

Generations United Against Hunger



The 2026 Hunger
Leadership Awards

June 24, 2026
6:00 – 9:00 pm

Washington, D.C.

www.hungercenter.org/awards



An invitation from our executive director

Dear Friends and Partners,

As we prepare for the 2026 Hunger Leadership Awards on June 24, 2026, I'm honored to introduce this year's theme: *Generations United Against Hunger*.

At the Congressional Hunger Center, we know that hunger is a challenge that touches every generation—but it is also a challenge that every generation can help solve. This year's theme reflects our belief that intergenerational collaboration is essential to ending hunger, both here in the United States and around the world.

We don't have to choose between addressing the needs of one generation over another. We can ensure that Gen Z has food in their bellies and the opportunity to pursue education and training—whether in college or trade school—that leads to well-paying jobs and economic security. At the same time, we must confront the rising rates of senior hunger, which threaten the health, dignity, and well-being of older Americans as our population continues to age.

And while we care for our own communities, we must also recognize our role in a rapidly changing world. In regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America, a growing youth bulge is reshaping global demographics

and intensifying pressure on food systems. These young populations represent both a challenge and an opportunity: if we invest in their potential, we can build a more food-secure future for all.

The Congressional Hunger Center is uniquely positioned to lead in this moment. Our mission—to develop, inspire, and connect leaders in the movement to end hunger—is more relevant than ever. We train emerging leaders and support innovative anti-hunger programs. We bring together people across generations, sectors, and geographies to tackle hunger with urgency and vision.

We invite companies, foundations, and individuals to sponsor the 2026 Hunger Leadership Awards and support our work. Your partnership fuels a movement that is resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking. Together, we can honor those who lead with courage and compassion—and inspire the next generation to do the same.

Leadership is what unites us. It's what drives progress. And it's what will end hunger—when generations stand together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to seeing you in June.

In service,

Shannon Maynard
Executive Director
Congressional Hunger Center



Hunger:

an Intergenerational Challenge at Home and Abroad.

One in four Americans is now over 60 years old, with 12,000 more turning 60 every day. 13 million older Americans struggle with hunger, and half of seniors who live alone cannot afford basic needs like food. Senior hunger is a crisis that will only grow as the American population continues to age.



The average age of a college student is now 26 years old, and just under one in four college students (22%) is also caring for a child.

Competing responsibilities and the rapidly rising cost of tuition have led to a dramatic rise in college student hunger, with one in four U.S. students now experiencing food insecurity – and some campuses reporting rates of hunger in more than half of its population.



The average age of the American farmer is 58; globally, the average age is 55. The world will need young farmers to fill the gap left by their aging peers, and young farmers themselves will need access to training, land, and finance so that they can supply the food for a growing global population – estimated to be 10 billion by 2050.



Approximately 2.3 billion people—one out of four of the world's citizens—faced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2024. While the world produces enough food for everyone, conflict, poverty, and extreme weather events continue to contribute to the global hunger crisis. The effects of this emergency are especially acute for children: according to UNICEF, 1 in 5 children in the world are chronically malnourished.



About the Congressional Hunger Center

The Congressional Hunger Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle who believed that effective leadership was essential in the fight to end hunger. Our mission is to develop, connect, and inspire leaders in the movement to end hunger, and to advocate for policies that create a food-secure world.

Leadership Matters

We equip a new generation of leaders to transform the systems that create hunger and poverty through our comprehensive and accessible education programs. Our national and international fellowships—the [Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship](#) and [Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship](#)—function as leadership labs. Fellows spend immersive time in local communities and policy spaces, learning to translate between lived experience and systemic change. Structured trainings ground them in the root causes of hunger, the anatomy of social movements, and the Hunger Center's eleven leadership capabilities.

Our highly selective summer internship program, the [Zero Hunger Internship](#), serves as a launchpad for emerging advocates—giving college students and recent graduates a ten-week paid internship opportunity to contribute to anti-hunger policy organizations in Washington, D.C., while gaining the skills and networks to continue the fight beyond the summer.

Our Best Experts Have Personal Experience

For our fellowships and internships, we select individuals with a demonstrated commitment to ending hunger. The majority of fellows and interns bring a lived experience of hunger and poverty, making them

not only advocates but authentic voices of the communities most affected. We complement these intensive leadership development programs with [Zero Hunger Academy](#), our education and advocacy hub, where thousands of changemakers engage in self-led courses, national convenings, and interactive challenges to spark community-level action.

We Strengthen and Connect a Global Network of Changemakers

The Hunger Center's impact extends far beyond leadership formation—we've seeded change across the anti-hunger movement itself, strengthening the capacity of more than 400 anti-hunger organizations in 49 states and 47 countries. More than 10,000 people have activated their advocacy through Zero Hunger Academy.

In all that we do, we focus our efforts on three strategic pillars in food insecurity: 1) solving the [root causes of hunger](#); 2) investing in [youth and future generations](#); and 3) building [strong and resilient food systems](#). Our corporate and foundation partners are not just funders; they are allies in building the movement. Together, we amplify our collective impact against hunger in the United States and around the world.

Top to bottom: Leland Hunger Fellow Chika Kondo lifts a bag of cassava in Karamoja, Uganda; Emerson Hunger Fellow Methany Eltigani with the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama in Birmingham; Emerson Hunger Fellows prepare to meet with Congressional offices to share what they've learned about the state of hunger through their placements in communities across the U.S.



2026 Hunger Leadership Awards

The annual Hunger Leadership Awards bring together representatives from government, philanthropy, the private sector, and the wider anti-hunger community to recognize distinguished leaders who have made significant contributions in the fight to end hunger. Hunger Leadership Award recipients embody the determination needed to make hunger and poverty a policy priority both at home and abroad.

The Hunger Leadership Awards is the Hunger Center's primary fundraiser for our fellowships and programs. This widely attended event attracts more than 250 attendees.

In 2026, the Congressional Hunger Center plans to honor:

- Members of Congress who have come together to advance bipartisan legislation on ending hunger;
- A trailblazer who has used their influence and celebrity to improve the lives of those experiencing hunger;
- A corporate leader that has committed financial resources to address hunger and food insecurity;
- A community organization and/or community champion working to end hunger at the local level; and
- Outstanding Congressional Hunger Center Fellowship Alums who have demonstrated leadership in their field.

Past Awardees include:

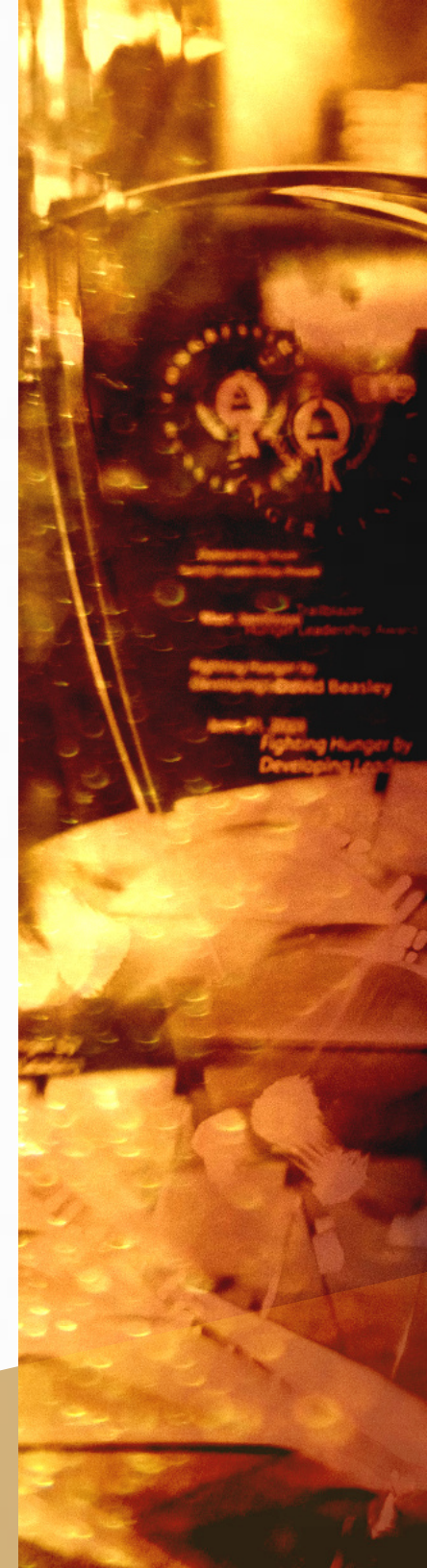
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
Tom Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
Dan Glickman
U.S. Secretary of Housing and
Urban Development Marcia
L. Fudge
Governor David Beasley, Former
Executive Director of the
World Food Programme
Ambassador Tony Hall
Senator Roy Blunt
Senator John Boozman
Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Senator Chris Coons
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Roger Wicker
Representative Rosa DeLauro
Representative JoAnn Emerson
Representative John Lewis
Representative Tracey Mann
Representative Michael McCaul
Representative Jim McGovern
Representative Gregory Meeks
Representative Jackie Walorski
Representative Frank Wolf
Chef José Andrés
Rev. David Beckmann
Steph & Ayesha Curry and the
Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation
Yolanda Gordon
Janie Simms Hipp
Albertsons Companies Founda-
tion
C&S Wholesale Grocers
General Mills
Kraft Heinz
The Kroger Co. Foundation
PepsiCo
AARP Foundation
Franklin Food Bank
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force
D.C. Greens

[See a list of all our past award recipients here.](#)



Benefits of Sponsorship

	Harvester	Cultivator	Sower	Planter	Gardener	Friend
Presenting sponsor of VIP Cocktail Hour prior to start of awards ceremony and reception	✓					
Top line placement on all event recognition	✓					
Logo on step-and-repeat banner	✓					
Second line placement on all event recognition		✓				
Speaking opportunity during Awards Ceremony	✓	✓				
Promotional video during pre-ceremony reception	✓	✓				
Recognition during Executive Director's speaking remarks	✓	✓	✓			
Opportunity to place products in guest swag bag	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Logo on social media, and email promotions for Awards Ceremony	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Logo on website sponsor recognition page and event signage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Name on website sponsor recognition page						✓
Invited Guests for Hunger Leadership Awards	Unlimited	Unlimited	15	10	5	2
VIP Cocktail Hour	✓	✓	✓			
Sponsorship Amount	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,500





The 2026 Hunger Leadership Awards

June 24, 2026
6:00 - 9:00 pm

Business attire.

Passed hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, cocktails, and soft drinks will be served.

Ready to be a sponsor? [Complete this form](#) or contact Development Director Laura Tarre at ltarre@hungercenter.org.

[Submit nominations for the Hunger Leadership Awards here.](#)

Deadline to confirm sponsorship: June 10, 2026.

www.hungercenter.org/awards

Apple, scholar, tractor, and globe icons courtesy Flaticon.com.
Sources for page 2: <https://sources-hla-prospectus.carrd.co>