



Fighting Hunger, Developing Leaders

FY 2021 Annual Report

From the Executive Director

As the world nears the end of the second year of the pandemic, the goal of ending food and nutrition insecurity has rarely felt more urgent. Yet all too often, as that urgency drives those of us in the anti-hunger community forward, we forget to take stock of how each other are doing, or to listen to the most important voices in this work.

One of our core values at the Congressional Hunger Center is wellbeing: the wellbeing of our employees, the fellows and interns we develop, and the communities we serve alongside. This past year we explored how to strike the right balance between sustainability, impact, and wellbeing. How can we keep from sacrificing our own wellbeing in service to our mission? How do we maintain a sense of urgency while acknowledging that this work is a marathon?

Through our leadership development programs, we continued to develop, connect, and inspire leaders. Our fellows and interns provided critical capacity to organizations that were adapting their programs for a post-COVID world, responding to increased demand for services, and seeking to become more equitable in their programs, policies, and practices.

With Zero Hunger Academy, we developed new online tools to teach students, volunteers, and donors why their voices are critical to making policymakers pay attention to food insecurity. From convenings like the 2021 Hunger Leadership Awards to training and briefings, we strived to amplify the voices and perspectives of people impacted by hunger and poverty. And we continued our journey to confront systemic racism and become a more equitable organization.

Alongside this mission-focused work, we leaned into building the staffing structure we need to achieve our mission without burning out our employees. We increased transparency in career progression and pay bands. And we worked to provide staff, fellows, and interns the resources they need to work effectively from home, from ergonomic chairs to access to mental health resources.

As we conclude 2021, the Congressional Hunger Center hopes that all of us will retain the pandemic's leadership lessons. We will listen more and encourage creativity within the constraints we're given. But as we do, we'll prioritize our own health and wellbeing. To achieve our long-term goal of building a critical mass of leaders capable of ending hunger, it's the only way forward.

In service,



Shannon Maynard
Executive Director

We fight hunger by *developing* leaders.

Our leadership development programs develop, inspire, and connect leaders to bridge the gap between field and policy, community and Congress, theory and practice.



The **Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship** is a one-year program combining anti-hunger work in local communities across the United States with policy-level experience in Washington, D.C.



The **Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship** is a two-year program where participants learn professional and leadership skills while strengthening food and nutrition security around the world.



The **Zero Hunger Internship** is a ten-week summer program for college students and recent graduates to develop their leadership skills and gain on-the-job experience with anti-hunger organizations in Washington, D.C., and across the country.



Zero Hunger Academy makes our food security and leadership development curriculum available as online learning experiences for individuals or networks seeking to expand their knowledge on domestic and global hunger.

Any lasting solution to hunger must be led by people with *first-hand expertise.*

We put people who have experienced hunger and poverty, and people of color – who are disproportionately affected by hunger – at the center of our work.

In FY2021, 50 Hunger Fellows and Zero Hunger Interns graduated from our programs.

56%

of fellows and interns identify as people of color.

44%

of fellows and interns indicated that they have experienced hunger and poverty or participated in federal nutrition programs.

We are creating a pipeline of diverse anti-hunger advocates who understand the root causes of hunger and poverty and have the skills and lived experience to *build effective solutions to end hunger.*



“ My field placement gave me what I needed and more to



both work towards my goals and *end childhood hunger.*



Emerson Fellow **Rocio Perez**, a first-generation Latina who was born and raised in downtown Los Angeles, worked with the **California Association of Food Banks (CAFB)** and the **Center on Law and Social Pol-**

icy (CLASP) in Washington, D.C. While at CAFB Rocio conducted a ground-breaking Pandemic EBT Survey which added a critical dimension to the growing body of P-EBT research, specifically focusing on the role of public charge among immigrant and mixed-status households and how P-EBT impacted their families.

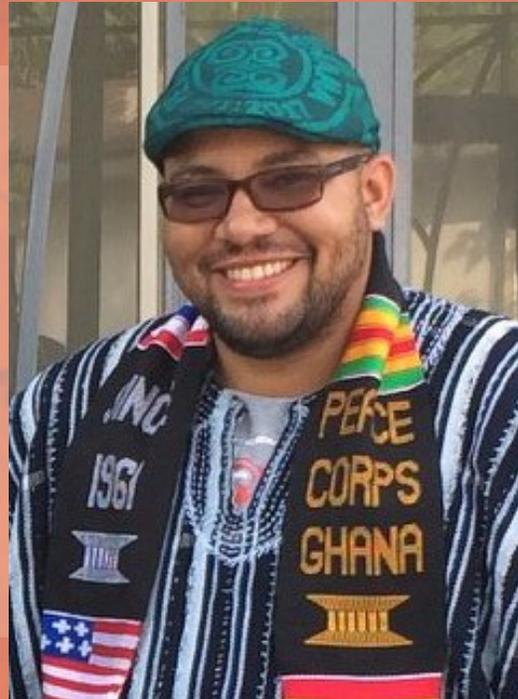


The 2020-2021 class of Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows

These 19 fellows spent 11 months working with anti-hunger organizations based in Washington, D.C., and communities around the country. Their projects included building capacity for SNAP and WIC enrollment, analyzing the impact of COVID on school nutrition programs, identifying funding gaps for Native agriculture grant-making, and developing tools to advance organizational DEI strategies.



In the second year of his Leland Fellowship, **Bryan Pride** worked with **InterAction** in Washington, D.C., where he organized INGOs to participate in collective advocacy on food security, nutrition, and climate policy. Bryan also worked with Congress, the Executive Branch, and leadership of INGOs to elevate the voices of local leaders, encourage collaboration, and promote local ownership of programming and implementation.



“ Until we ensure that all stakeholders are represented, we will continue to be *stunted in our approaches to eradicating hunger.*”

The 2019-2021 Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows

This class of 14 fellows spent two years with international anti-hunger organizations around the globe. Amid a growing food security crisis driven by COVID-19, the fellows' projects included advancing emergency humanitarian nutrition assistance in crisis areas, evaluating gender-transformative and nutrition sensitive stunting prevention programs, and improving land tenure security for smallholder farmers.

“ ..it's about community, it's about justice; knowing that the work we do is not in isolation but is made *stronger as a whole.*”



.....

Zero Hunger Intern **Ashlyn Anderson**, a native of Franklin, Tennessee, and a senior at University of Tennessee-Knoxville, completed her internship at Operation

Food Search (OFS) in St. Louis, Missouri. To meet surging demand while following public health recommendations, OFS transformed their summer meals distribution model into a drive-through. With Ashlyn at the helm, OFS served over 59,755 pounds of shelf stable food, 94,480 pounds of fresh produce, and 68,124 child meals.

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The Summer 2021 cohort of Zero Hunger Interns

This class of 17 interns spent 10 weeks working with frontline anti-hunger organizations across the country, contributing to communications, outreach, advocacy, program implementation, fundraising and research projects.

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Our leadership development programs create a *multiplier effect.*

Upon completion of the programs, our Hunger Fellows and Zero Hunger Interns go on to obtain jobs or continue their education in related fields – all the while staying committed to the fight to end hunger.



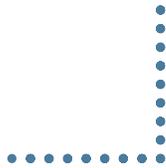
82%

of Hunger Fellows who graduated in 2021 are now employed with organizations fighting hunger or continuing their education in related fields.

Employers include:
World Food Program Mozambique, ACDI/VOCA, Rise Against Hunger, the Aspen Institute, Food Research & Action Center, Kroger Co. Foundation, and the Intertribal Agriculture Council.

Fields of study include:
public policy, law, human rights, and medicine

Overall, 75% of alums go on to pursue careers working for the public good.





Organizations fighting hunger need *more...*

Whether it's financial resources, staff, training, diverse perspectives, or new ideas, the Congressional Hunger Center provides that "more" through our competitive fellowship programs, educational resources, and network of allies.

The map above shows communities supported by the work of Hunger Fellows and Zero Hunger Interns who graduated in FY 2021. Fellows and interns supported communities in:

16

U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

12

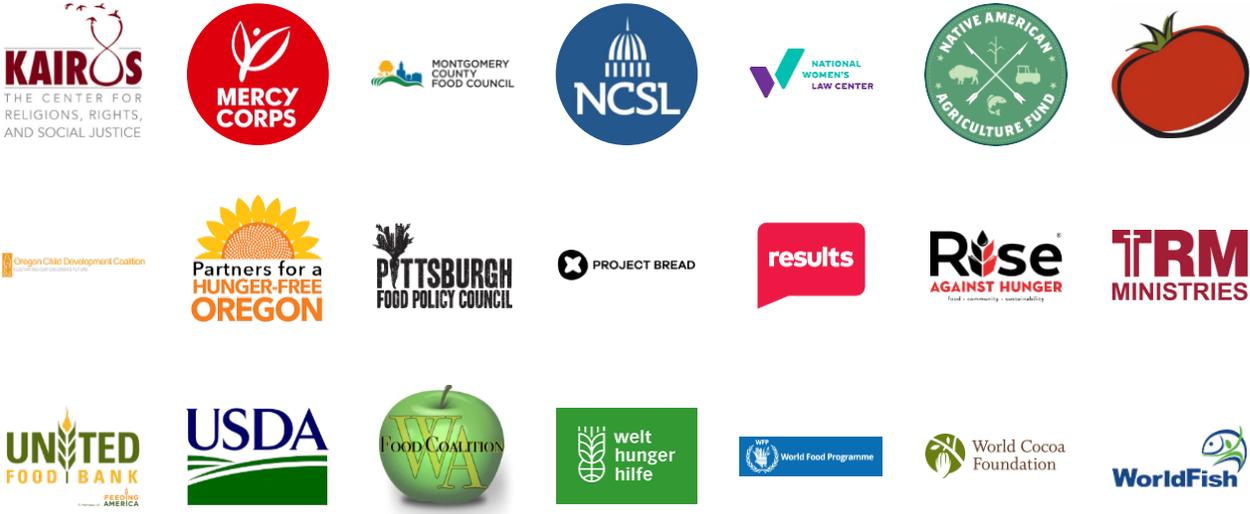
countries around the world.

“ Our Emerson Hunger Fellows brought so much to our team. Their energy and enthusiasm has really helped us move some projects forward and dig deeper into certain areas, particularly equity, in ways we likely *wouldn't have been able to without their help and insights.*

–Emerson Fellow Supervisor
Project Bread, Boston, Massachusetts



We partner with anti-hunger organizations around the country and around the world, including food banks, food policy councils, INGOs, humanitarian organizations, think tanks, and state, federal and international government agencies. In FY 2021 the Hunger Center strengthened the capacity of **49 organizations**, including **13** first-time partners.



You can't solve hunger if you don't *understand the problem.*

Access to accurate, credible, and practical information on the root causes and solutions to hunger is critical for advocates and policymakers. Through **Zero Hunger Academy**, we're sharing our experience and educational resources to build the public and political will to end hunger.

1,013

people engaged with our online resources, including:



*participating in the **End Hunger in 30 Challenge**, setting aside 30 minutes a day for guided lessons, readings from experts, and a discussion forum to develop their advocacy skills*



*participating in our **Summer Seminar Series**, featuring lectures, discussions, and learning simulations on topics including root causes of hunger in the U.S. and around the world, network building, social change, and more*



enrolling in our semester-long introductory course on food insecurity in the United States



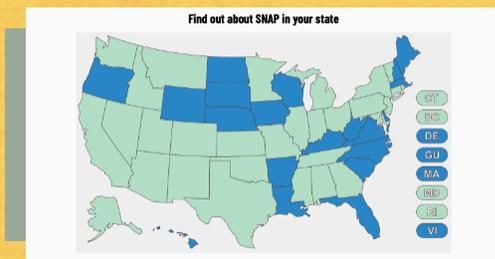
*watching our 10-minute video **Food Insecurity in the U.S.: Problems, Programs, and Policy** or downloading the accompanying discussion guide.*

We are drawing on our decades of experience to replicate established solutions and spread new ideas through our cross-sector network of allies and partners. Our events and partnerships are uniting leaders and organizations from all sectors to end hunger in our lifetime.



On June 16, the Leland Fellows hosted an Independent Dialogue to bring together diverse voices and perspectives and gather recommendations in advance of the **UN Food Systems Summit**.

On July 21, we recognized Senator Roy Blunt, Janie Simms Hipp, the Poor People's Campaign, Alexandra Cawthorne Gaines, and C&S Wholesale Grocers at the **2021 Hunger Leadership Awards**.



On July 22, Emerson Fellows and alums joined a roundtable discussion with House Rules Committee Chair **Rep. James P. McGovern** to share their expertise on the root causes of hunger, the social safety net, and applying a racial equity lens anti-hunger work in the U.S.

Throughout the year we expanded the **College SNAP Project**, our state-by-state guide for college students who need up-to-date information on how to apply for and receive SNAP benefits in their state, and for finding advocacy organizations working on the issue in their state.

[Read more resources and publications produced by the Hunger Center's work here.](#)

We cannot end hunger without addressing its root causes, including *structural racism*.

Our goal of creating a food-secure world is guided by our commitment to advancing racial equity and building a more just society. With awareness of our current and past deficiencies, we center equity and justice in our work by designing and implementing equitable programs, sharing organizational and programmatic learning and best practices with the anti-hunger movement, and examining and improving our organization's culture and policies.

[Read more about the ways we are building racial equity in our programs, our network, and our organization.](#)



We cannot do this work alone.

Our mission to fight hunger by developing leaders is supported by our federal and private grant partners, sponsors, individual donors, volunteers, Board of Directors, and staff.

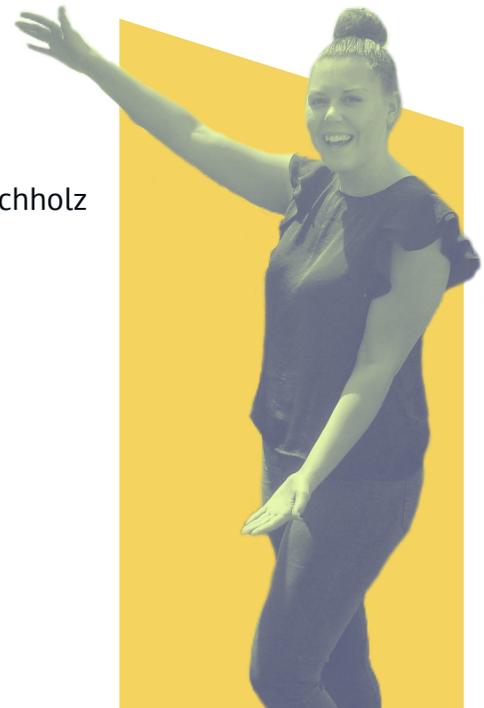
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Financial transparency and prioritizing donor stewardship are core values and activities at the Congressional Hunger Center.

[Read our most recent financial statements here.](#)

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