	San Jose, CA
Amber Roberts	College of William and Mary	Arlington, VA	Oregon Hunger Relief Taskforce	Portland, OR
Tim Shadix	Whitman College	Ashland, OR	California Association of Food Banks	Oakland, CA
Sarah Shubitowski	Calvin College	Midland, MI	Manna Inc.	Nashville, TN
Girmay Zahilay	Stanford University	Seattle, WA	City Harvest	New York, NY

## 16th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows

*continued from page 5*

gleaning • health disparities • food policy councils • energy assistance • grocery store access • senior farmers market nutrition program • healthy food in corner stores • out-of-school time meals • hunger awareness •

Fellows' projects will provide their field site communities with • research • program

evaluations • community organizing • client advocacy • best practices collection • outreach • community based research • program design • program development • program implementation • coalition building • training • needs assessments • case study •

Alumni and current Fellows join Ed Cooney at the Community Food Security Coalition Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. October 2009.



## 15th Class Commencement

The 15th class of Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows celebrated their commencement at the Phoenix Park Hotel, on July 22, 2009. The Fellows were greeted by more than 150 guests including CHC supporters, colleagues, family, and friends. CHC Board Co-Chairs, **Representatives Jo Ann Emerson and James P. McGovern** honored the Fellows' leadership and their commitment to ending hunger and poverty in America.

**Senator Bob Casey** spoke about his personal

commitment to ending hunger and the importance of programs like the Emerson Fellowship. Senator Casey also introduced the keynote speaker **Shearine McGhee**, community expert, anti-hunger activist, and mother of two. Shearine is a leader in the Witness to Hunger project, an activism and advocacy project with a traveling photo-voice exhibit documenting the experiences and insight of low-income single Philadelphian women and their children. She has

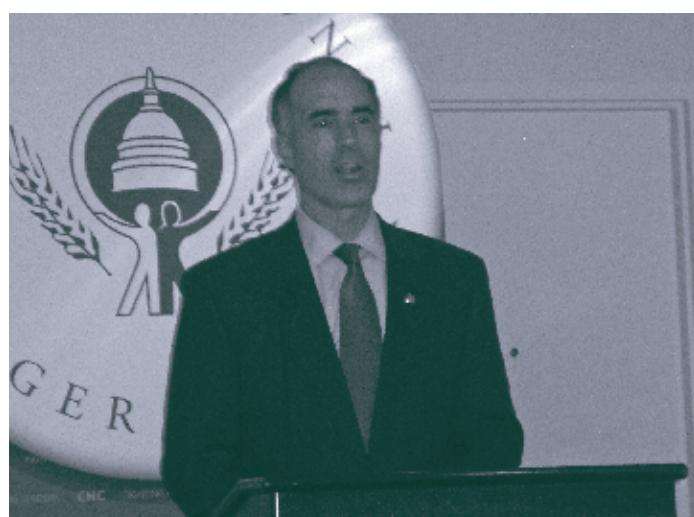


Keynote Speaker  
Shearine McGhee  
of the Witnesses  
to Hunger Project

spoken throughout the country about her own lived experiences and the importance of ending childhood hunger. For information about the Witness to Hunger project, please visit: <http://www.witnessestohunger.org/>.

The Fellows honored **Lucy Gomez-Feliciano** of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association in Chicago and **Keith Stern** of the Office of Congressman Jim McGovern with the Bill Emerson Leadership Awards for Field and Policy Supervisors of

the Year, respectively. These awards recognized Lucy and Keith for their outstanding anti-hunger and anti-poverty work and excellent mentoring of Fellows. Thank you to the 15th Class of Emerson Hunger Fellows for their dedication and commitment to social justice. Congratulations and best wishes! •



Senator Bob Casey introduces keynote speaker Shearine McGhee

# Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

## Fifth Class Leland Fellows Pre-Field Retreat and Training

In mid-July, the 5th class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows participated in their inaugural pre-field retreat and training. During the retreat,

the training focused on information and resource sharing, while giving the fellows a chance to learn about each other and begin to forge relationships that will

last throughout the two year fellowship and beyond.

Following the retreat, the fellows returned to Washington D.C. where they participated in a week of briefings, issue updates from current host organizations, a session on rights-based approaches to hunger, a monitoring and evaluation training, and several opportunities to meet and connect with program alumni. Other training sessions included: "Hunger: Definitions and Overview," "Promising Approaches in Health and Nutrition Development

Programming," and "Local Capacity Building."

Several Leland alumni also led sections of the training, including a session on "Doing Development," which was co-facilitated by **Sylvie Doutriaux**, a 3rd class alumna. The training also encouraged Fellows to begin thinking about and preparing for their second year, which is the policy year of the Fellowship. By being appraised of certain policy issues at the outset of the Fellowship, Fellows will be better equipped to bring lessons from the field to their policy institutions. ●



5th class Leland Fellows during field training 2009

## Leland Fellows Begin Field Work

After completing the pre-field training at the end of July, CHC's 15 Leland Fellows departed for their respective field placements. Now settled into their new homes in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the fellows are well on their way to completing the first half of their field assignments.

Four of our Fellows are placed with the UN's World Food Programme (WFP): **Blake Audsley** in Malawi, **Maielle Helman** in Bolivia, **Erica Holzaepfel** in Laos, and **Carlos Centeno** in Guatemala. Blake hit the ground running in his work as a Market Analyst, supporting a number of

WFP initiatives including Purchase for Progress (P4P) and Vulnerability Assessment & Mapping Units, all of which assess or respond to food insecurity. Blake's work thus far has included a price and integration analysis of maize markets for the P4P unit, a cost-benefit analysis of a recently completed cash transfer pilot program, and development of a program to build market analysis capacity with the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee.

In Bolivia, Maielle is leading the coordination to revamp the Bolivian Ministry of Education's Monitoring *continued on page 8*



In Bangladesh 5th class Fellow Tiffany Imes (second from left) participates in a school meals visit with WFP



Maielle Helman visits Chacopampa School in the Tupiza Region of Bolivia

and & Evaluation (M&E) system. Much of her support involves helping the Ministry of Education formalize school feeding in terms of policy, which includes updating a resolution and creating a National Fund in conjunction with a law. Maielle is also tasked with starting the LA-RAE (Latin American Network for School Feeding) national chapter in Bolivia as well as convening a new smaller group, the School Feeding Practice Group, which will focus on coordination of school feeding efforts.

In Laos, Erica works as a Monitoring & Evaluation Officer concentrating on school feeding activities and strengthening WFP Laos' country wide programs through the implementation of sound M&E practices. And in Guatemala, Carlos is working on a newly initiated program which funds and oversees Food for Work and P4P projects. This European Union sponsored program will benefit low income smallholder farmers in the poorest areas of Guatemala by providing farming techniques and tools intended to provide long term food security.

**Jillian Waid and Tiffany Imes** are both placed in Bangladesh. Jillian is a Research Fellow for Helen Keller International focusing on HKI programs that include a Homestead Food Production component which seeks to improve food security through increased production of fruits and vegetables for family consumption and small scale income generation. **Tiffany Imes** is working at the World Bank as an Operations Analyst. Tiffany concentrates on the Bangladesh School Health and Nutrition agenda as well as supports a recent partnership between the World Food Programme and World Bank which seeks to mainstream school feeding into national policy. **Curan Bonham**, also in Asia, works in New Delhi, India, with Bioversity International on their Understanding and Managing Bioversity

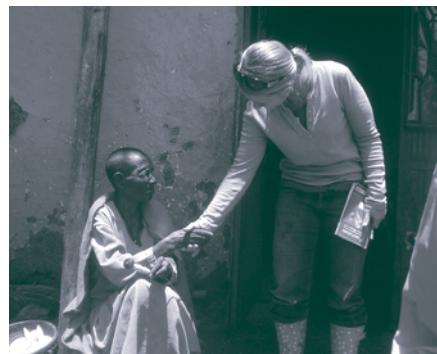
Lindsay Dozoretz  
in Nampula  
Mozambique

(UMB) program. This initiative focuses on enhancing the use of plants that currently exist in the wild but have not yet been collected for storage in gene banks. Curan is assessing the role of gene banks and the formal and informal seed supply system to increase on-farm agrobiodiversity.

In Africa, several Leland Fellows are working on a variety of food security programs. **Kerri Agee**, placed with Catholic Relief Services in Mali, provides maternal and child nutrition and hygiene support to vulnerable households in the Mopti and Gao regions of Mali. **Emily Wei** works on the Lift Up research policy project for CARE in Malawi, both in the field and country office. **Lindsay Dozoretz** with Save the Children in Mozambique is working on a USAID funded program entitled 'Food Security through Nutrition and Agriculture.' Lindsay's focus is on three program areas: conservation agriculture, nutrition gardens, and Monitoring & Evaluation of project impact via case studies. **Susan Ilyin** works as a Dairy Development, HIV/AIDS and Livelihoods Advisor with Land O'Lakes in Ethiopia. Susan supports income

generating activities for people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children.

Also based in Africa, **Sonia Lee** oversees activities for Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA) in Uganda, including spearheading a forum to support their Health Workforce Advocacy Campaign. **Steven Myers** works with Ikamva Labantu in South Africa, a grassroots organization in the midst of planning a multi-purpose Community Wellness Centre to coordinate their health and nutrition programs. The Centre will provide support to the local

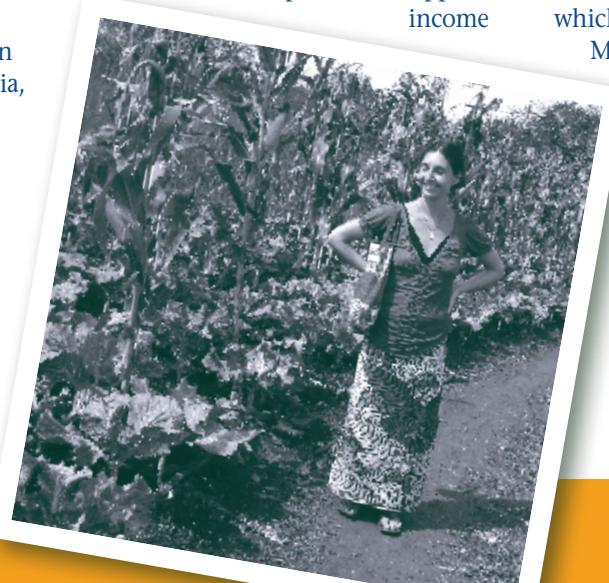


Susan Ilyin in Ethiopia with Land O'Lakes

community by promoting, enabling and educating people about healthy living, disease prevention and nutrition.

**Amy Margolies** works with Brazil's National Fund for Educational Development (FNDE) on their National School Feeding Program which is linked to the Ministry of Education.

And closer to home, **Gabriela Prudencio**, in Washington D.C. with Mercy Corps, manages six programs recently launched by Mercy Corps as a response to the global food crisis. ●



# Leland Alumni Updates

This July, 1st class Leland alumna **Alisha Myers** became the International Monitoring Systems Coordinator for mothers-2mothers in Cape Town, South Africa. Also from the



Leland alumnus Robert Oliver, now Deputy Country Director of WFP-Mali, with his son, Liam, and Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF

1st class, Leland alumnus **Robert Oliver** hosted UNICEF Executive Director, **Ann Veneman**, during her country visit to Mali. Robert is currently Deputy Country Director for the World Food Program in Mali.

From the 3rd class, **Amanda Rives-Argenal** has relocated to Panama, where she will continue working as Senior Advisor in Public Policy and Advocacy in the Americas at World Vision.

Congratulations to 4th class alumnus **Adam Norikane** on his recent publication in LEISA magazine (Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture). His article is entitled: "Big business in the forest: trading forest products to increase food sovereignty in Liberia." ●

# 4th Class Alumni Updates

Since graduating from the fellowship in June, alumnae **Megan Keefe, Carmen Jaquez and Anne-Claire Hervy** have been hired by their host organizations. Meagan is a Senior Research



Assistant at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D.C., and Carmen moved to Rwanda to continue her work with Land O'Lakes as a Program Manager for

Livestock. Anne-Claire is Chief Operating Officer of the Africa-US Higher Education Initiative at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). **Kurt Burja** and **Adam Norikane** serve as consultants for their former host organizations; Kurt in Cambodia with the World Food Program and Adam in Sudan with ACDI-VOCA.

Racey Bingham on Essex Farm

# Leland Family Updates

This summer Leland alumni celebrated three weddings. From the 4th class, **Meaghan Murphy** married Christopher Hilbruner and **Ira Frydman** married Laurie (Karlinsky) Frydman. From the 3rd class, **Sylvie Doutriaux** married Dan Schar. Congratulations to the three happy couples!

Meaghan Murphy and Christopher Hilbruner



**Liz Fox** from the 1st class welcomed Kai into the world on June 24. Welcome Kai! ●



Liz Fox's son  
Kai at two months



Ira and Laurie Frydman



Sylvie Doutriaux and  
Dan Schar

**Emily Bancroft** is consulting for the International Training and Education Center on HIV/AIDS (I-TECH) at the University of Washington and **Meaghan Murphy**, based in D.C. is consulting for Land O'Lakes. After the Fellowship

**Racey Bingham** became a farmer in upstate New York. This winter she is consulting for the World Bank in the Central African Republic as an Operations Analyst, after which she will return to Essex Farm.

**Eric Haglund** has taken on a new position as

Communications Specialist at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and **Daniele Nyirandutiye** is a Foreign Service Health Officer for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Two members of the 4th class have transitioned to doctoral programs to continue their education. **Erica Phillips** is pursuing a Ph.D. in International Nutrition at Cornell University while **Alder Keleman** is in a Ph.D. Program at Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. ●

# National Policy Report

## Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)

On November 16, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released the annual "Household Food Security in the United States" report for 2008. The report found the highest level of food insecurity in the U.S. since the study began in 1995. According to USDA, 49.1 million people went hungry in 2008 (Source: *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008 / ERR-83 Economic Research Service/USDA*). In light of this disturbing report, CHC and allied organizations will be making recommendations to the Administration and the Congress for significant improvements in programs and policies to end childhood hunger.

The 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) will now likely happen in 2010. The critically important, but lengthy debate on health care reform has "sucked all of the oxygen out of the Halls of Congress" on all other legislation. The new chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, **Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln** and Representative

**George Miller**, Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, have publicly stated that they expect to pass a CNR prior to March 15, 2010. This is an important commitment, since the \$1 billion that the Obama Administration recommended and Congress included in its FY 2010 Budget Resolution disappears after March 15. Any CNR bill submitted after that date would be subject to a "point of order" i.e.

necessitating a 60 vote majority in the Senate.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** has been very active on childhood nutrition legislation. He has held national conference calls on priorities for the legislation and testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee on improving and expanding childhood nutrition programs to advance the nutrition and health status of the nation's children while also fighting the current epidemic of childhood obesity. USDA has also conducted several listening sessions on the Obama Administration's pledge to End Childhood Hunger by 2015. These sessions provided anti-hunger and nutrition and health advocates an excellent forum to highlight legislatives priorities for the CNR.

## Association of Corporate Contribution Professionals (ACCP) Forum on Hunger

ACCP held a national forum for its members on the nature and extent of hunger in America and what public/private partnerships steps could be taken to address hunger in the United States. **Kori Reed**, Executive Director of the ConAgra Foods Foundation, and chair of the ACCP Public Policy Committee was the driving force behind this well attended meeting at Wal-Mart in Bentonville, Arkansas. USDA Under Secretary **Kevin Concannon** was the senior governmental representative. He and **Margaret McKenna**, President of the Wal-Mart Foundation,

actively engaged conference participants in discussions about joint strategies for the government and the private sector regarding ending childhood hunger. Representatives from the private sector included leaders from General Mills, Kellogg's, Publix Markets, Target, ConAgra and Wal-Mart. Anti-Hunger panelists included **Jim Weill** of the Food Research Action Center (FRAC), **George Braley** of Feeding America, **Pat Nicklin** from Share Our Strength (SOS), and **Enid Borden** of the Meals on Wheels Association of America. CHC's Executive Director, **Ed Cooney**, was asked to present views on the gaps between those hungry people who are eligible for federal nutrition programs, but do not currently participate, and those who are enrolled.

The meeting reached a consensus viewpoint that public/private partnerships could have a dramatic impact on assisting the Obama Administration in reaching its goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015. Future goals will include meetings with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to ensure his strong support for this initiative.

## National Anti-Hunger Organizations (NAHO) Roadmap To End Childhood Hunger

Hunger is a solvable social dilemma, but the pathway to success has multiple strategies. NAHO has released a *Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger*. The document provides a variety of important strategies to address ending

childhood hunger in our time. These strategies include:

- Creating economic growth that provides opportunity for all
- Increasing the minimum wage
- Establish a tax system that supports work
- Improve key supports to help families with children meet basic needs
- Ensure access to affordable, quality health care
- Increase access and participation in federal nutrition programs
- Expand eligibility for food stamp program participation (SNAP) to nutritionally vulnerable households
- Provide the leadership required to reach the 2015 goal (from the President, the Congress, corporate leaders, non-profit sector, and individuals and communities)

Copies of the NAHO Roadmap can be obtained from CHC or from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

## Santa Clara, California Hunger Summit: How Local, State, Regional and National Groups Work Together to End Hunger

On September 10, the Santa Clara and San Mateo Food Banks in California held a Hunger Summit to address the needs of poor and hungry individuals and families in their community. The Summit drew upon the knowledge and expertise of leaders at all levels. **Cathy Jackson** and her staff at Santa Clara Food Bank put together an excellent packet

*continued on page 12*

# International Policy Report

## World Food Day, 2009

World Food Day was founded by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1981 to highlight progress and challenges to



Women farmers in Guatemala

ending world hunger. Every year during the week of October 16th, World Food Day, we pause to recognize that too many members of our human family go hungry and malnourished, even with an abundance of food on the planet.

On Tuesday, October 13th, CHC co-sponsored a World Food Day event on Capitol Hill to pay tribute to the over 1 billion men, women and children around the world who do not have access to food. Other co-sponsoring organizations included Mercy Corps, InterAction, and Friends of the World Food Program. At the event,

approximately 75 attendees from non-governmental organizations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and from the Department of State, along with staff from Congressional offices gathered to learn about current legislative initiatives to fight hunger.

**Representative James P. McGovern** gave remarks about H.R. 2817, "The Roadmap to End Global Hunger and Improve Food Security Act" and **Representative Betty McCollum** spoke about

H.R. 3077, "The Global Food Security Act of 2009."

**William Craft**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade, Policy and Programs from the U.S. Department of State shared about the Obama Administration's "Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative." The momentum is building for increased U.S. global leadership on better agriculture and nutrition policies and programs in the coming years, and these legislative efforts, coupled with a comprehensive food security approach from the Obama Administration, will begin to reduce hunger and poverty around the world. ●

## CHC on Capitol Hill and in the News

CHC staff have presented on international hunger issues at several public events in October and November, 2009. **Margaret Zeigler**, deputy director of CHC, spoke on a panel at the Global Harvest Initiative's Agriculture at a Crossroads Forum, held at the Newseum on September 22nd. Margaret spoke on "Setting the Agenda: What Should Our Priorities Be?" and discussed the critical interface of household level agriculture and nutrition programming to reduce malnutrition, empower women and girls, and to reduce stunting and child hunger. Other panelists included **Glenn Pricket** of Conservation International, **John Lamb** of the World Bank, and **Ron Heck**, independent agriculture consultant.

Margaret also presented on November 12 as a panelist at the U.S. House of Representatives House Water Caucus at the Capitol Visitor's Center, U.S. Capitol Building. The seminar was entitled "Water & Agriculture: Developing World Solutions." Margaret highlighted the critical needs of one billion people around the world that lack access to clean water, which complicates problems of malnutrition and agriculture. Attendees included Hill staff and representatives from international relief and development organizations. The event was organized by The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), in partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies

(CSIS) and the House Water Caucus. Other panelists included **Erik Peterson**, Senior Vice President of CSIS, **John Briscoe**, Professor at Harvard University, and **Mark Rosegrant**, Director of the Environment and Production Technology Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

CHC was also able to reach out to viewers in Dallas, Texas with a bi-partisan focus on global hunger during the weekly cable news show of **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson**, Member of Congress from Dallas, Texas. Margaret Zeigler was a guest speaker on the November 17th airing of the show in which global hunger and the work of former Representative Mickey

Leland of Houston Texas were covered.

Reaching a global audience, Margaret was interviewed by the Voice of America (VOA) for the Worldwide English shows, including *In Focus Africa* television show, and the webcast, *Money in Motion*, which were broadcast during the week of November 23, 2009. During the programs, she discussed the challenges of the current food price crisis for developing country farmers, and new legislation in Congress and the Obama Administration's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative to provide long-term support for those affected by hunger and malnutrition worldwide. ●

# Staff Updates

## Welcome Tai and Congrats Twana!

We are excited to introduce our latest addition to the CHC family. **Tai Alani Jemerson** was born on September 10, 2009. Congratulations to **Twana Jemerson, Antuan Jemerson** and big brother, **Antuan, Jr.**



Beautiful Tai Alani Jemerson!

## National Policy Report

*continued from page 10*

of information documenting the nutritional need of people living in their service area.

**John Cook**, a researcher at Boston Medical Center, and Feeding America provided very persuasive data on nutrition and health compiled from Feeding America's national hunger survey. A local physician and a staff member of California Food Policy Advocates addressed

the group on the extent of the current crisis on childhood obesity and the importance of nutrition education for households receiving food bank assistance. Staff from the California Association of Food Banks were attendees and are now in a position to share statewide information gathered at the Summit. CHC's executive director provided conference participants with the latest developments on the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization

## Congratulations Mohamed!

We are proud to announce, CHC's Director of Finance,



**Mohamed**

**Gurey** recently became a Certified Public Accountant. Congrats on becoming a CPA, what an amazing accomplishment!

and the NAHO Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger by 2015. Officials from USDA and California state agencies were available to provide groups with information about resources available from agencies on SNAP and WIC programs. This Hunger Summit is a very useful model for anti-hunger organizations across the country on how to present valuable information, data and strategies in ending hunger in their communities. ●

## Victory Against Hunger Awards

Celebrating outstanding efforts in fighting hunger through food bank anti hunger initiatives, 26 organizations were awarded Victory Against Hunger Awards by the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), Victory Wholesale Group, and Feeding America. We applaud the efforts and creativity of these food banks across the country working for their success in achieving the goal of fighting hunger through creative outreach targeted to increasing participation in either SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) or Child Hunger programs (such as Summer Food or BackPack Programs).

The annual VAH Awards were established by **David Kantor**, President of Victory Wholesale Group, to recognize outstanding organizations in the United States that work to end hunger

and improve nutrition and health at the local level.

For more information about the Victory Against Hunger Award program, please visit [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org)

Congratulations to the following awardees:

- Capital Area Food Bank, DC
- Community Food Bank of New Jersey, NJ
- East Texas Food Bank, TX
- Food Bank For New York City, NY
- Food Bank of Central Louisiana, LA
- Food Bank of Delaware, DE
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada, NV
- Food Bank of Southern Tier, NY
- Food Bank of the Virginia Peninsula, VA
- Greater Chicago Food Depository, IL
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, PA
- Harvest Hope Food Bank, SC
- Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, CA
- Montana Food Bank Network, MT
- North Texas Food Bank, TX
- Northeast Iowa Food Bank, IA
- Northern Illinois Food Bank, IL
- Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, OH
- Oregon Food Bank, OR
- San Antonio Food Bank, TX
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, FL
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, CA
- Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, WI
- Tarrant Area Food Bank, TX
- Vermont Foodbank, VT
- The Worcester County Food Bank, MA



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

Senator Al Franken  
Member of Congress

Representative Dennis Hertel  
Member of Congress (Retired)  
Attorney at Law

*The Livingston Group, L.L.P.*

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Ashley Aakesson  
Executive Director  
*Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti*

David Beckmann  
President

*Bread for the World*

Karen Coble Edwards  
Principal

*KCE Public Affairs Association*

Elizabeth Emerson-Leger  
President

*The Leger Company, Inc.*

Vicki B. Escarra  
President and CEO

*America's Second Harvest-The Nation's Food Bank Network*

Brian Folkerts  
Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs

*Kraft Foods*

Lou Gerber  
Legislative Director

*Communications Workers of America*

Daniel Kahn, Esq.  
*Davis Polk & Wardwell*

David Kantor  
President

*Victory Wholesale Group*

Alejandra Lopez-Fernandini  
Senior Policy Analyst

*New America Foundation*

Wolfgang von Maack

*CHC Treasurer*

Marshall Matz

Partner

*Olsson, Frank, Weeda, Terman, Bode, Matz, P.C.*

Kimberly Perry

*Kids' Movement Director*

*William J. Clinton Foundation, (Alliance for a Healthier Generation)*

John R. Sander

Management Consultant

*U.S. Department of State (Retired)*

Jim Scheibel

*Executive in Residence*

*Hamline University*

Mary Catherine Toker

*VP, Government Relations*

*General Mills, Inc.*

Edward M. Cooney

*Executive Director*

Dr. Margaret M. Zeigler

*Deputy Director*

Ambassador Tony P. Hall

*Founder*

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