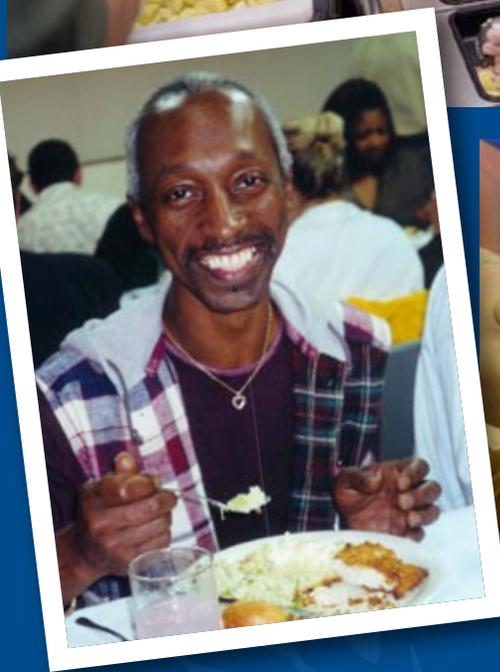


# Annual Report 2007





*“Food as Medicine” offers vital information, viable solutions and brings hope into the lives of millions of people living with chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and diabetes.*

— FRANK ABDALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NUTRITION SERVICES AGENCIES

Top: Assembly line of Project Open Hand in San Francisco, California. (ANSA photo)

Right: Meal prepared by Mama’s Kitchen, San Diego, California. (ANSA photo)

Left: Client enjoys meal prepared by Food Outreach, St. Louis, Missouri. (ANSA photo)

Cover photos, clockwise from top left:

The 3rd class of Leland International Hunger Fellows meets with U.S. Ambassador Bost during their Country Policy Study in South Africa.

Megan Lent, 13th class Emerson fellow, gives a presentation on her publication *Mapping the World of Nutrition* at the 14th Annual ANSA Conference.

The quilt made by Christiane Meunier includes patches representing ANSA member agencies, community partners, and supporters. Both ANSA and CHC are funded by The UPS Foundation to educate lawmakers and academics about the “Food as Medicine” national campaign.

Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)–Shops during the Food Stamp Challenge. (The Hatcher Group Photo by Laura Hayes)

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*Food is often cited by people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS as their greatest and most important need.*

— ELIZABETH MATAKA, THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA

### **Our Mission:**

Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders

### **Our Vision:**

To raise up a new generation of leaders dedicated to ending hunger in the lives of over 36 million people in the United States and 840 million men, women and children around the globe.

### **What Makes Us Unique:**

Since 1993, the Congressional Hunger Center has served as a nexus where those engaged in grassroots field operations can connect with policymakers to craft more effective solutions to end hunger. Over 500 leaders have graduated from our programs— young people who will spend their time, talents, and energy fighting hunger and poverty. These leaders have gained the skills, knowledge and experience to inspire hope and fight hunger in the United States and around the world.



Top: This boy and his sister, whom he is feeding, are both orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) cared for by ANSA's Namibian partner agency, Hope Initiatives. (ANSA photo)

Bottom: Breakfast provided to OVCs cared for by Ikamva Labantu in South Africa, an ANSA partner agency. (ANSA Photo)

# Letter from the Executive Director



Edward M. Cooney

In 2007, CHC was “on the move” literally and figuratively – settling into new office space in the Hall of the States Building on Capitol Hill in March. Having this new facility will allow us to conduct our 60 days of training for the Emerson and Leland fellows in a new 40-seat state-of-the-art conference room. Our 14th class of Emerson National Hunger fellows and the 4th Class of Leland International Hunger Fellows have both received 10 days of field training in this new space.

We now have 20 Emerson fellows in 10 states across the U.S. and 17 Leland fellows around the world (nine in Africa, five in Latin America, and three in Asia.)

While many of our Emerson alumni have gone on to graduate schools or future study in the fields of law, education, agriculture, medicine, or public policy, several other fellows have been touched with “Potomac Fever” and found employment in House or Senate offices, Congressional Committees, or the Executive Branch of government at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In recent years, a dozen fellows have found employment on Capitol Hill at the Senate Agriculture, Banking, and Budget Committees as well as the House Ways and Means Committee or the House Hunger Caucus.

Most of our Leland fellows have secured employment overseas, many with their Leland host agencies. Fellows are working or have worked for United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Haiti, World Food Program (WFP) in Guinea and Sudan, Save the Children in Tajikistan and Mozambique, or Catholic Relief Services in Malawi and Afghanistan.

CHC’s staff and board have embarked on a 5-year strategic planning process. Margaret Zeigler, CHC’s deputy director, has led a spirited effort of board and staff, reviewing and revising CHC’s vision and mission, governance and leadership, management and operations, and program work plans.

I would like to thank Altria, Inc., The UPS Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, General Mills Foundation, Sodexo Foundation, Kraft Foods, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, and MARS, Inc. for their generous response to CHC in 2007. We are also grateful for core funding for our Emerson and Leland Fellowship Programs provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



CHC Staff in October 2007. (From Left to Right) Edward Cooney, Joy Wiskin, Jose Ravano, Margaret Zeigler, Angelina Pérez, Kristin Anderson, Elizabeth Whelan, Sherian Roggeband, Shana McDavis-Conway, Mohamed Gurey, and Aileen Carr.

Sincerely,

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

Edward M. Cooney

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

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  
Author/Comedian

Lou Gerber  
Legislative Director  
Communications Workers of America

David Kantor  
President  
Victory Wholesale Group

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

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

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

Jim Scheibel  
Instructor  
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

Serving together as co-chairs of the Congressional Hunger Center Board of Directors gives us the unique opportunity to work on a bipartisan basis with dedicated citizens to end hunger in the United States and around the world. In May 2007, we both participated in the national Food Stamp Challenge to raise awareness about hunger and the difficulty of feeding a family on the average food stamp benefit. While on the Food Stamp Challenge, we were allowed \$3 per day or \$21 per week for food, which is the average benefit per food stamp recipient. We thank Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH), who joined us in the Challenge as we learned firsthand how difficult eating a nutritious diet can be with limited resources, even in a nation with such an abundance of food. As a result of our week on the Food Stamp Challenge, we introduced the Feeding America's Families Act, which mandates changes in the Food Stamp legislation to increase the benefit amount for those who qualify and to make the program more accessible for those who truly need it.

We also worked with many allies to introduce legislation to authorize the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole Program), which has provided nutritious school meals to 26 million children in 41 countries since its inception in 2000. The legislation will expand funding, to allow for improved planning and efficiency, and will reach even more of the world's hungriest children by 2012.

We salute the work of the Emerson and Leland fellows who served in the Congressional Hunger Center's programs in 2007. Emerson fellows served in 12 states – from Atlanta, Georgia to Seattle, Washington – in programs such as Food Stamp Program outreach, migrant farm worker support, disaster preparedness, and child nutrition. Around the world, Leland fellows worked in their policy placements in Washington, D.C. and Rome, Italy, and in Cambodia, Benin, and Senegal to learn skills in anti-hunger advocacy and program management. Their dedication and commitment to becoming effective anti-hunger leaders continues to inspire us and others with whom they work at their host organizations. We hope you are inspired by their work, which is highlighted in this report.

As board co-chairs, we continue to work closely with CHC and the Congressional Hunger Caucus to raise awareness about hunger and to find solutions to end it. We thank our fellow board members for their support of CHC and invite readers to join us in the coming years as we continue *fighting hunger by developing leaders*.



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

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson

Rep. James P. McGovern

# The Congressional Hunger Center Vision and Programs

## Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders

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

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

In 2007 the Center received a major grant from Altria Corporate Services to conduct a strategic review and develop an organizational plan for 2008-2012. The strategic planning process was formally launched in May. With the input of our host organizations, board of directors, alumni, staff, and field and policy partners, we expect to refine and clarify CHC's vision, mission, and programs of *fighting hunger by developing leaders* by March, 2008 when we will release the results of our work.

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

CHC's programs and advocacy initiatives emphasize the links among grassroots efforts, field-based solutions to hunger, and effective policy work. Since our founding in 1993, CHC

has organized and hosted numerous workshops, national and international hunger forums, and briefings for Members of Congress and policy-makers. CHC's many friends and partners include Members of Congress, Congressional staff who focus on hunger and poverty, and hundreds of anti-hunger organizations throughout the U.S. and overseas.

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

CHC also serves as a unique training center where over 500 young men and women have gained the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to become effective anti-hunger leaders. Our leadership training programs include the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program and the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program. In 2007, we were proud to celebrate 14 years of *fighting hunger by developing leaders*.

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

CHC's *Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program* provides exceptional individuals with service opportunities at the United Nations and U.S. government agencies and with nongovernmental and private sector organizations. The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, with a field placement in a developing country for the first year, followed by a second year in a policy environment in either Washington, D.C. or the Rome, Italy food agency  
*continues at bottom of page 5*



Lilia Gerberg (3rd class Leland fellow) in Southern Senegal at the Ministry of Health in Ziguinchor.

# Fighting Hunger at Home

## National Policy Report

A major focus of CHC's domestic advocacy efforts this year was the authorization and appropriation status of the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships. Last year, CHC did not receive funding for the hunger fellowships because the programs were declared "earmarks" in the Farm Bill, their authorizing legislation. Ed Cooney and Margaret Zeigler worked with majority and minority staff of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, successfully advocating for removal of the "earmark" status of the Fellowships in the Farm Bill language. If a Farm Bill is enacted in 2008, the authorization of the Fellowship programs through the administration of the Congressional Hunger Center will be secure.

VAH Award winner, San Antonio AIDS Foundation, receives \$1,000 check from Representative Gonzalez (D-TX) (center).



CHC staff also worked to secure ongoing funding for the Emerson and Leland Fellowships in the 2008 Agricultural Appropriations bill. On December 26th 2007 President Bush signed the Omnibus Bill providing \$2.5 million of core funding for the Emerson and Leland Fellowship Programs.

Ed Cooney collaborated during 2007 with a number of groups to improve food stamp benefits and access to healthy foods in the Farm Bill. Representatives McGovern and Emerson introduced legislation which increased the standard



Lifelong AIDS Alliance of Seattle Washington is presented with VAH Award by Representative McDermott (D-WA) (center) at the annual Seattle AIDS Walk.

deduction for certain households (thereby greatly increasing their food stamp benefits), raised the minimum household benefit, eliminated the cap on dependant care deduction, and raised the assets limits for participating households. CHC, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), America's Second Harvest, The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Bread for the World all worked with Congressional staff to shape this legislation.

The Community Food Security Coalition made it possible for CHC to receive funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for work on improving access to nutritious foods in the Farm Bill. Other partners in this effort included the Sustainable

*continues at bottom of page 6*

### The Congressional Hunger Center Vision and Programs

headquarters of the United Nations. The field placement allows each fellow to take part in grassroots efforts to support a variety of anti-hunger initiatives, from agriculture to nutrition to school feeding projects and emergency food aid operations. The subsequent policy placement allows fellows to use their field experience to influence policies and programs that end global hunger.

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

# Fighting Hunger Abroad

## International Policy Report

Throughout the year, CHC staff worked in a concerted effort with allied organizations to craft a more progressive food aid title in the 2007 Farm Bill. CHC Deputy Director Margaret Zeigler gave a presentation at the annual meeting in 2006 of the Alliance for Food Aid (AFA) on the political climate in Congress and the impact of other constituencies on U.S. food aid policies and programs. With the advent of the 2007 Farm Bill, CHC and allied organizations such as AFA advocated for a series of reforms and increased resources for food aid programs such as Food For Peace, Food for Progress, and the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. CHC also worked to keep harmful limitations from being placed

on U.S. food aid programs in the World Trade Organization agricultural negotiations.

CHC's advocacy efforts in conjunction with the AFA for the Farm Bill resulted in a higher proportion of food aid being placed in a "safe-box," restricted for use in long-term chronic hunger programs, rather than being diverted into humanitarian emergencies. In recent years, despite provisions in the law, food aid has been used increasingly for humanitarian emergencies at the expense of long-term development programs that target child and maternal malnutrition, agricultural improvements for poor farmers, and overseas community food security

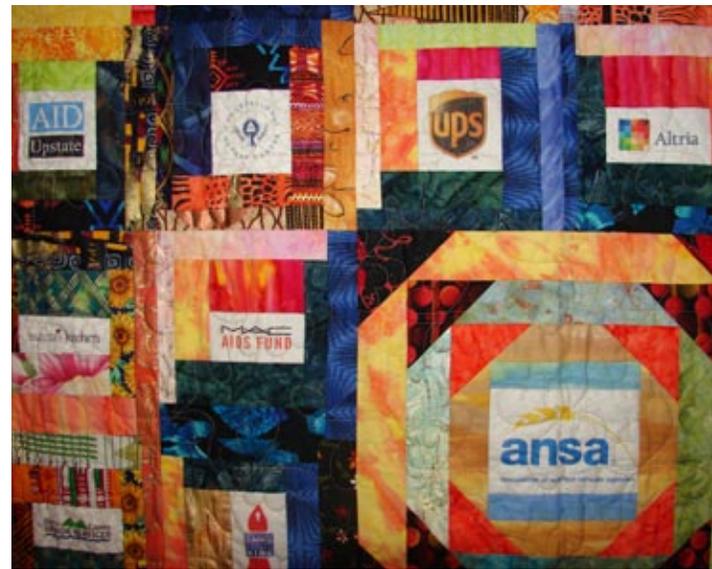
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## Fighting Hunger at Home

Agriculture Coalition, Environmental Defense, America Farmland Trust, and the Northeast Midwest Institute.

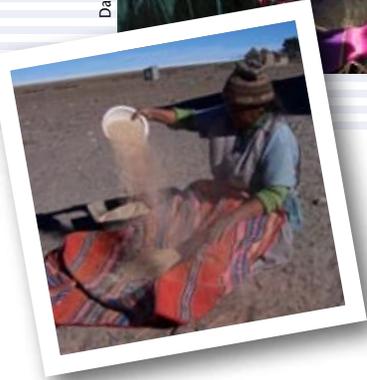
In 2007 CHC also focused on our "Food as Medicine" campaign conducted jointly with the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA). On June 19th, CHC and ANSA hosted a Capitol Hill Forum on the campaign for 60 members of Congressional staff. Guest speakers from FRAC and America's Second Harvest, as well as our own Emerson fellows, gave presentations on how federal nutrition programs, food banks, and locally grown food projects can provide essential foods and nutrients for people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. As a result of the briefing, six members of Congress asked to tour a Washington, D.C. AIDS program, Food & Friends. After briefings by people who received food and nutrition services at Food & Friends and now live a fuller and more meaningful life, these six Members of Congress announced that they would seek to amend the Ryan White Legislation and provide direct funding for food and nutrition services for people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses.

CHC also made *Food as Medicine* the theme of this year's Victory Against Hunger Awards (VAH) program. Thanks to the Victory Wholesale Group, CHC was able to award \$1,000 each in cash



Quilt made by Christiane Meunier includes patches of ANSA's member agencies, community partners, and supporters. Both ANSA and CHC are funded by The UPS Foundation to educate lawmakers and academics about the "Food as Medicine" national campaign.

to 22 local groups across the country for their work. This award program raises the awareness of Members of Congress about anti-hunger work in their districts or states.



Traditional method of processing quinoa is labor intensive.

initiatives. The 2007 Farm Bill language reverses this trend, with the House and Senate Agriculture Committees approving \$450 million and \$600 million respectively for use in development food aid programs. Once the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill are reconciled in conference, we expect that a solid level of funding for the “safebox” will approach \$500 to \$600 million for development food aid. Other reforms include measures to streamline the use of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, which is a reserve of cash and commodities available for emergency food aid needs.

CHC also collaborated with staff of the House Hunger Caucus by providing guidance for a July 2007 policy briefing entitled “Food as Medicine: Global HIV/AIDS and Food Insecurity.” Staff from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, Congressional Committees, and representatives from voluntary organizations and the private sector attended the briefing, which was co-sponsored by CHC Board co-chairs Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Rep. James P. McGovern. The panelists included Geeta Rao Gupta, President, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW); Dr. Tom Kenyan, Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator; Dr. Bill Hammink, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Food for Peace Office; and Bruce Wilkinson, Vice President, World Vision. Panelists outlined the need for food to be provided alongside the antiretroviral therapies within the President’s Emergency Program for Aids Relief (PEPFAR). They explored how a funding mechanism might connect PEPFAR with other food aid programs to enhance the impact of both HIV/AIDS treatment and nutrition services.

### Assisting Allied Organizations

In 2006 and continuing in 2007, CHC provided funding assistance to PROINPA (Foundation for Research and Promotion of Andean Products), a Bolivian agriculture and food security organization, to test an innovative technological advance in processing the country’s staple crop, quinoa. The highly nutritious grain is scarcely consumed in the households of the producers themselves,

resulting in a high prevalence of chronic malnutrition. Low consumption is due, in part, to the difficulties involved in processing the grains or a reluctance to do so (particularly now that easier-to-prepare but less nutritious foods are available). In addition, this traditional, labor-intensive work leads to health problems, including respiratory infections and joint, lower-back, and foot pain.

CHC provided funds to test quinoa processing in 12 communities surrounding the Uyuni Salt Flat in Bolivia using a machine developed by Rolando Copa, a local mechanic and quinoa producer. Traditional processing requires 6 hours; Copa’s invention reduces that time to 8 minutes and eliminates related health problems. In all communities where PROINPA conducted testing, residents expressed hope that the machines would soon be available.

Following from CHC’s initial funding, Bioersity International channeled funds to PROINPA to conduct further testing and to measure the impact of the machine on nutrition and quinoa consumption. The machines were placed in the communities by October; the users pay a usage fee based on the amount of quinoa processed. The community elected two machine operators and overseers. The money collected is used to buy gas for the machine and create a maintenance fund.

Plans call for extending the use of this quinoa processing innovation to at least four more communities in the Bolivian *altiplano*. An additional new machine – a *hojueladora* – facilitates the consumption of quinoa by rolling the grains flat. When quinoa is rolled flat, cooking time is reduced from 30 to 5 minutes, enabling parents to make a morning hot drink for their children’s breakfast. The hope is that residents of the Bolivian communities that grow and sell quinoa will begin to consume this highly nutritious food themselves and reap the full benefits of quinoa’s rich potential.

# CHC Partner Sites 1994–2007

- 2007–2008 Bill Emerson Fellows' Field Sites
- 2006–2007 Bill Emerson Fellows' Policy Sites
- 2007–2009 Mickey Leland Fellows' Field Sites
- 2005–2007 Mickey Leland Fellows' Policy Sites

## Emerson National Field Partners

**Alabama**  
Alabama Coalition Against Hunger, Auburn

**Alaska**  
Food Bank of Alaska, Anchorage

**Arizona**  
Association of Arizona Food Banks, Phoenix  
Community Food Bank, Tucson  
Tohono O'odham Community Action, Sells  
Westside Food Bank, Phoenix

**California**  
Alameda County Community Food Bank, Oakland

Alameda County Social Services Agency, Oakland

California Association of Food Banks, Sacramento  
California Emergency Food Link, Sacramento

California Department of Health Services, Public Health Institute, Oakland\*

California Food Policy Advocates, Los Angeles

Community Action Commission, Santa Barbara

Foodlink of Tulare County, Visalia  
Fresno Community Food Bank, Fresno

Fresno Metropolitan Ministry, Fresno

Homeless Garden Project, Santa Cruz

Interfaith Hunger Coalition, Los Angeles

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Los Angeles

Sacramento Hunger Commission, Sacramento

San Francisco Department of Human Services, San Francisco  
USDA Western Regional Office, San Francisco

**Colorado**  
USDA Mountain Plains Regional Office, Denver

**Connecticut**  
Connecticut Food Bank, New Haven\*

End Hunger CTI, Hartford

The Hartford Food System, Hartford

**Delaware**  
Teaching Health for Life Ministries, Wilmington

**Florida**  
Alliance for Fair Food, Immokalee  
Farm Share, Florida City  
Florida Association for Community Action, Gainesville  
Florida Impact, Tallahassee

Human Services Coalition, Miami  
South Florida Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Miami

**Georgia**  
Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta

**Hawaii**  
Full Plate, Inc., Kaneohe  
Hawaii Food Bank, Honolulu  
Kauai District Health Office, Kauai  
Kauai Economic Opportunity, Kauai

**Idaho**  
Idaho Community Action Network, Boise

**Illinois**  
Center for Economic Progress, Chicago  
Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, Chicago

Hyde Park-Kenwood Interfaith Council, Chicago

Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Chicago\*

**Iowa**  
Drake University Law School, Agricultural Law Center, Des Moines\*

**Indiana**  
Haven House Services, Jeffersonville

**Kansas**  
Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, Wichita

**Kentucky**  
Community Farm Alliance, Louisville

Kentucky River Foothills Development Corp., Berea

**Louisiana**  
Hope House of New Orleans, New Orleans

National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness, New Orleans

Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans, New Orleans

**Maine**  
Maine Coalition for Food Security, Portland

**Maryland**  
Project PLASE, Baltimore

**Massachusetts**  
Boston Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics, Boston  
Boston Medical Center, Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Boston

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston  
Worcester County Food Bank, Worcester

**Michigan**  
Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan, Detroit  
Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank, Grand Rapids

**Minnesota**  
St. Paul Second Harvest Food Bank, St. Paul

**Missouri**  
The Campus Kitchens Project at St. Louis University, St. Louis  
Operation Food Search, Inc., St. Louis

**Montana**  
Missoula Food Bank, Inc., Missoula  
Montana People's Action, Missoula  
Northern Cheyenne Food Bank, Lame Deer

**Nebraska**  
Applesseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Lincoln

**Nevada**  
Project M.A.N.A., Incline Village

**New Mexico**  
Farm to Table, Santa Fe  
The Food Depot, Santa Fe  
Second Harvest Roadrunner Food Bank, Albuquerque

**New York**  
Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse, Binghamton  
FoodChange, New York  
Godian Fellowship Church, Jamaica

New Yorkers Against Hunger Project at SENSES, Albany  
Nutrition Consortium of New York State, Albany

**North Carolina**  
Food Bank of North Carolina, Raleigh  
Second Harvest Metrolina Food Bank, Charlotte

**North Dakota**  
Red River Valley Community Action, Grand Forks

**Ohio**  
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks, Columbus  
Operation Food Share, Dayton  
Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Center, Logan

**Oklahoma**  
Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah

**Oregon**  
Children First of Oregon, Portland  
FOOD for Lane County, Eugene  
Oregon Faith Roundtable, Portland  
Oregon Food Bank, Portland  
Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, Portland

**Pennsylvania**  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Pittsburgh  
Just Harvest, Pittsburgh

**Puerto Rico**  
La Fondita De Jesus, Santurce

**South Carolina**  
Harvest Hope Food Bank, Columbia

**Texas**  
End Hunger Network, Houston  
San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio  
South Plains Food Bank, Lubbock

**Vermont**  
Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, Burlington  
Vermont Foodbank, Inc., South Barre

**Virginia**  
Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Portsmouth

**Washington**  
Children's Alliance, Seattle  
The Fremont Public Association, Seattle  
Solid Ground, Seattle\*

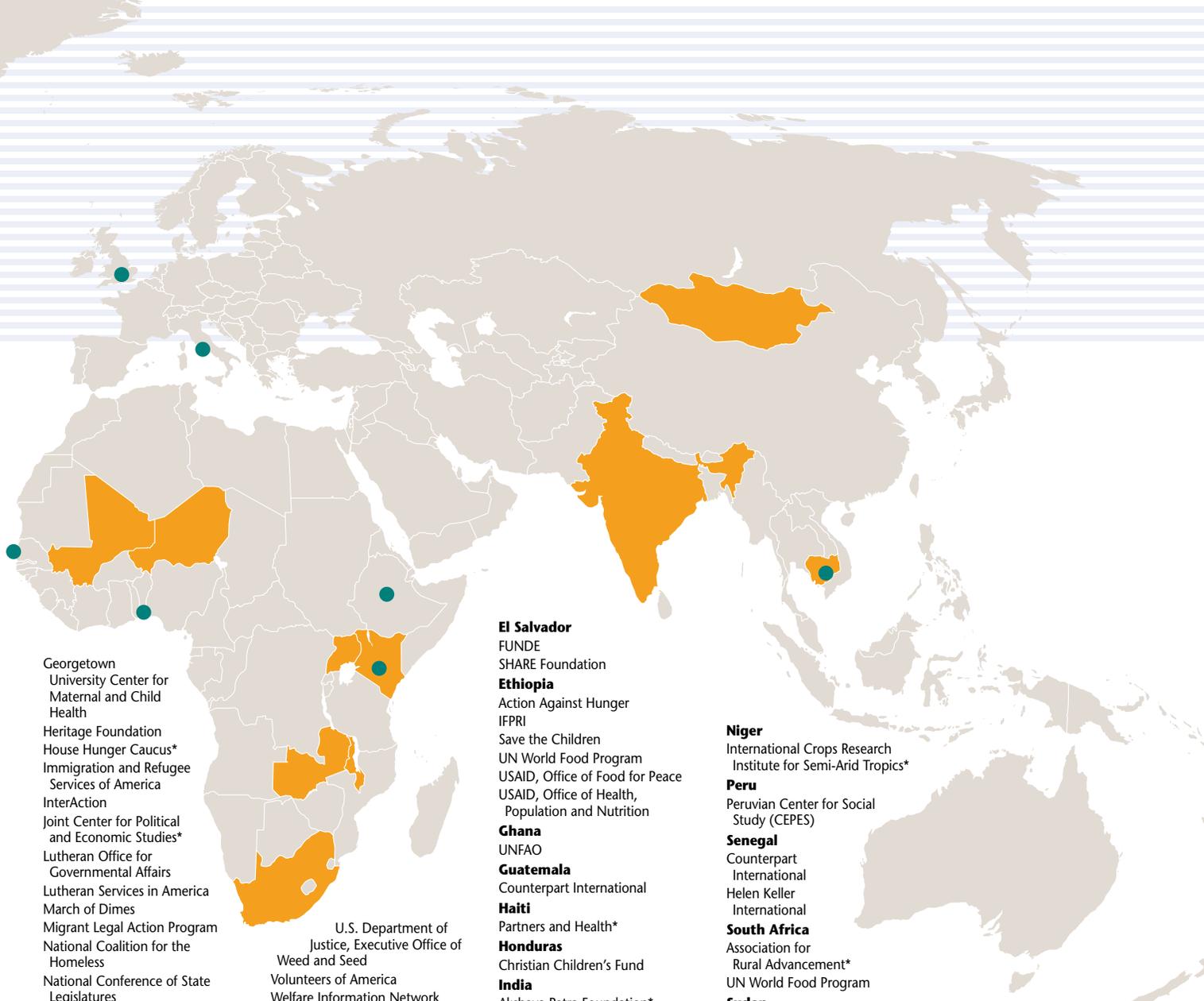
Washington Citizen's Action Education and Research Fund, Seattle  
Washington Food Coalition, Seattle

**Washington, D.C.**  
Capital Area Food Bank  
Community Harvest  
D.C. Central Kitchen  
D.C. Hunger Solutions  
Food and Friends  
**Wisconsin**  
Fondy Food Center, Inc., Milwaukee  
Hunger Task Force, Milwaukee

## Emerson National Policy Partners

**Washington, DC**  
Academy for Educational Development  
Alliance to End Hunger  
Association for Career and Technical Education  
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies  
American Dietetic Association  
American Public Human Services Association  
American Red Cross  
America's Second Harvest

Bread for the World  
Call to Renewal  
Catholic Charities USA  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Concern/Presbyterian Hunger Program  
Center for Women's Policy Studies  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
CFED  
Christian Children's Fund  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Food Security Coalition  
Connect for Kids  
Domestic Policy Council, The White House  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Washington Office\*  
Families USA  
Food Research and Action Center  
General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church



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

U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed and Seed  
 Volunteers of America  
 Welfare Information Network  
 Welfare to Work  
 Workforce Alliance

### Leland International Field Partners

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

**Benin**  
 Catholic Relief Services

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

**Cambodia**  
 PACT  
 UN World Food Program

**Chad**  
 Catholic Relief Services

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

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

**El Salvador**  
 FUNDE  
 SHARE Foundation

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

**Ghana**  
 UNFAO

**Guatemala**  
 Counterpart International

**Haiti**  
 Partners and Health\*

**Honduras**  
 Christian Children's Fund

**India**  
 Akshaya Patra Foundation\*

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

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

**Malawi**  
 CARE  
 United Nations Development Programme\*

**Mali**  
 Helen Keller International\*  
 Millennium Challenge Corporation\*

**Mexico**  
 CIMMYT  
 The News

**Mongolia**  
 Mercy Corps

**Morocco**  
 Management Systems International

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

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

**Senegal**  
 Counterpart International  
 Helen Keller International

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

**Sudan**  
 Catholic Relief Services

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

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

**Zambia**  
 Christian Children's Fund\*

### Leland International Policy Partners

**Washington, DC Region**  
 Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
 American Red Cross  
 Bread for the World  
 CARE  
 Catholic Relief Services  
 Christian Children's Fund  
 Counterpart International  
 FANTA  
 IFPRI  
 Land O'Lakes  
 Management Systems International

Mercy Corps International  
 National Family Farm Coalition  
 PACT  
 Save the Children  
 Scripps Howard News Service  
 USAID, Africa Bureau  
 USAID, Office of Food for Peace

**Dakar, Senegal**  
 Helen Keller International

**Nairobi, Kenya**  
 PACT

**Coutounou, Benin**  
 Catholic Relief Services

**Cambodia**  
 UN World Food Program

**London, United Kingdom**  
 Action Against Hunger

**Ethiopia**  
 IFPRI

**Rome, Italy**  
 International Land Coalition  
 IPGRI  
 UN Food and Agriculture Organization  
 UN International Fund for Agriculture Development  
 UN World Food Program  
 \*New site in 2007

# The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program

## About the Program

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program is a unique leadership development opportunity for young professionals seeking to eliminate domestic hunger and poverty. The program includes substantial training, an emphasis on fellowship, and access to superb partner organizations. Through their year-long effort, Emerson Fellows:

- Develop as effective leaders in the anti-hunger movement by bridging community grassroots efforts and national public policy.
- Gain practical experience at both the grassroots and national level.
- Graduate with direct training in program development, research analysis, and public policy related to hunger and poverty issues.

The fellowship is divided into two 6-month periods: fellows are placed in community-based organizations in 10 U.S. cities, and then with national policy organizations in Washington, D.C.

## Training and Leadership Development: Special Program Initiative

To prepare fellows for their field and policy work, the Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program provides comprehensive training

14th class Emerson fellows celebrate at the U.S. Capitol.



Fellows and alumni volunteer together at the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C. during August field training and orientation.

throughout the fellowship year. Training opportunities include field training and orientation, mid-field retreat, policy training, mid-policy retreat, and professional development days. Training topics include federal feeding programs, the emergency food system, root causes of hunger and poverty, creative solutions to ending hunger, community organizing, public policy, community building, and skills development.

Quality training is an integral part of the fellowship experience, and CHC strives to provide fellows with the knowledge and skills they need to make concrete contributions to their field and policy sites. Over the last year, the Emerson program staff worked closely with training expert Nicole Johnson, to develop an integrated training protocol for the annual program of field training, policy training, professional development days, and retreats. The team worked to institutionalize the training program by establishing clear goals and sound methodology, documenting successful strategies, and tracking trainers for easier replication in the future. Throughout this 18-month process, the program team sought and received

14th class Emerson fellows at the 2007 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa.



input from CHC management, various Emerson program advisory board members and trainers, and alumni in designing the new training program. The goals of the Emerson fellowship training program are to:

- Equip fellows with the skills and a knowledge base on a range of issues related to hunger and poverty that will enable them to make meaningful contributions to their field and policy organizations and the people they serve.
- Create and promote a community environment for fellows to make personal and professional connections during the program year and share resources and best practices.
- Integrate fellows into CHC, the Emerson program, and the larger fellowship community and promote fellows and their work to CHC partners and stakeholders.
- Examine approaches to change within the anti-hunger and anti-poverty movements; challenge fellows to reflect on their personal aspirations, values and contribution to social change efforts.
- Begin to explore the connections between hunger and other manifestations of social inequality, particularly racism.

the best methods for closing the gap between food bank resources and the need for emergency food in Connecticut. Using research and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, JoEllen mapped the need for emergency food programs throughout Connecticut and recommended strategies to the Food Bank for better addressing ongoing food insecurity in Connecticut communities. JoEllen's gap analysis will be used to inform the Food Bank's targeting of food delivery to communities in need. During her field work, JoEllen grappled with the complexity of the problem of hunger. "Single answers are not going to end hunger, not in Connecticut, not anywhere," she said.

For the Food Security for Seniors Project at Solid Ground (formerly the Fremont Public Association) in Seattle, Washington, **Brad Johnson** conducted a community food security assessment of low-income seniors and persons with disabilities living in public housing. Through surveys, focus groups, and interviews, Brad documented the degree to which public housing residents experience hunger, identified contributing factors that cause hunger, and developed strategies to increase access to emergency food for isolated and vulnerable adults. Brad's work in the community enabled policymakers to hear the actual voices of those most affected. "Listening creates effective policy. Effective policy creates lasting change," he observed.

At Drake University Law School's Agricultural Law Center in Des Moines, Iowa, **Isha Plynton** developed an assessment tool for legal clinics to determine the food needs of children in foster care and the juvenile justice system. Isha was "surprised that no one had previously asked questions about food insecurity among this population." She trained law students at Drake University's Middleton Center for Children's Rights to use the assessment tool, prepared a report on its impact, and developed a resource guide for distribution to

### Spotlight on the Fellows: 2007 Field Work Highlights (14th Class)

During her field placement at Logan Square Neighborhood Association in Chicago, **Elizabeth Oquendo** worked with parents, school staff, and community partners to create a wellness council that would advocate for nutrition programs and physical education activities at McAuliffe Elementary School. Elizabeth also supported the universal implementation of school breakfast in the classroom at McAuliffe: "I felt a part of the process and got a small taste of what it feels like to advocate for something I was truly passionate about," she said. In addition, Elizabeth promoted child nutrition and wellness initiatives throughout the Logan Square community by coordinating workshops and special events.

**JoEllen Pederson** worked with the Connecticut Food Bank in New Haven to assess

Julie Ferreira, 14th class Emerson fellow, at the Tucson Community Food Bank's farmers' market.



Elizabeth Oquendo, 14th class Emerson fellow, and Shana McDavis-Conway, Emerson Program co-director, at McAuliffe Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois.



Cody Fischer, 14th class Emerson fellow, gleaning at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's farm.

judges, attorneys, and child advocates statewide. While in Iowa, Isha also helped create a nonpartisan voter education guide on the hunger and food security platform of each of the 2008 Presidential candidates.

**Cody Fischer**

restructured the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's Farm Stand Project to increase access to fresh produce in low-income communities. He also

worked to expand the

project's scope and efficacy by coordinating with new partner organizations and using GIS technology to map socioeconomic and grocery access data in the greater Pittsburgh area. Cody's experience at the Food Bank made him realize that "fighting hunger and food insecurity isn't a thing you do from 9 to 5; it's a lifestyle. It's not just about ending hunger; it's about making the conscious choice everyday to stand in solidarity with those who need it most."

During her tenure with the California Association of Food Banks in Oakland, **Katherine Moos** conducted food stamp outreach projects with California's diverse Latino populations. She collaborated with bilingual and bicultural food stamp outreach providers to support best practices and created a Spanish language food stamp outreach website, [www.misalimentos.org](http://www.misalimentos.org). Through key informant interviews and focus groups, Katherine examined the food security issues of the indigenous Mexican migrant population in California and the potential for reaching this population through food stamp outreach. Working with outreach providers and community organizers inspired Katherine to "think about serving the needs of a community as a dynamic and productive process that can draw on the strengths of many."

**Spotlight on the Fellows: 2007 Washington, D.C. Policy Work Highlights (13th Class)**

During her policy placement with the House Hunger Caucus, **Kate Mitchell** worked to expand its membership and educate Members and their Congressional staff on hunger-related issues. Kate's projects included organizing educational activities and briefings related to the reauthorization of the Farm Bill and highlighting ways for Members to get involved in anti-hunger efforts in their local districts. She supported Members of Congress – including CHC board co-chairs **Representative Jo Ann Emerson** (R-MO) and **Representative James P. McGovern** (D-MA) – as they undertook the Food Stamp Challenge (see Page 3 Letter from the CHC Board Co-Chairs). The experience helped Representatives Emerson and McGovern educate their colleagues, constituents, and the public about hunger in America and the Food Stamp Program.

**Nick Maryns** updated a Food Research and Action Center publication *Food Stamp Access in Urban America: A City by City Snapshot* that tracks food stamp access in 25 of the nation's biggest cities. The results of the report were featured in an article by Reuters called *Anti-Hunger Help Misses 3 Million in Big Cities: Study*. Nick also developed a web-based research tool highlighting the impact of the practices of local food stamp offices and customer services on food stamp participation.

**Eric Ares** worked at the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP), where he focused on homeless people's access to food and nutrition. He analyzed federal policies to improve access to food stamps, wrote a white paper on food insecurity within the homeless community, and updated and disseminated materials on nutrition programs for those experiencing homelessness. Eric also contributed to a cross-program report on best practices to alleviate homelessness and collaborated with NLCHP staff on a report about homelessness 20 years after the enactment of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



13th class Emerson fellows (from left) Kate Mitchell, Kathleen Wood, Nicholas Maryns, Kaitlin Gravitt, Amrit Mehra, Megan Lent, and CHC Staffer Angelina Pérez at the Food Stamp Fair 2007, in the U.S. Capitol.

**Jamillah Jordan** worked with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Health Policy Institute on an initiative called "Place Matters" that identifies and addresses social determinants of health disparities at the local level. Jamillah created food security and poverty profiles for select counties throughout the nation and developed a training toolkit called *Discovering the Local Food Environment*. The toolkit was designed to provide "Place Matters" teams and their constituents with necessary resources to understand local hunger and poverty issues and suggest innovative ways to address those problems.

During her policy placement at RESULTS Education Fund, a nonprofit grassroots advocacy organization committed to creating the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty, **Eliberty Jiménez** worked to increase participation among youth, people of color, and low-income people in the RESULTS grassroots network. She developed diversity training sessions for the RESULTS International Conference and conducted outreach in targeted communities in New York, Kentucky, and New Jersey.

### "Mapping the World of Nutrition"

**Megan Lent**, a 13th class Emerson fellow, talked about her recent publication *Mapping the World of Nutrition* at the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies' 2007 annual conference in August. Megan's research for ANSA led her to produce a "map" that connects all the major sources of federal funding for nutrition programs with the populations they serve and the legislative committees and federal agencies charged with oversight. It identifies the national, state, and local stakeholders for each funding stream and the communities that receive the services. Frank Abdale, executive director of ANSA, praised Megan's work. "Once again, our work with an Emerson Hunger Fellow has resulted in a stellar publication of value to the field of nutrition for years to come." *Mapping*

*the World of Nutrition* has already reached a wide audience. "The response from the field has also been enthusiastic. We continue to receive numerous requests for copies from national, state, and community-based organizations throughout the United States," Abdale said.

Megan presented her findings at ANSA's *Mapping the World of Nutrition* Pre-Conference Institute, where national nutrition experts, advocates, and participants from member agencies, foundations, and partners met to craft ANSA's advocacy platform. The publication can be downloaded from the CHC's webpage: [http://www.hungercenter.org/chc/food\\_as\\_medicine2.htm](http://www.hungercenter.org/chc/food_as_medicine2.htm) and from ANSA's website: <http://www.aidsnutrition.org/>

### Fellows Conduct Food as Medicine Research

Food & Friends is a nutrition services organization that provides dietary counseling, prepared meals, and groceries to individuals living with life-challenging illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and cancer. **Lindsey Baker** and **David Tian**, 14th class Emerson fellows, focused on the intersections between HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, and nutrition. David explained, "Increasingly, medical professionals have recognized the folly of viewing

Lindsey Baker and David Tian, 14th class Emerson fellows at Food & Friends.



### Members of the 13th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows

Nicole Alvarado	Takhani Kromah
Eric Ares	Megan Lent
Nikita Barai	Nicholas Maryns
David Coffman	Sindri McDonald
Anyu Fang	Amrit Mehra
Kaitlin Gravitt	Katharine Mitchell
Toni Holness	Jimmy Purvis
J.P. Howard	Sarah Sibley
Eliberty Jiménez	Shanique Streete
Jamillah Jordan	Srinidhi Vijaykumar
Amelia Kaye	Kathleen Wood

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

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

chronic conditions in isolation. Our study seeks to approach health promotion holistically.” During their tenure at Food & Friends, Lindsey and David worked together to assess the unique needs of clients living with both diabetes and HIV/AIDS or cancer.

Through a series of home visits and focus groups, Lindsey and David assessed the services that Food & Friends currently provides to its diabetic clients and made recommendations for improvements. In addition, the fellows researched local and national diabetes prevention efforts and community needs through surveys of certified diabetes educators and nutritional services agencies. Lindsey anticipates that their research will shape the direction of Food & Friends programs for clients with diabetes. “Interacting with Food & Friends’ clients has been especially meaningful because we are working to improve diabetes management for people already bravely fighting HIV/AIDS and other life-challenging illnesses,” she said.

Lindsey and David’s work built upon the work of **Nikita Barai**, a 12th class Emerson fellow, who conducted a pilot study designed to demonstrate the positive impact of nutrition support on managing disease. Nikita’s publication “When Medicine Isn’t Enough: The Benefits of Providing Nutrition Support to People Living with Life-Challenging Illnesses” can be downloaded at: [http://www.hungercenter.org/chc/food\\_as\\_medicine4.htm](http://www.hungercenter.org/chc/food_as_medicine4.htm)

### Focus on Alumni

Fellows carry the rich experiences gained in the Emerson Program’s training and in field and policy work as they move on to make an impact on academia, government, and social justice organizations. Meet two of our amazing 272 national program alumni!

#### *Eric Steiner, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service*

As an Emerson fellow, Eric worked at the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at Population Action International in Washington, D.C. During his 2002-2003 fellowship, Eric published a report to improve participation in the USDA Summer Food Service Program in Milwaukee County and presented an analysis of the links between global population growth, agricultural production, and potable water as basic measures of global food security.

In describing his fellowship experience, Eric says, “I am thankful to have been selected for a Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship. The experience broadened my perspectives on the spectrum of nonprofit advocacy and policy objectives. The program facilitates ideas and personal growth; the people make a positive difference.”

For four years after his Emerson year, Eric served on the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, under the leadership of then-Chairman Thad Cochran of Mississippi and under the Committee’s current ranking Republican member, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia.

In August 2007, Eric was appointed associate administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service’s

Special Nutrition Programs. Eric is responsible for overseeing the administration of 14 of the nation's nutrition assistance programs, including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the Commodity Distribution Programs. In his new role, Eric is also responsible for managing 140 employees and a budget of \$20 billion. Eric frequently travels across the country to speak at conferences, address program challenges, and listen to new ideas on how to improve program services.

Of his work at USDA, Eric says, "I am living one of my versions of the American Dream. Perhaps only in America can a farm kid from Indiana grow up to serve low-income populations nationwide through nutrition assistance programs on behalf of the President of the United States. Education, mentors, and a little elbow grease open doors to many opportunities. I am honored, humbled, and proud to serve our country in this capacity."

Eric earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education from Purdue University and is currently pursuing a Juris Doctor degree from the George Mason University School of Law.

*Eric Steiner was a member of the 9th class of the Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program.*

**Madina Agénor, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University**

As a fellow in 2005-2006, Madina worked at Boston Medical Center with the Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP). Madina wrote a report on the impact of food insecurity on the development of young black and Latino children living in poor and near-poor households. The report, published by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, argues that federal safety-net programs can help mitigate the effect of food insecurity on children's development and school readiness. Madina also initiated lasting relationships with advocacy organizations working on children's health, hunger, and poverty.

During her Washington, D.C. policy placement with the Food Research and Action Center, Madina conducted key-informant interviews and site visits to identify best practices for decreasing barriers to participation in the Women, Infants, and Children Program for hard-to-reach populations, including immigrants and women of color.

Serving as an Emerson hunger fellow played an essential role in shaping Madina's current interest in the relationships among public health, social policy, and poverty. "Public health? It's not just what I study, or what I do. It's not just what I'll have my degree in. Or what my career will be. It's what I love. It's my passion. It's my life. Focusing on the social and economic aspects of health is the best way I've found to make sure that all of us can have a better life," she explains.

Today, Madina works as a research assistant at the Center for the Health of Urban Minorities (CHUM) where she focuses on the impact of welfare reform policies on the reproductive health of women receiving cash assistance. In the future, Madina hopes to help shape evidence-based public policies that promote the health and social well-being of poor and low-income women of color in the U.S.

"I really see my role in public health as shedding light onto the social policies and inequalities that make people – especially those who are poor or otherwise marginalized because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, nationality – sick. My goal is to ultimately use this knowledge to move policymakers and other key stakeholders to action, so that we can begin to change the factors in our society that make some more sick than others."

Madina earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Community Health and Gender Studies from Brown University and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Health in Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

*Madina Agénor was a member of the 12th class of the Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program.*

Eric Steiner, Emerson Program alumnus, 9th class.



Madina Agénor, Emerson Program alumna, 12th class.

# The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program

Since 2001, the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program has provided a unique opportunity for talented individuals to work on international hunger and food security issues at both field and policy levels. The Leland program is a 2-year placement where fellows spend their first year with partner organizations in countries throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America, learning and working firsthand on country-specific issues that have an impact on hunger. During the second year, fellows take the field experience and learning from their first year to assist in the policy formulation and advocacy efforts of their host organization, but this time at the headquarters or regional levels. During the course of the program, fellows ensure that appropriate hunger and poverty policies are closely linked to field work and information.

The partner organizations where fellows work include multilateral institutions and bilateral agencies, as well as international and national organizations. The placements of fellows permit the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and approaches that organizations at various levels take to address the root causes of hunger. While leadership development and learning within the Leland program occur with field and policy work, additional opportunities for the exchange of ideas

also occur among fellows working at their various host organizations.

In 2007, the third class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows completed their service while the fourth class of Leland fellows began the program. The third class of fellows gained skills in policy and program administration and received pre-field training. Upon completion of the program, they embarked on a broad range of career opportunities. When the fourth class of Leland fellows completes its work, the Program will have graduated 58 talented leaders to participate in the fight against global hunger.

## Third Class Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows: Country Policy Study – South Africa

In April 2007, the third class of Mickey Leland international hunger fellows spent 2 weeks in South Africa for a Country Policy Study. In briefings and site visits, the fellows explored the challenges the country faces in meeting the needs of its poor and hungry in the postapartheid era. In particular, the Country Policy Study focused on land reform, agriculture, and HIV, some of the major issues that South Africa faces right now.

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 U.S. Ambassador Eric Bost (see photo left). 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. They attended briefings from the South African Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs and the Acting Director of Peace Corps. From the United Nations, fellows met with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Food Program (WFP), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Two South African organizations, the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) and



## Members of the 3rd Class of Leland International Hunger Fellows

Daniel Abbott	Michaela Hackner
Damiana Astudillo	Nathaniel Heller
Yodit Beyene	Michael Manske
Brian Bogart	Andrew miller
Sylvie Doutriaux	Amanda Rives-Argeñal
Dalia Emara	Akilou Seibou
Todd Flower	Bapu Vaitla
Lilia Gerberg	
Peter Giampaoli	

## Members of the 4th Class of Leland International Hunger Fellows

Emily Bancroft	Meagan Keefe
Rachel Bingham	Alder Keleman
Kurt Burja	Meaghan Murphy
Francisco Del Pozo	Adam Norikane
Ira Frydman	Daniele Nyirandutiye
Eric Haglund	Michelle Petrotta
Anne-Claire Hervy	Erica Phillips
Carmen Jaquez	Nicole Woo
Alexis Jones	



Young girl in Soweto township, South Africa.

the Church Agricultural Project (CAP) led the Fellows on several site visits to communities that have been evicted from their land. Fellows also visited the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Farmers Support Group, a group 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 (nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, permanent agencies, and individuals) who collaborate to assist children affected and/or orphaned by AIDS in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands. Also, fellows visited Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE), a grassroots organization that trains local health educators to mobilize community members to learn about HIV/AIDS and how to combat it.

## Commencement of Third Class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows

In May 2007, the third class of Leland fellows completed their 2 years of service in the Leland program. Fellows began the transition from their fellowship experience to jobs, or in some cases, graduate school. **Damiana Astudillo** accepted a job with the Millennium Challenge Corporation as a Program Officer for Agriculture. **Sylvie Doutriaux** also joined the Millennium Challenge Corporation after completing a consultancy with her former host organization, Mercy Corps. **Amanda Rives Argeñal** began her work as a Policy Advisor for Christian Children's

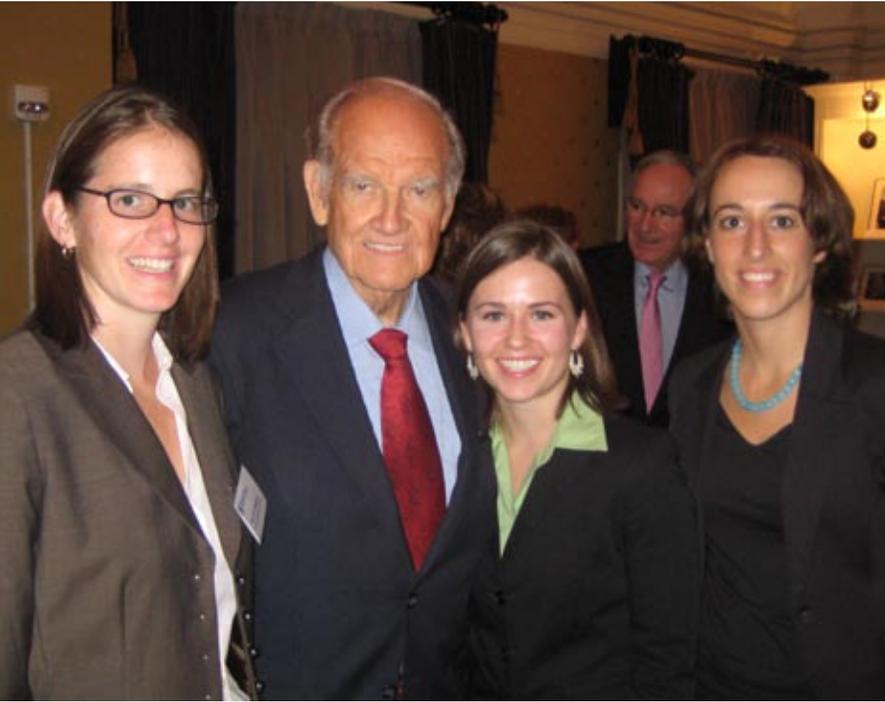
Fund, also her previous host organization. Both **Dan Abbott** and **Bapu Vaitla** are consulting for their host organizations, Save the Children and Action Against Hunger, respectively. Fellows **Dalia Emara**, **Todd Flower**, and **Michaela Hackner** continue their work on global hunger and development issues with International Relief and Development; ARD, Inc.; and World Learning, respectively.

Two fellows in the third class, **Nathaniel Heller** and **Andrew Miller**, were accepted by business schools to study social entrepreneurship and its role in international development. Andrew Miller began an MBA program this year at IE Business School (IE) with full funding as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar. The Madrid-based school is ranked among the best in Europe and enjoys a strong reputation in entrepreneurship and international business. The school brings together a diverse set of perspectives and integrates social issues and environmental stewardship into the curriculum; 57 countries are represented by students in Andrew's class. Andrew's principal objective in pursuing an MBA is to acquire the skills needed to build a successful social enterprise. In particular, he will be exploring the potential of carbon credits to boost rural incomes and improve natural resource management. He intends to develop a business plan set in Latin America around sustainable agro-forestry. With 35 percent of IE's student body coming from Latin America, Andrew hopes to use the networking opportunity to identify partners from the region who can assist in planning, financing, and implementing such a project. He will have the chance to pitch his idea to potential investors at the conclusion of the academic year.

Nate Heller started work on his MBA at the Yale School of Management (SOM) in September, with a focus on social entrepreneurship and nonprofit management. During his fellowship, Nate spent a year in Ghana with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) investigating

Leland alumnus Andrew Miller, U.S. Fulbright Scholar (center right), at IE Business School in Madrid.





Leland Fellows Rachel Bingham (left), Anne Claire Hervey (right) and Leland Program Associate Director, Elizabeth Whelan (center) with Senator George McGovern at a Friends of the World Food Program Reception in September 2007. Senator Harkin (back center) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

how organizations could better use information and communications technology to alleviate rural poverty. Nate chose Yale SOM because of its focus on mission and leadership and its commitment to building socially responsible leaders. In January 2009, he will travel to India to meet with top leaders in business and government. Nate also will participate in a semester-long consulting project with social ventures in Bogota, Colombia as part of the Yale SOM Global Social Enterprise Group.

### Training and Leadership Development

In late July and August 2007, the fourth class of Leland fellows participated in their inaugural pre-field retreat and training at Virginia Crossings in Richmond, Virginia. The fellows first learned about Mickey Leland's legacy and held discussions over lunch with CHC co-chairs, Representatives James P. McGovern and Jo Ann Emerson. During the retreat, the training focused on advocacy and leadership, while also giving the fellows a chance to learn about each other and begin to forge

relationships that will last throughout the 2-year fellowship and beyond.

Following the retreat, the fellows returned to Washington D.C. where they participated in a week of briefings, updates on issues by host organizations, Capitol Hill visits, a Hunger Caucus forum on "Food as Medicine: Global HIV/AIDS and Food Insecurity," and several opportunities to meet and connect with program alumni. Other training sessions included: "Hunger: Definitions and Overview," "Evidence Based Information," and "Ending Hunger: Food for Thought," as well as a discussion on leadership with Gene Dewey, CHC's first Executive Director and former Assistant Secretary of State in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

Several alumni led sections of the training, such as a session on making practical and conceptual links between field and policy work. Consideration of a case study was led by **Chung Lai**, a second class alumna. The training encouraged fellows to begin preparing for the policy year of the fellowship. Learning about policy issues at the outset of the program better equips the fellows to bring lessons from the field to their policy institutions.

### Spotlight on Fellows

Across the world, Leland fellows work on a wide variety of issues that have an impact on global hunger. Their efforts include work on land rights, nutrition, food security and agriculture, ensuring the availability of water, disaster risk reduction, market access, and value chain analysis, as well as health worker retention.

#### **Kurt Burja, World Food Program (WFP), Cambodia**

Kurt works for the WFP in Cambodia, supporting and strengthening the organization's monitoring and evaluation activities, particularly within the realm of food distribution and community asset construction. He also provides technical support for evaluations and general methodology in WFP's data collection efforts. In his first few months with WFP, Kurt has monitored 13 food



CHC co-chair, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and her constituent, current fellow Carmen Jaquez from Zandoni, Missouri.

distributions and provided technical support for three baseline surveys.

In addition to his regular activities, Kurt also has contributed content and co-edited several documents and publications on maternal and child health, school feeding programs, and the Cambodian Food Security Atlas.

**Erica Phillips, Partners in Health (PIH), Haiti**

Erica works on the Agriculture Program of PIH, which aims to reduce undernutrition in children under 5 through increased agricultural output of households. The program currently distributes seeds, tools, and goats to each of the families in the program and provides general extension services to families.

In her few months in Haiti, Erica has participated in many program activities, such as a training session for community agriculture agents and families. She has met with agronomists to review the program's details, conducted focus groups with families from the area where the program operates, and performed numerous home visits.

Adam Norikane, 4th class Leland fellow, stands with youth group members and Christian Children's Fund (CCF) staff in front of a chicken coop in Zambia.



The home visits and focus groups have centered on learning about agricultural systems, dietary habits, and practices used to feed young children.

**Michelle Petrotta, SHARE Foundation, El Salvador**

Within the advocacy program of the SHARE Foundation, Michelle studies and monitors the impact of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) compact in El Salvador. The MCC, an initiative of the Bush Administration, provides development funds to selected countries in the form of a compact, or agreement, between the MCC and the host country. In El Salvador, MCC funds are being used primarily to construct a transnational highway. Michelle is investigating the impact on management of natural resources, land rights, access to water, and forced displacement of people due to the compact.

**Adam Norikane, Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Zambia**

The main component of Adam's work since he arrived in Zambia has been the implementation of CCF's Youth, Agriculture and Marketing Project (YAMP). The predominance of youth-headed households and orphans in Zambia make the successful introduction of a youth-oriented program very important. The goal is to improve the income-generating abilities of youth to enable them to meet their basic needs. Through trainings and the promotion of income-generating activities, YAMP builds the skills of the youth and provides agricultural livelihood activities that they can be involved in year-round. YAMP also seeks to build and strengthen the organizational capacity of the youth groups in order to create sustainable and autonomous organizations. In order to instill ownership in these organizations, YAMP focuses on advocacy training to urge youth to campaign and petition for access to resources and opportunities.

While improving the food security of the youths and their families, this project also provides income through the building of micro-finance and micro-enterprise activities. Through the use of water-harvesting technology alongside sustainable agriculture techniques, YAMP will

increase agricultural productivity and sustainable land use techniques.

**Eric Haglund, Bioversity International/  
International Crops Research for the  
Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Niger**

Eric is based in a consortium of three organizations – Bioversity, the world’s largest international research organization dedicated solely to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity; ICRISAT, a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization that does innovative research and capacity building for sustainable development in the dry tropics through better agriculture; and World Vision to research three agro-forestry systems in Niger. These systems aim to increase the agricultural productivity of rural farmers by improving local soil conditions, making better use of scarce and erratic rainfall, increasing local biodiversity, and maximizing the benefits to farmers who adopt the systems.

Two of the three systems are new and still under development by agricultural scientists. Eric will estimate the expected costs and benefits to farmers who adopt the new systems. Eric also is developing a protocol for future monitoring and evaluation of the systems.

The third system has a much longer history in Niger and has been widely adopted. Eric will conduct a survey to: (1) understand why farmers adopt the system, (2) gain access farmers’ opinions about the system, and (3) determine the system’s impact on household security. Information from his survey will be useful in analyzing the two newer systems for agro-forestry in Niger.

**Focus on Alumni**

**Michael Johnson** (first Leland class) has moved to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to serve as the Deputy Program Officer with USAID/Haiti. He is spearheading the mission’s donor coordination efforts, among other important functions.

*“The fellowship taught me that there is too much bureaucratic ‘red tape’ on the part of the donor community when giving assistance. While I fully understand that a certain level of bureaucracy exists*

*within all organizations, donors must streamline their policies to direct funds and other assistance in the quickest manner possible. I gained a more realistic perspective on the ‘cogs’ that turn the development machine on both sides, and I try to make sure, at least in the work that I do, that that machine works as smoothly as possible. I approach my work at USAID with a focus on the end result of the support we are providing, rather than the semantics of packaging that assistance.”*

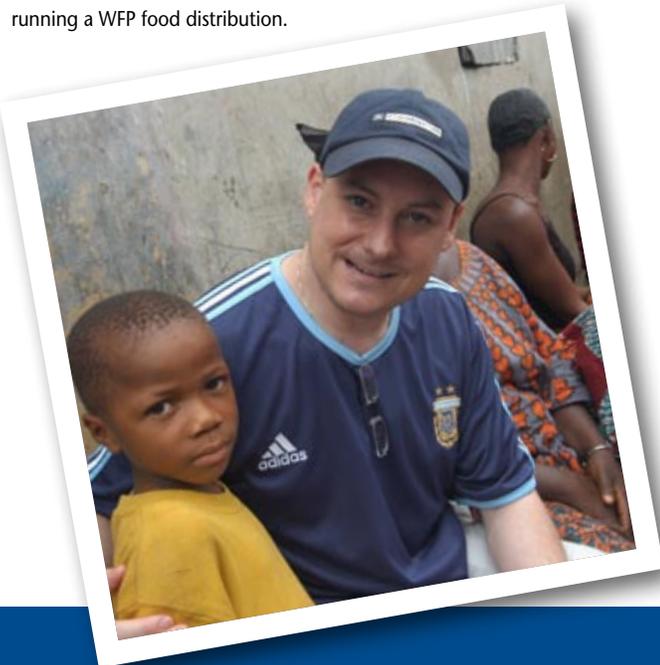
While a fellow in Ethiopia, **Robert Oliver** (first Leland class) helped expand a school feeding program and trained more than 600 school directors and 75 district education officers on World Food Program reporting. He initiated an HIV/AIDS pilot project in Guinea which will become a fully supported activity in the UN’s next Country Program. Most recently, Robert transferred to the Mali Country office of the World Food Program to serve as the country deputy director.

*“My time as a fellow helped me understand that hunger problems in certain countries are influenced or caused by region instability. You don’t have to be poor to be hungry. Guinea is a good example. Because of regional conflicts, which date back 15 years, the influx of refugees and displaced individuals has weakened the country as local resources have been heavily taxed.”*

Robert Oliver in Conakry, New Guinea, running a WFP food distribution.



Melody Mc Neil and coworker, Catholic Relief Services, Afghanistan.





Amanda King with the Rehabilitation Support and Recovery Unit of FAO in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

After working in Afghanistan as a Manager for the Women's Programs of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), **Melody Mc Neil** (first Leland class) is now with CRS in South Sudan.

*"The fellowship was very helpful in enabling me to meet people in international development, build a network, and gain invaluable experience. It also helped me to focus more clearly on my interests as well as introducing me to people who have been instrumental to my professional (and personal) growth."*

While **Amanda King** (second Leland class) was a fellow, the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT) published a special report based on her fellowship research on livelihood strategies in Veracruz, Mexico. In December 2005, Amanda published another article in *Agriculture and Human Values*, an online journal. After her fellowship, she stayed on with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for another 6 months as a research analyst. She moved to Indonesia in 2006 and is currently conducting research through a Fulbright grant.

*"The fellowship provided me with the opportunity to design and carry out one of the most rewarding projects that I have ever worked on – namely, the creation of a photo essay related to my research on the impact of NAFTA on maize and wheat farmers in Mexico. The leeway that I had working as a fellow allowed me to combine photography and research with farmers in a way that challenged and developed my creative and research skills at the same time."*

**Charlie Ehle** (second Leland class) currently serves as an emergency response specialist, for Catholic Relief Services, her host organization during the fellowship. Charlie received the "Outstanding Alumnus" Award in 2005 from her alma mater, Wright State University.

*"The great thing about the Leland Fellowship was that it taught me that hunger and poverty are cross-cutting themes throughout the development and humanitarian sectors. Although they can certainly be stand-alone issues, they are also very much integrated with other areas such as water and sanitation, health, protection, and emergency response."*

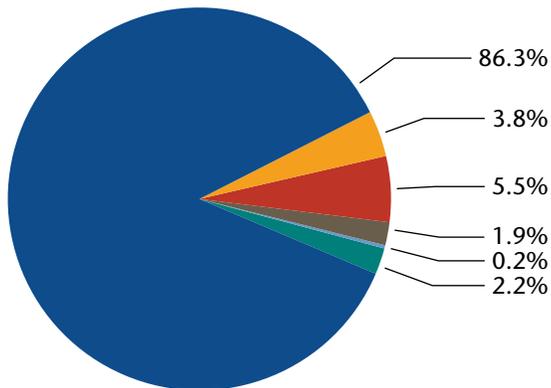
Like Charlie, **Andrew Fuys** (second Leland class) joined his host organization, the International Land Coalition, after completing his service in the Leland program. He currently serves as a policy officer for the organization. Andrew coauthored a report honored in the "Best Paper-Policy Category" at the 2006 International Association for Study of the Commons (IASCP) Biennial Conference.

*"My fellowship gave me the opportunity to pursue work in a field in which I had some background (land rights) but no global perspective (i.e., my experience was limited to Indonesia) or sense of how it related to the policies and programs of global institutions. The fellowship gave me a chance to build my understanding of land tenure and its relationship with hunger and poverty, as well as other key development issues such as conflict prevention and resolution and environmental sustainability and how these intersect with hunger."*

# How CHC Funds Are Spent

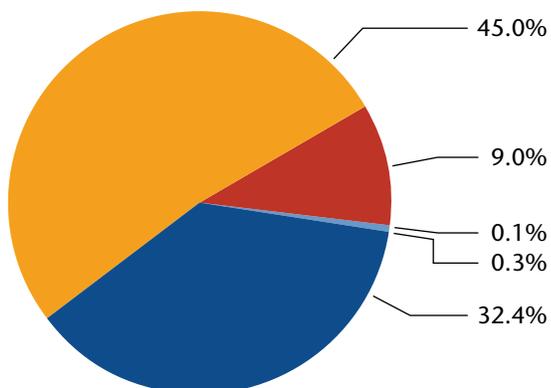
## 2007 Source of Funds

Grant	\$ 2,682,346
Interest from Investment	\$ 116,625
Foundation	\$ 171,695
Corporation	\$ 60,550
Individual	\$ 7,501
Site matches	\$ 69,000



## 2007 Application of Funds

Emerson National Hunger Fellows	\$ 1,404,545
Leland International Hunger Fellows	\$ 1,386,709
General and Administration	\$ 278,365
Fundraising	\$ 2,380
Lobbying	\$ 7,976



## Statements of Financial Position

September 30, 2007 and 2006

ASSETS	2007	2006
Cash—unrestricted	\$ 19,788	\$ 47,528
Cash—temporarily restricted	3,632,626	6,114,264
Accounts receivable	42,361	66,526
Prepaid expenses	19,429	19,429
Property and equipment	128,691	50,266
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,865,445</u>	<u>\$ 6,298,013</u>

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	2007	2006
Accounts payable	\$ 40,610	\$ 27,781
Deferred revenue	2,596,492	2,792,923
Obligation under capital leases	20,219	828
Total current liabilities	<u>2,657,321</u>	<u>2,821,532</u>

Long term liabilities	2007	2006
Deferred revenue	827,781	3,170,557
Obligation under capital leases	46,677	0
Total long term liabilities	<u>874,458</u>	<u>3,170,557</u>
Total liabilities	<u>3,531,779</u>	<u>5,992,089</u>

Net Assets	2007	2006
Unrestricted	152,149	170,695
Temporarily restricted	181,517	135,229
Total net assets	<u>333,666</u>	<u>305,924</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 3,865,445</u>	<u>\$ 6,298,013</u>

# Contributors and Partners 2006–2007

## Thank You!

The work of the Congressional Hunger Center would not move forward without the support of our friends, corporations, foundations and government partners. A very special note of thanks goes to our contributors over the last year:

### *Organizations, Foundations, and Corporations*

Alliance for Food Aid  
Altria Group, Inc.  
America's Second Harvest-The  
Nation's Food Bank Network  
American Beverage Association  
American Farm Bureau  
Federation  
American Frozen Food Institute  
Archer Daniels Midland  
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East Side Entrees, Inc.  
Food Research and Action  
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International Dairy Foods  
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Kraft Foods  
Land O'Lakes  
The Macon Edwards Company  
Mars Incorporated  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to  
Hunger  
Monsanto Company  
North American Millers'  
Association  
Philip & Linda Lesourd Lader  
Foundation  
Roll Call  
Snack Food Association  
Sodexo Foundation  
South Plains Food Bank  
Students Team Up to Fight  
Hunger  
The UPS Foundation  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Victory Wholesale Group  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

### *Individuals*

David and Patricia Anderson  
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Edward M. Cooney  
Natalie D'Aubermont  
David D. Dennis  
Samuel Dennis  
Karen Coble Edwards  
Vernon J. & Johanna Ehlers

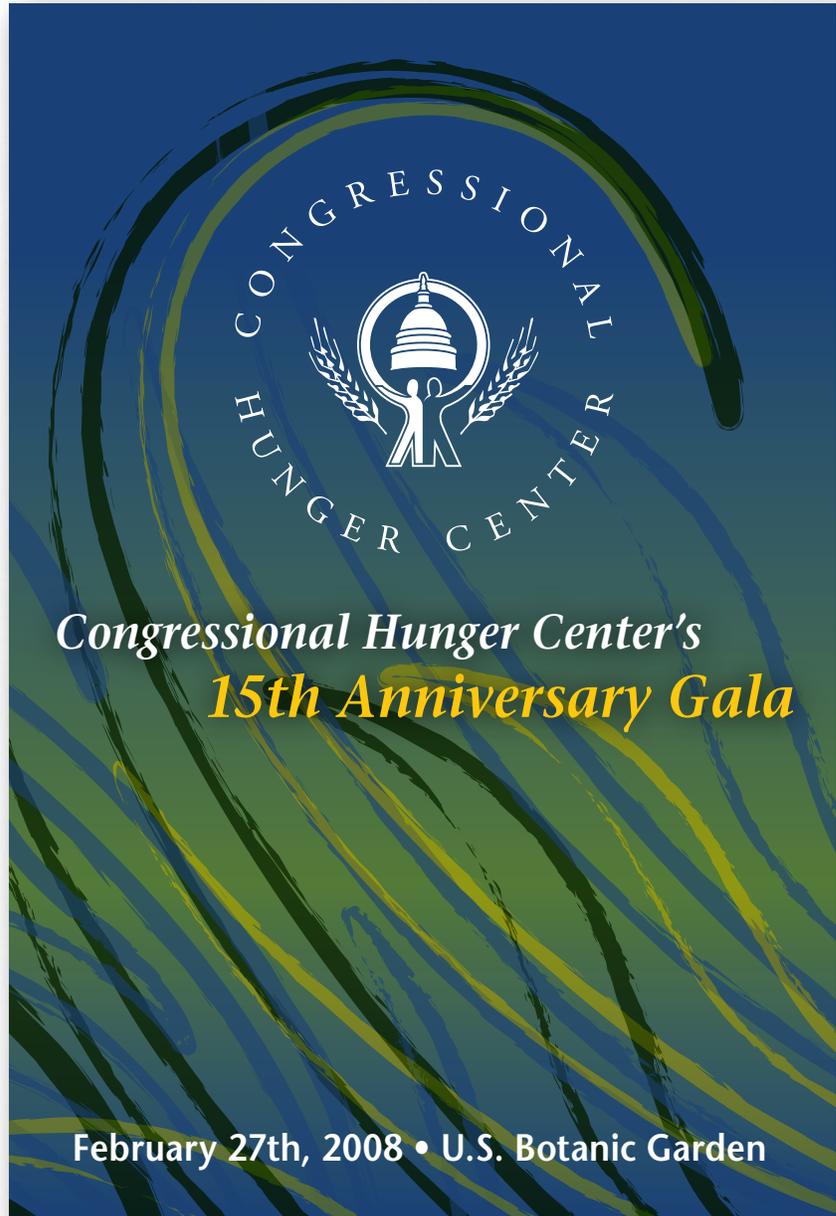
Max & Katherine Reed Finberg  
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Daniel R. Glickman  
Alison D. Goldberg  
Amanda S. Harrod  
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James D. Weill  
Kevin White  
Mark Winne  
Barry & Sandra Yatt  
Diana H. Zeigler  
Richard Zeigler

# CHC Celebrates 15 Years!

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) celebrated its 15th Anniversary on February 27, 2008 at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. We honored those who continue to fight hunger and poverty in our communities and throughout the world; celebrated the invaluable intellectual and professional contributions our current and former fellows continue to make; and highlighted more than fifteen years of accomplishments by CHC in its mission to fight hunger by developing leaders.

At the reception, CHC presented awards to three leading policymakers who have fought hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Congratulations to our honorees, CHC founding board member **Representative Frank Wolf**, and **Representative Rosa DeLauro** and **Senator Tom Harkin**!

Stay tuned for our Spring 2008 *Sustenance* newsletter covering this wonderful event!



# CHC's Open House Photo Gallery

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



Above: 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.



Above: 13th class Emerson fellows and CHC staffer Joy Wiskin (far right).  
Left: Vicki B. Escarra, President and CEO of America's Second Harvest-The Nation's Food Bank Network and CHC board member.



From the left: Robert Egger, President of D.C. Central Kitchen, CHC board member Lou Gerber, Legislative Director of Communications Workers of America, and Ed Cooney.



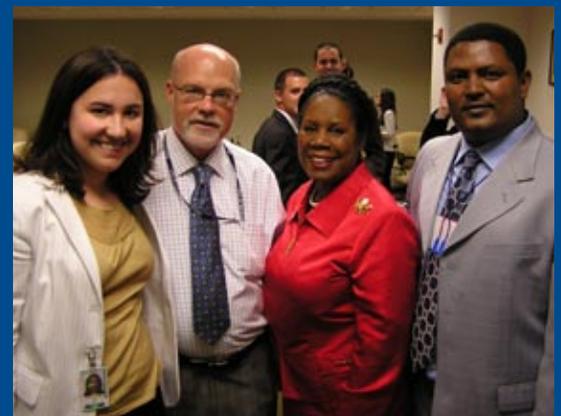
Far right: Special thanks go to Jeff and Sharon Bernstein for their gift of artwork for CHC's new location.



The 3rd class of international hunger fellows meet with Lynn Parker from FRAC.



Far right: From the left: Rep. Jackson-Lee Staffer Nina Besser, CHC Executive Director Ed Cooney, CHC board member Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, and Mohamed Gurey, CHC Director of Finance





**Congressional Hunger Center**

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