



Sustenance

July 2007 Vol. 4, No. 3

The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

Country Policy Study: Leland Fellows Visit South Africa

In April, the third class of Mickey Leland International Hunger fellows spent two weeks participating in a Country Policy Study (CPS) in South Africa. Through briefings and site visits, the fellows explored challenges the country faces in meeting the needs of its poor and hungry in a post-apartheid era. In particular, the CPS focused on land reform, agriculture, and HIV/AIDS.

From Johannesburg to Soweto to KwaZulu-Natal, fellows met with multilateral, bilateral, government and local organizations. They received briefings from U.S. embassy officials, including a meeting with **U.S. Ambassador Eric Bost**. Fellows also met with representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the **U.S.**

Agency for International Development and learned about agriculture and food aid programs operated in the southern Africa region. Fellows attended briefings from the **South African Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs** and the acting director of the **Peace Corps**. To learn about United Nations efforts in South Africa, fellows met with representatives from the **UN Development Program, World Food Program** and **Food and Agriculture Organization**.

Two local organizations, the **Association for**
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Ambassador Eric M. Bost (center) meets with Leland International fellows and staff in South Africa.

CHC and ANSA Present "Food as Medicine" Forum on the Hill

By Angelina Pérez

Over one million people in the U.S. are living with HIV/AIDS and millions more suffer from other chronic life threatening illnesses such as cancer and diabetes. A high nutrient diet, in combination with medication and nutritional services, will greatly improve the quality of life for people with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses and in the long run, could save the U.S. government billions of dollars in health care costs.

To highlight the need for nutrition services for those suffering from chronic illness, CHC and the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies

(ANSA) helped organize a June 19 briefing for the House Hunger Caucus on "Food as Medicine for People living with HIV/AIDS." The briefing is part of a wider Food As Medicine campaign, sponsored by a \$300,000 grant from The UPS Foundation and awarded to CHC and ANSA. The campaign goals are to educate lawmakers, policy makers and academics on the economic, medical and personal value of nutrition services.

The briefing was hosted by the House Hunger Caucus co-chairs **Rep. James P. McGovern** (D-MA), and

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), who also serve as CHC's board co-chairs. CHC executive director **Ed Cooney** moderated two panels of expert witnesses. Panelists included **Frank Abdale**, executive director of ANSA; **Nikita Barai**, a Bill Emerson National Hunger fellow placed at Food and Friends; **Jean Jones** of America's Second Harvest (A2H); and **Lynn Parker** and **Geri Henchy** of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC).

Rep. McGovern opened the forum with a quote from a
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Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



From the Executive Director

Summer is a season of beginnings and endings here at CHC. As we look forward to welcoming our 14th class of Emerson National Hunger fellows and our fourth class of Leland International Hunger fellows, we offer our best wishes to the young men and women at the end of their fellowships. The third class of Leland fellows recently completed the two-year program with an extensive country policy study in South Africa

(see page 1). In July, our 13th class of Emerson fellows celebrates their commencement at the George Washington University City View Room.

CHC introduced six new board members at our annual meeting in June. Joining the board are **Cal Dooly**, president and chief executive officer of the Grocery Manufacturer's Association/Food Products Association (GMA/FPA); **Vicki Escarra**, president and chief executive

officer of America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank Network; **Lou Gerber**, legislative director of Communications Workers of America; **John R. Sander**, U.S. Department of State (retired) and management consultant; **Shana McDavis-Conway**, manager of community outreach and grassroots organizing for the Center for Science in the Public Interest; and **Ashley Aakesson**, executive direc-

tor of Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti. Over 200 guests joined us after the board meeting for an open house celebration at our new office in the Hall of the States Building.

As the board and staff prepares to welcome a new class of fellows, I continue to work with the House and Senate Agriculture committees to amend the 2002 Farm Bill so that the Emerson/Leland fellowships are properly authorized and CHC is formally designated to administer these programs. In addition, CHC has requested \$3 million in funding as part of the fiscal year 2008 agriculture appropriation bill. Recent committee activities indicate that the Emerson/Leland fellowships will be authorized through CHC with adequate funding.

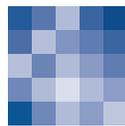
In August, we announce the winners of our 15th annual "Victory against Hunger Awards" (VAH Awards) at the annual meeting of the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA). This year's theme is fighting hunger by using "food as medicine" for people living with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses. The VAH Awards are part of a joint CHC/ANSA public information campaign funded by The UPS Foundation to promote "food as medicine" for these vulnerable populations. ●

Thanks to CHC Partners and Donors

CHC extends a special "thank you" to **American Airlines** for the donation of 10 international air tickets to transport Mickey Leland International Hunger fellows to field site placements in Central and South America. We are grateful for the support of American Airlines, because international air travel to the developing world represents a significant portion of the Leland fellows program budget. Fellows will use the tickets in August 2007 to travel to Mexico,

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti and Chile as they begin work in agriculture and health projects in those countries.

CHC has grown and diversified our programs since our founding in 1993, but we have not held a formal



Altria

review of our mission and strategic objectives and an analysis of our future goals. In March 2007, CHC applied for a major technical assistance and capacity-building grant from **Altria**, and we were awarded funds to accomplish our first-ever comprehensive strategic planning process.

Beginning in June 2007, we will work with TCC Group of Philadelphia to conduct a thorough review of our mission and programs and to define our five-year strategic plan. We look forward to working with all our staff, our board of directors, and leaders in the anti-hunger movement to refine our mission. We thank Altria for this major contribution to the future of

our organization, and we look forward to sharing our new strategic plan with all of you in early 2008.

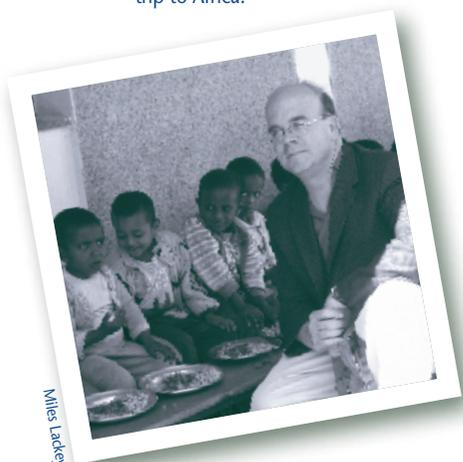
Thank you to CHC board member **Al Franken** for his generous gift of \$5,000! Al has been a steadfast contributor and board member since 1993.

CHC also recognizes **Sodexo Foundation** for a contribution of \$25,000 for our anti-hunger policy work and in support of our fellowship programs. Sodexo is a long-term partner with CHC in fighting hunger and poverty. ●

Sodexo Foundation
Leading the fight against hunger.

report commissioned by the Sodexo Foundation that outlines the cost of hunger to the American public: \$90 billion a year (or \$300 per individual per year) in health care costs, charity and reduced productivity. He shared with the audience a vivid image

Rep. James P. McGovern during his trip to Africa.

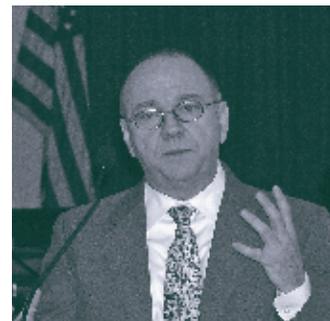


from his tour of Africa, where he witnessed an HIV/AIDS patient immediately regurgitating anti-viral medicines due to malnutrition and lack of food. Rep. McGovern reflected that chronically ill Americans may have more access to food than people in other countries, but that the nutritional content of this food was still deficient. To address the lack of nutrition for those suffering from chronic disease and other low-income people, Rep. McGovern and Rep. Emerson introduced a bill (H.R.2129) that would provide \$20 billion over the next five years to expand federal nutrition programs.

ANSA's Frank Abdale presented "The Power of Nutrition," a white paper written by former Emerson

National Hunger fellow, **Brigit Adamus**. The paper outlines that without the active use of nutrition services, Americans have spent \$40 billion on avoidable hospital care for diabetes patients and have spent \$41,000 per person per year on HIV/AIDS medication which cannot be properly absorbed by malnourished patients. These costs could be reduced if effective nutrition services were part of the prescribed regimen for those with chronic illnesses. Abdale challenged the audience by calling for innovative leaders who will understand and address the positive correlation between proper nutrition and the cost of medical care for those living with chronic illness.

Following Abdale's presentation, Emerson fellow Nikita Barai documented the effects



At the forum, Frank Abdale, Executive Director of ANSA, calls for renewed leadership to improve nutrition services for the chronically ill.

of nutrition services provided by Food and Friends on the lives of their clients. Barai conducted over 60 home visits with chronically ill patients. Some 63 percent of those interviewed reported that the nutrition services provided by Food and Friends help them take their medications regularly and 74 percent said the services allow them to be more independent and take better care of their families. Barai focused on one home visit in particular where she saw the direct effect that nutrition services can have on a person suffering from chronic illness. Before access to Food & Friends's nutrition services "Al," who is living with diabetes, admitted that he ate "anything cheap" that would keep him full when his food stamps ran out in the middle of the month. As a result of his improper diet he was underweight and did not have the stamina to perform daily errands. After Food and Friends began delivering three daily meals six days a week, Al gained weight and credited Food and Friends for restoring his ability to visit the doctor and accomplish other necessary medical and life tasks.

At the end of the forum, Jean Jones from A2H, and Lynn Parker and Geri Henchy from FRAC discussed the available benefits for those *continued on page 11*

Spotlight on Partner Organization Initiatives: *Kraft's Community Nutrition Program*

CHC's fellowship and policy initiatives focus on improving nutrition and health for the members of low-income communities. In this issue of *Sustenance*, we highlight a long-standing program established by our partner, **Kraft Foods, Inc.** The Community Nutrition Program, started in 1997, improves access to nutritious food for low-income people vulnerable to hunger, food insecurity, and obesity in the United States.

Food banks play an important role in ensuring that families facing hunger not only have enough food to eat, but that they receive enough healthy, fresh foods rich in vitamins and protein. Unfortunately, most food banks face serious challenges to provide fresh foods high

in nutritional value—an essential part of a healthy lifestyle—to people in need. Fresh produce, dairy, meat, prepared foods, and other non-shelf-stable items are particularly difficult to transport, store, and distribute due to refrigeration and food-handling requirements.

To address this challenge, Kraft launched the Community Nutrition Program to find new ways to collect and distribute more

nutritious food to people in need. Highlights include:

- the award of 555 grants totaling more than \$25 million to food bank and food rescue organizations.
- the delivery of more than one billion servings of fresh produce to people facing hunger.
- assistance to America's Second Harvest's 200+ food banks and food rescue organizations as the network increased its distribution of fresh produce from seven million pounds per year in 1997 to more than 95 million pounds in 2006.

Congratulations to the Kraft Community Nutrition Program on its 10th anniversary. To learn more about the program, visit www.kraft.com. ●



The Rio Grande Food Bank delivers perishable foods in a refrigerated truck purchased with a grant from the Kraft Community Nutrition Program.

Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Emerson Program Staff

Emerson Program Policy Training

The 13th class of Emerson fellows gathered in Washington, D.C., in February to discuss their field experiences and to prepare for policy placements. Fellows presented field work projects from 12 communities around the United States in a public forum for local and national advocates and government officials. The projects addressed child nutrition, community food security, food stamps, public health and nutrition, disaster recovery, and hunger in immigrant communities.

At subsequent training sessions, experts on anti-hunger and anti-poverty initiatives, the federal budget process, food systems, immigration, and health policy briefed fellows about the legislative process and how it impacts social change. Fellows also participated in skill-development workshops on writing and presenting to prepare them

for their policy work. Finally, Emerson Program training provided the opportunity to explore individual, collective, and institutional factors that influence change and the connections between hunger and other manifestations of social inequality, particularly racism.

Leaders from a number of anti-hunger organizations and government agencies participated in the fellows' training. Highlights included:

- Meetings with high ranking officials in both legislative and executive branches of government: lunch and discussion with CHC Board co-chairs **Rep. Jo Ann Emerson** (R-MO) and **Rep. James McGovern** (D-MA) and a visit with **Under Secretary Nancy Montanez Johner**, and **Deputy Under Secretary Kate Houston** of USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and **Deputy Administrator** for Food Stamps **Jessica Shahin** of USDA's Food and Nutrition Services.

- A "Welcome to D.C." dinner and discussion with alumni. Special thanks to Emerson alumni who participated in the discussion facilitated by **Lucinda Megill** (11th class) and **Sam Raskin** (12th class).

- Discussions about the role that Hill staff play in affecting policy during a panel facilitated by **Jessica Frederick**, Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee, and includ-



Emerson Hunger fellows with Under Secretary Nancy Montanez Johner, Deputy Under Secretary Kate Houston and Deputy Administrator Jessica Shahin at CHC policy training.

ing **Justin Rone**, Office of Rep. Jo Ann Emerson; **Lisa Shelton**, House Agriculture Committee; **Stacy McBride**, Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee; and **Alexandra Cawthorne**, Senate Banking Committee and alumna of the Emerson Program (11th class).

- A series of briefings and panels on the 2007 Farm Bill with Hill staff and advocates including **Miles Patrie**, Office of Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) and alumnus of the Emerson Program (12th class); **Derek Miller**, Senate Agriculture Committee; **Allen Hance**, Northeast-Midwest Institute; **Emily Alpert**, Oxfam America; and **Ellen Vollinger** and **Ellen Teller** of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC).

- Perspectives on the legislative and federal budget processes from Emerson Program

Associate Director **Kate Bolz** and **Martha Coven** of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

- A lively discussion with D.C. Central Kitchen's **Robert Egger**, Alliance to End Hunger's **Max Finberg**, and former Emerson Program Director **John Kelly** about strategies for using electoral politics to fight hunger and poverty.

Further training on policy issues related to hunger and poverty involved briefings by experts, academics, and practitioners including:

- **Michelle Waslin** of the National Council of La Raza, **Josh Bernstein** of the National Immigration Law Center, and **Lucreda Cobbs** of Catholic Charities USA, who discussed federal immigration policies and proposals.

- **Rachel Klein** of Families USA, **Desmond**



13th class Emerson Fellows and CHC staffer, Joy Wiskin, at the 2007 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference.

Brown of Catholic Charities USA, and **Frank Abdale** of the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA), who briefed fellows on current health and nutrition policy.

● Professor **Rhonda Williams** of Case Western Reserve University, who provided a historical overview of race and federal policy, and Professor **Thomas Shapiro** of Brandeis University, who presented a case study of the racial implications of federal economic development policies and discussed research on the racial wealth divide.

Fellows also participated in the 2007 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference hosted by FRAC, America's Second Harvest, and the National Child and Adult Care Food Program Forum (CACFP) Forum. At the conference, two Emerson fellows led workshops about their field projects: **Toni Holness**



Emerson Fellow Toni Holness presents during the 2007 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference.

presented her work on food stamps outreach with the Medical Legal Partnership for Children at Boston Medical Center, and **Srinidhi Vijaykumar** shared the rural outreach model for the CACFP that she developed with the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest. ●

Emerson Fellows Policy Work

In March, the 13th class of Emerson National Hunger Program fellows began policy work on hunger-related issues including food stamps, child nutrition, homelessness, health, immigration, race, and anti-poverty initiatives. The fellows make significant contributions to their policy organizations by planning briefings, organizing conferences, providing research, writing reports, and conducting outreach. Among this year's policy projects:

Kate Mitchell, placed with the **House Hunger Caucus**, supported members of Congress (including CHC Board co-chairs Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Rep. Jim McGovern) as they participated in the "Food Stamp Challenge." For one week, participants purchased meals using the average weekly food stamp allotment of \$21, or one dollar per meal. The project has helped representatives Emerson and McGovern educate their colleagues, constituents, and the general public about hunger in America and about the federal Food Stamp Program (see page 11). The Challenge continues to receive excellent press coverage.

Eliberty Jimenez works to increase participation among youth, people of color, and low-income communities in the **RESULTS** grassroots network. Jimenez developed diversity training sessions for the RESULTS International Conference and is conducting outreach in targeted communities in New York, Kentucky, and New Jersey.

Amrit Mehra is promoting a new documentary about the Food Stamp program, "Making America Stronger" (see box below for more information), as well as conducting policy research on state food-stamp child-care deductions with the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**. Mehra's project provides a creative educational tool for advocates and includes much-needed information to aid local- and state-level administrators in increasing the number of eligible people who benefit from the program.

Megan Lent, placed with the **Association**

of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA), conducts research to "map" the sources of federal funding for nutrition programs that serve individuals living with life-challenging illnesses. She assisted in the planning and implementation of a successful "Food as Medicine" briefing for members of the House of Representatives sponsored jointly by the Congressional Hunger Center and ANSA (see page 1).

We congratulate the 13th class on their excellent work and look forward to their continued success as they complete their fellowship year. ●

Celebrating Three Decades of Fighting U.S. Hunger

A new video narrated by actor Jeff Bridges recognizes the 30th anniversary of the modern Food Stamp Program. Former Senators **George McGovern** and **Bob Dole** discuss the reforms achieved by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 in *Making American Stronger*, available online at <http://www.cbpp.org/foodstamp-video.htm>.

Announcing a New Class of National Hunger Fellows

The Congressional Hunger Center warmly welcomes the 14th class of Emerson National Hunger fellows. During the spring, the Emerson Program selection committee interviewed more than 80 potential fellows who had been selected as semi-finalists from a pool of more than 200 applicants. Special thanks go to **Melissa Daigle Katz** of the USDA and alumni **Patience Butler** and **Robert Campbell**, who conducted interviews along with program staff.

The class represents a wide range of backgrounds and accomplishments, including three Bonner Scholars, one Truman Public Service Scholar, two Public Policy and International Affairs fellows, three Phi Beta Kappas, and one McNeely Entrepreneurial Scholar. Whether serving as an Americorps VISTA volunteer, as senior class president, or as a change leader for the Oxfam America Social Justice Campaign, this new class of fellows has already demonstrated a commitment to public service. The 20 outstanding young men and women will be placed in ten communities across the United States to address issues of hunger, public health and nutrition, community food security, and disaster recovery. They will gather in Washington, D.C., on August 21 for 10 days of field training to prepare them for their six months of field work. Congratulations, 14th class! ●

Emerson Hunger Fellow	College	Hometown
Adrienne Alexander	Agnes Scott College	Tucker, GA
Lindsey Baker	Emory University	Tucson, AZ
Fatima Carson	Earlham College	Clarksville, MI
Katherine Chen	University of California, Berkeley	San Francisco, CA
Julie Ferreira	Earlham College	Perth Amboy, NJ
Cody Fischer	St. John's University	Owatonna, MN
Gagan Gupta	Davidson College	Belmont, NC
Amber Herman	Iowa State University	Davenport, IA
Brad Johnson	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Raleigh, NC
David Kane	Northwestern University	Foster City, CA
Katherine Moos	Sarah Lawrence College	Cambridge, MA
Elizabeth Oquendo	Emory University	Miami, FL
JoEllen Pederson	Berea College	Swoope, VA
Will Perreault	Davidson College	Chapel Hill, NC
Isha Plynton	Tufts University	Providence, RI
Bianca Pullen	University of Chicago	Albuquerque, NM
David Tian	Yale University	Evans, GA
Alexander Villaverde	Colgate University	New York, NY
Rachel Winch	Williams College	Manchester, CT
Corey Yarbrough	James Madison University	Norfolk, VA

2007 Policy Site Partners

Volunteers of America
 National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
 Families USA
 National Coalition for the Homeless
 National Immigration Law Center
 Center for Community Change
 National Conference of State Legislatures
 RESULTS Educational Fund
 Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
 Alliance to End Hunger
 Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
 Catholic Charities USA
 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
 House Hunger Caucus
 Center for American Progress
 Migrant Legal Action Program
 Call To Renewal/Sojourners
 National Women's Law Center
 Food Research and Action Center
 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

2007 Field Site Partners

Second Harvest Food Bank of New Orleans and Acadiana, New Orleans, LA
 Food and Friends, Washington, DC
 Connecticut Food Bank, New Haven, CT
 Solid Ground, Seattle, WA
 Community Food Bank, Tucson, AZ
 Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest, Pittsburgh, PA
 Boston Medical Center, Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Boston, MA
 California Association of Food Banks and California Department of Health Services' Public Health Institute, Oakland, CA
 Logan Square Neighborhood Association and the Center for Economic Progress, Chicago, IL
 Drake University Law School Agricultural Law Center, Des Moines, IA

Rural Advancement and the **Church Agricultural Project** led the fellows on site visits to communities that have been evicted from their land. Fellows also visited the **University of KwaZulu-Natal's Farmers Support Group**, an organization that brings training, advice, and project support to smallholder farmers. Fellows had the opportunity to visit **Children in Distress (CINDI)**, a consortium of over 80 members that collaborate to assist children affected and/or orphaned by AIDS in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands. Additionally, fellows visited **Total Control of the Epidemic**, a grassroots organization that trains local healthcare providers to educate community members about combating HIV infection.

Fellows noted that the experience of visiting a country with such significant development challenges and paradoxes was of enormous professional value. The project site visits permitted fellows to view and discuss innovative local approaches to HIV/AIDS, land rights, and food security issues, and the meetings with donors, government representatives, and program implementers presented them with rich content. Fellows came away with insights and exposure to approaches that will inform them as they address

Leland fellows tour the Church Agricultural Project in Tugela Ferry, South Africa.



A child in Soweto, Johannesburg

problems of hunger in other settings.

Agriculture

"Food is not a problem here; it's access."

—George K. Mburathi, UN Food and Agricultural Organization

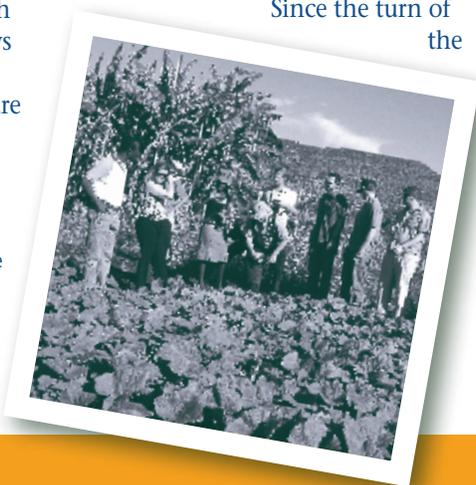
South Africa produces enough food for its entire population; despite this, an estimated 1.5 million people are malnourished and 9 percent of the population remains underweight. Food accessibility is more problematic than food production. Land reform policies and a high rate of unemployment have led the government to encourage citizens to move into agriculture; however, sufficient technical agricultural support must be offered to make this endeavor successful. With 45,000 commercial farms working 86% of agricultural land, most of the government's extension

services are currently focused on commercial farmers rather than subsistence farmers, who require a different type of support.

Land Reform

"We don't see ourselves as South Africans. We see ourselves as citizens who have no rights."

—Landless farm worker
Since the turn of the



Dispossessed farm dwellers from the Tent Town Community in Greytown, South Africa, gather for a meeting with fellows.



Leland fellows Nate Heller (left), Todd Flower (middle), and AFRA representatives listen to Farm Dweller Committee members from Greytown's farm community.

20th century, a series of laws has severely restricted land access to black South Africans. Most notably, the Native Lands Act of 1912 effectively dispossessed blacks of the majority of arable land. Despite the dissolution of apartheid in 1994, land distribution remained highly skewed with whites owning a disproportionately large amount of land compared to property owned by blacks. As a result, land reform (including issues of restitution, distribution, and tenure) remains a central challenge facing the current administration.

The country instituted a "willing-buyer, willing-seller" approach with the government purchasing land from white farmers to return to blacks whose land had been taken away from their families unjustly. While the government has set a goal

of transferring 30% of arable land within the next ten years from large, white-owned farms to small-scale, black-owned farms, critics argue that the African National Congress (ANC) government has not made land reform a priority. Land reform is vital in eliminating poverty, hunger, and malnutrition among South Africa's poor, but is perceived as moving far too slowly. One farmer-tenant expressed the common sentiment that black farmers have been betrayed by the current South African government: "It was easier when white farmers were here because then we knew who our enemies were."

HIV/AIDS

"We've been free for 12 years and we're not really free because of poverty, crime, and HIV/AIDS."

—Yvonne Spain, CINDI
(Children in Distress)

HIV/AIDS poses a serious threat to South Africans. In one decade alone, HIV rates rose from less than three percent to 30 percent of the population, making AIDS the leading cause of death among adults in the country. The South African government has been slow to acknowledge *continued on page 9*



Leland fellow Peter Giampaoli talks with TCE field officers.

Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

Welcome Mickey Leland Class of 2007–2009

The Congressional Hunger Center extends a warm welcome to the incoming class of Mickey Leland International Hunger fellows. The application process for this class was by far the most competitive since the inception of the program in 2001. CHC received over 310 applications—nearly a 25 percent increase from 2005-2007 applications. Yet, the application numbers tell only part of the story. Most impressive was the depth and breadth of the applicants' collective experience. Many had spent significant time overseas or in the United States working on issues of poverty, hunger, and development, and many had already earned multiple graduate degrees and/or doctoral qualifications to support this experience.

The incoming class of Mickey Leland Fellows represents the best of the extremely competitive application pool. New fellows include individuals with international development, agriculture, public health and law backgrounds. Some are former Peace Corps volunteers, while others are accomplished researchers. The incoming class begins service on July 26. We're honored to welcome these Leland fellows, and we look forward to witnessing their contributions to the eradication of world hunger over the coming two years. ●

Name	Organization	Hometown
Emily Bancroft	Physicians for Human Rights—Uganda	Cumberland, ME/ Seattle, WA
Rachel Bingham	Millennium Challenge Corporation—Mali	Boston, MA
Kurt Burja	World Food Program (WFP)—Cambodia	Gainesville, FL
Francisco Del Pozo	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)—Chile	Shawnee, KS
Ira Frydman	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)—Malawi	Milwaukee, WI
Eric Haglund	Bioversity/ICRISAT/ World Vision—Niger	Denver, CO
Anne-Claire Hervy	Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa—Washington, DC	Baltimore, MD
Carmen Jaquez	Land O'Lakes—Kenya	Zanoni, MO
Alexis Jones	International Land Coalition/ Association for Rural Advancement—South Africa	Carbondale, IL
Meagan Keefe	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)—Costa Rica	Wilmette, IL
Alder Keleman	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)—Mexico	Wenatchee, WA
Meaghan Murphy	Mercy Corps—Mongolia	Brunswick, ME
Adam Norikane	Christian Children's Fund—Zambia	Seattle, WA
Daniele Nyirandutiye	Helen Keller International—Senegal	Dayton, OH
Michelle Petrotta	Share Foundation—El Salvador	Fairport, NY
Erica Phillips	Partners in Health—Haiti	New York, NY
Nicole Woo	Akshaya Patra Foundation—India	New York, NY/ Washington, DC

Farewell to the Leland Class of 2005–2007

Mickey Leland fellows in the 2005-2007 class completed their service on May 31. In the past two years, they have made notable contributions to their host organizations and have gained valuable skills and knowledge in the process. The Leland class will now join our distinguished alumni as they move on to their respective careers in fighting hunger and addressing issues of international development and poverty. We thank them for

their service and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

Some of the Leland class of 2005-2007 have already accepted new positions. **Amanda Rives Argeñal** began her work as a policy advisor for Christian Children's Fund, her previous host organization, the day after she completed the fellowship. Similarly, **Damiana Astudillo** started working for the Millennium Challenge Corporation as an agricultural program officer on June 1.

Other members of the Class of 2005-2007 will return to school to address issues of international hunger and poverty. **Nate Heller** and **Andrew Miller** both plan to attend business school to study social entrepreneurship and its role in international development. Heller enters Yale Business School this fall, and Miller will attend Instituto de Empleo in Spain on a Fulbright scholarship. ●

Notes from the Field

The Contribution of Nutrition in HIV/AIDS Treatment Programs in Senegal

John Zarafonetis, Senior Advisor, Mickey Leland Hunger Fellows Program

Scientific evidence demonstrates the crucial importance of good nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Malnutrition is a common complication of HIV infection and plays a significant role in HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality. In Senegal, a number of innovative and integrated projects are underway to address the nutritional needs of PLWHA. One such project, the USAID-funded Nutritional Support Project (NSP), aims to establish nutrition interventions for PLWHA that can promote positive responses to medical treatment, help manage symptoms, and potentially delay the progression of the disease.

Lilia Gerberg, Mickey Leland International Hunger fellow, worked with **Helen Keller International (HKI)** in Senegal to provide a package of integrated nutritional services to PLWHA as part of the NSP. The package includes nutritional education and counseling, as well as weight monitoring, vitamin A and iron supplementation, and de-worming. Lilia worked on a

day-to-day basis with Dr. Djibril Cisse, the Nutrition Program Coordinator, on program management and on the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system that measures the impact of the interventions on patients' weight and nutritional status. She also worked with the Ziguinchor-based HKI program coordinator and traveled to the Casamance region last September to participate in the supervision of four rural health clinics. She visited clinics to see whether they were adequately equipped, staffed, and trained to perform nutritional surveillance of patients and to maintain patient confidentiality in record keeping (as stigma continues to be an issue for PLWHA). She also observed the food storage facilities of USAID and of the World Food Program. Eligible patients get referrals from their doctors to receive food rations, usually consisting of corn-soy blend, oil, and lentils.

The overall goal of Lilia's fellowship placement with HKI was to strengthen the organization's capacity in nutrition and HIV/AIDS programming in Senegal and other priority country programs. HKI's regional office is based in Senegal, and the lessons learned from the Senegal project will inform the development of nutrition and HIV/AIDS programs across Africa. ●

Leland fellow Lilia Gerberg visits the Ministry of Health in Ziguinchor, Sudan.

Country Policy Study: South Africa *continued from page 7*

the challenge that HIV and AIDS present in their country, and this lack of political will and leadership has delayed broad and meaningful action to fight the disease. Recently, however, the government has responded to criticism and embraced a stronger plan of action.

Organizations, such as Humana People to People's Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) are turning to South African communities to fight the epidemic. In a two-year project in Soweto, Johnson & Johnson has funded TCE's work with 200,000 community members. The organization hires locally and trains "field officers" outfitted in red jerseys and berets to participate in door-to-door campaigns, support groups, school programs, workplace activities, and vegetable gardens. The door-to-door approach is the core of the program. TCE officers answer



Leland fellows Lilia Gerberg (center) and Andrew Miller (top right) celebrate with TCE officers after visiting community homes.

questions one-on-one as they provide information about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and condom use, and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) programs. Moreover, TCE has been able to prove effectiveness by employing quantitative and qualitative measurement and evaluation tools to capture results. ●

Lessons Without Borders

On Friday, May 11, members from the 3rd class of Mickey Leland fellows and the 13th class of Bill Emerson fellows met together at the Congressional Hunger Center to learn from one another about domestic and international hunger programs. Leland fellows **Amanda Rives Argeñal**, **Damiana Astudillo**, **Sylvie Doutriaux**, and

Dan Abbott made presentations on their field work in Honduras, Bolivia, Mongolia, and Kenya, and discussed strategies for embarking on international development careers with the Emerson fellows. Emerson fellows also shared their insights into domestic hunger programs with the Leland fellows.



CHC Has Moved!

After more than eight years above the Capitol Lounge on Pennsylvania Avenue, CHC has moved into a bright, new office space in the Hall of the States Building, just blocks from the Senate office buildings, the Capitol, and Union Station. We now have a state-of-the-art meeting/conference room that holds over 40 participants, and we look forward to hosting many of you at our leadership training events, workshops, and anti-hunger roundtables. If you are

in the neighborhood, please stop by and visit.

To welcome our many friends and partners to our new office space, CHC hosted over 200 friends, alumni, and Emerson and Leland fellows at our June 12 open house.

Please note our new address:

Congressional Hunger Center
Hall of the States Building
400 N. Capitol Street NW,
Suite G-100
Washington, D.C. 20001



Ed Cooney greets realtors Sandy Weiss and Ben Plaisted of CRESA Partners at CHC's open house; Weiss and Plaisted secured CHC's new offices.



International Hunger fellows meet with Lynn Parker from FRAC.



From the left: Nina Besser, Ed Cooney, CHC board member Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, and Mohamed Gurey, CHC Finance Director



From the left: Robert Egger, CHC board member Lou Gerber, and Ed Cooney

Special thanks go to Jeff and Sharon Bernstein for their gift of artwork for CHC's new location.



CHC Board Co-Chairs Participate in the Food Stamp Challenge

By Angelina Pérez

Imagine spending just \$3 a day, or \$1 a meal, on food and drinks. Imagine having to choose between eating to be healthy and eating to be full. Or choosing between feeding your family and paying the rent or electricity. These are the choices that 36 million Americans have to make each month.

Representatives Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and **James P. McGovern** (D-MA), co-chairs of CHC's board of directors, participated in the national Food Stamp Challenge for the week of May 15-21 to raise awareness about hunger and the difficulty of feeding a family on the average food stamp benefit. McGovern and other food stamp advocates are pushing for an expansion of the federal Food Stamp



Program in the Farm Bill reauthorization. In addition, Representatives McGovern and Emerson have introduced legislation (H.R.2129) that proposes to raise the minimum benefit from \$10 to \$30 a month and to have benefits adequately correlate with inflation.

The Food Stamp Program was created as a safety net for low-income Americans, but the minimum benefit of \$10 a month has not increased in more than three decades. At the same time, prices for

food, utilities, gas, and housing have increased substantially, forcing people to make difficult decisions for themselves and their families.

In the Food Stamp Challenge, participants spend the average food stamp benefit of \$21 on food and drink for one week. They cannot accept food donations from friends or drink or eat complimentary food at work or outside functions. Representatives McGovern and Emerson challenged other members of Congress to join them in the challenge to heighten awareness concerning insufficient food stamp benefits. **Representatives Jan Schakowsky** (D-IL)

and **Tim Ryan** (D-OH) also participated.

Members of Congress accepting the Food Stamp Challenge discovered it was extremely difficult to eat nutritious foods on the average food stamp benefit. They also found that shopping for groceries was difficult and that their energy levels decreased over the seven-day period. Speaking for all the Members, Rep. McGovern stated, "For us this is an exercise that ends on Tuesday. For millions of people, this is their life."

For more accounts of the Representatives' experiences during the Food Stamp Challenge, read their blog at <http://foodstampchallenge.typepad.com>. ●

"Food As Medicine" Forum *continued from page 3*

who are food insecure, including food bank options and locally grown food programs, food stamps, and nutrition education through Women, Infants and Children (WIC). They recommended enacting the legislative proposals in H.R.2129 in order to serve America's most vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, and the chronically ill.

Over 50 Congressional staff attended the forum. ●

A special thanks to Kate Mitchell, Emerson Fellow placed with the House Hunger Caucus, and Megan Lent, Emerson Fellow placed with ANSA, for their integral roles in making the Forum a success.

Farm Bill Update

To increase food stamp benefits for low-income Americans, CHC is working with the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), America's Second Harvest (A2H), the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Bread for the World to shape the House version of the Nutrition Title of the 2007 Farm Bill. As a result of our work, this version of the Nutrition Title contains modest increases for individuals and families that receive

food stamp and TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) benefits. These benefit increases resulted from changes in the standard deduction for small member food stamp households, the removal of the cap on child care expenses, and broadening of the allowance for what financial resources a household may possess and still retain eligibility. Within TEFAP funding, mandatory purchases of commodities for low-income households

increased from \$140 million to \$250 million. All of these increased benefits are contingent on finding offsets such as raising taxes or cutting other program expenditures. CHC's work on the Farm Bill is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as part of its Farm and Food Policy Project.

CHC Staff Announcements

CHC welcomes summer intern **Betsy Whitmire**. She is assisting the Mickey Leland International Fellows Program with preparations for the pre-field training session, as well as conducting research on international school feeding programs. Whitmire hails from Mississippi State University where she studied history. During the summer, she participates in the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars program. Thank you, Betsy, for your dedication and hard work—you've already become an important member of our team.



Betsy Whitmire,
Leland Program intern

CHC would also like to thank **John Zarafonetis** for his work this past year as senior advisor to the Mickey Leland International Fellows Program. With more than 30 years experience in international development, John helped refine the program's vision. We wish him best of luck in his future endeavors. CHC sends best wishes and thanks for their service to **Kristin Anderson** and **John Kelly**, former co-directors of the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program. Kristin and John's five+ years of committed service at CHC with the Emerson



John Zarafonetis
(center) with Leland fellows Peter Giampaoli and Damiana Astudillo



Kristin Anderson and John Kelly,
former co-directors of the Bill Emerson Hunger Fellows Program.

program have resulted in a nationally recognized program of excellence. John and Kristin graduated more than 130 Hunger Fellows and made lasting change around the country through their dedicated efforts with field and policy sites. Under their leadership, the Emerson program expanded its work on community food security, public health, nutrition, and access to public benefits. Presently, Kristin is applying her program management skills and public health experience at the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, Maryland, as program coordinator for Health Care for the Homeless. John Kelly is now at the Democratic National Committee working on outreach to Catholic constituencies, where he is able to incorporate his love of policy work with his passion for faith based action. Thank you again from the staff and fellows—we miss you and look forward to staying in touch! ●



- Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
*Member of Congress
CHC Board Co-Chair*
- Honorable James P. McGovern
*Member of Congress
CHC Board Co-Chair*
- Honorable Byron Dorgan
Member of Congress
- Honorable Dennis Hertel
*Member of Congress (Retired)
Attorney at Law
The Livingston Group, L.L.P.*
- Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress
- Honorable Frank Wolf
Member of Congress
- Ashley Aakesson
*Executive Director
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti*
- David Beckmann
*President
Bread for the World*
- Cal Dooley
*President and CEO
GMA/FPA*
- 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*
- Al Franken
Actor/Comedian
- Lou Gerber
*Legislative Director
Communications Workers of America*
- David Kantor
*President
Victory Wholesale Group*
- Marshall Matz
*Partner
Olsson, Frank and Weeda, P.C.*
- Shana McDavis-Conway
*Manager of Community Outreach and Grassroots Organizing
Center for Science in the Public Interest*
- Manly Molpus
*President
The Molpus Advisory Group, L.L.C.*
- John R. Sander
*U.S. Department of State, (Retired)
Management Consultant*
- Jim Scheibel
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Hamline University*
- Mary Catherine Tokar
*VP, Government Relations
General Mills, Inc.*
- Edward M. Cooney
Executive Director
- Dr. Margaret M. Zeigler
Deputy Director
- Ambassador Tony P. Hall
Founder
- Ambassador Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey
Founding Director
-
- In Memory Of:*
Honorable Bill Emerson
Honorable Mickey Leland
-
- Congressional Hunger Center
Hall of the States Building
400 N. Capitol Street NW,
Suite G-100
Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: 202-547-7022
Fax: 202-547-7575
www.hungercenter.org
Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) organization

Save the Date

Congressional Hunger Center's
15th Anniversary Gala

February 27th, 2008 • U.S. Botanic Garden