



# Sustenance

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The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

## Global Skyrocketing Food Prices Mean Hunger for Millions

By Margaret M. Zeigler, Ph.D.

**H**ulagerish Tesfaye lives with her seven children near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Earning just \$30 a month as a day laborer, she successfully struggled to send all of her children to school, until recently. As prices climbed, she was forced to pull her eldest son out of school so he could work. She recently explained, "I am facing horrible challenges. Prices of food are increasing at an alarming rate and I could no longer cope. It seems we are getting poorer every day. We cannot even afford injera," Ethiopia's staple food.

Over the last year, prices of commodities such as rice, corn, wheat, and soybeans have increased between 30 and 60 percent. Coupled with

*"The impact of the price increases on the rural poor here is shocking. The parents and caregivers I have worked with over the last year cannot find the money for bread and maize for their children. Many are forced to limit their meals to one a day and have cut oil out of their diets altogether."*

Adam Norikane, Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow, based in Zambia with the Christian Children's Fund



the increase in fuel costs, the outcome has meant disaster for the world's poorest people, requiring them to spend between 40 and 90 percent of their weekly incomes just to purchase food. The causes of this sudden price spike for commodities are varied, and range from increasing global demand for food and meat (requiring more feed for animals), diversion of certain crops to fuels, and drought and natural disasters in commodity-producing nations to hoarding and export restrictions by other commodity-producing nations. Taken together, these contributing factors, according to World Bank President, **Robert Zoellick**, have created a man-made disaster that will require a "New Deal for global food policy" to assist the 100 million newly hungry people who have been pushed into poverty.

Responding to the alarming news, CHC board member **Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee** requested that CHC help the U.S. House of Representatives' Children's Caucus organize a policy briefing for staff from the House, the U.S. Senate, congressional committees, and representatives from voluntary organizations and the private sector. The briefing was entitled "The Global Food Crisis and the Impact on Children" and was held on Thursday, May 8th, 2008 in the Rayburn House Office Building. Rep. Lee was joined by **Rep. Donald Payne** and **Rep. Diane Watson** and several other Members of Congress during the session. The lead witness was actor and international social activist Danny Glover, who appeared along with representatives from UNICEF, the World Food Program, Save the Children, and World Vision.

Mickey Leland Fellow alumna **Amanda Rives Argenal** represented the Christian Children's Fund at the hearing and shared firsthand the impact that the food price crisis was having on the work of that organization on the ground in Honduras, Zambia, and Ethiopia.

A number of recommendations came from the hearing, including the following:

- Substantially increase funding for international food, agricultural, and disaster assistance in the War and International Affairs Supplemental Appropriations Bill, including significant increases in Public Law Title II food aid programs, robust funding in the Development Assistance Account of the U.S. Agency for International Development to ensure agriculture input programs are boosted, and making *continued on page 3*



Amanda Rives Argenal, Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow Alumna, testifying at the Children's Caucus of the House of Representatives concerning a Christian Children's Fund program



# Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



This summer has been very busy and exciting at CHC. The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows returned from their field placements in July and participated in 10 days of policy training with national and international policy experts. The highlight of the training was the Fellows' debrief on their field experiences in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Our 14th class of Emerson Fellows held their Commencement on July 23rd at the George Washington University City View Room. **Rep. John Lewis** of Georgia, the legendary civil rights leader, was the keynote speaker. About 80 Fellows, alumni, board members, host organizations, and friends joined us for the 7th Annual "Mother of All Hunger Fellows party" on July 25th. A good time was had by all.

Throughout the spring and summer, CHC staff and Fellows have been engaged in monitoring the impact of rising food and energy costs on families and, in particular, children worldwide. **Margaret Zeigler** moderated a panel of international food aid experts on this crisis on Capitol Hill at the request of CHC board member **Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee**. I attended a World Hunger Year (WHY) roundtable in New York City on this topic in June. **Rachel Winch**, an Emerson Fellow placed with the House Hunger Caucus, helped staff domestic and international hearings on the impact of rising food and energy costs on the world's poor.

Also, in July the Association for Nutrition Services (ANSA) honored CHC and its staff with its "Red Heart Award." CHC received the award for our "commitment to ending hunger by developing leaders, our courage in inviting ANSA to join the national anti-hunger movement, and the unending spirit of generosity with which CHC



Ed Cooney and Helen Rankin at the Maine Hunger Conference.

offered ANSA staff and member guidance and support." The award was presented in Philadelphia at ANSA's annual meeting on June 11th. Three Emerson Fellows made presentations at the ANSA conference: **Lindsey Baker**, **David Tian**, and **Katherine Chen**. Lindsey and David made a presentation on addressing diabetes in the community and Katherine focused on how to conduct effective grassroots advocacy. ANSA and CHC are partners in the United Parcel Service Foundation-funded national campaign on "Food as Medicine." CHC has produced three brochures designed to help people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses get access to local

healthy foods and federal nutrition programs. The Food Research and Action Center, America's Second Harvest, and Community Food Security Coalition staff were instrumental in the production of these brochures. The three brochures are entitled: "Food Stamps May Help You Obtain the Nutrition You Need;" "The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC);" and "Additional Sources of Nutritious, Affordable Food." Copies are available from CHC or on our website.

CHC's annual board meeting was July 8th. Leland and Emerson Program Directors and Fellows made presentations on the highlights of our 37 field placements in the U.S. and around the world. That evening we all attended the Friends of the World Food Program Reception, where **Rep. Jo Ann Emerson** and **Rep. James P. McGovern** were honored for their leadership in the fight against hunger.

Rep. McGovern accepted House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi's** request to replace **Rep. Tom Lantos**, deceased, as Co-Chair of the House Human Rights Caucus. **Rep. Frank Wolf**, a CHC founding board member, is the other Co-Chair. We are very excited about this new leadership post for Rep. McGovern since a goal of CHC's new mission and vision statement is to be a leader in the movement to ensure "access to nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food to all people as a basic human right."

Recently, I was elected to the Board of Overseers of the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University. **Eileen Kennedy**, Dean of the Friedman School, is a longtime friend and colleague. We served together in the second Clinton Administration at the US Department of Agriculture. My primary role is to advise the Dean on policy and to further the mission of the Friedman School. I accepted the position because of the unique role that Tufts University alumni have played in the Emerson and Leland Fellowships. **Max Finberg** and **Aileen Carr**, both noted Emerson Program leaders, are Tufts graduates.



Frank Abdale presents Ed Cooney and the staff of CHC with the "Red Heart Award."

Several Friedman School and Tufts undergraduates have been Leland or Emerson Fellows. CHC actively recruits Tufts graduates for both of our Fellowships. ●

## Skyrocketing Food Prices

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additional funds available for local purchase of foods in appropriate regions where possible.

● \$100 million is needed to jump-start replenishment of the depleted Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. While over \$469 million has been drawn down from the Trust since 2002, the Trust has not been replenished since then. Raising this amount would be

the first step in the incremental replenishment of this critical reserve, which serves as a quick response mechanism to meet emergency needs such as those of the present crisis.

● An additional \$50 million in the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account would provide critical cash support to World Food Program operations for refugees and internally displaced persons in order to avert food pipeline breaks to these vulnerable groups.

● Additional funding is required to ensure that the Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs operating with U.S. Department of Agriculture funding can continue at current levels despite increased costs.

CHC staff and Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows will continue to participate in program and policy dialogue on this crisis and will take part in advocacy actions alongside partner organizations. ●



Rep. John Conyers , Actor Danny Glover, and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee



Panelists on the House Children's Caucus and participants discuss action steps to confront the global food crisis



Leland Alumna Amanda Rives Argenal and Margaret Zeigler, CHC Deputy Director (right) at the Children's Caucus Hearing.

## Update on Child Nutrition

Ed Cooney was a panelist at the Kellogg Foundation meeting in Santa Fe New Mexico, August 14th. The purpose of the meeting was to convene a Forum for Children's Future: Creating a Strategy to Change the National Conversation about Children and Food. Approximately 75 child health and nutrition specialists and community-based donor organizations met and discussed ways to design the best possible policy outcomes for children under the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act.

The issues discussed were:

1. New nutrition standards for foods that "compete" with school meals programs.
2. Increased school lunch reimbursements so that schools can incorporate more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain and low-fat dairy products into their menus.
3. Program improvements and expansions in the Child and Adult Care Food, School Breakfast, and the WIC After School and Summer Food Programs
4. Program operations advancements, including the promotion of paperless

meal applications, allocation of funds for school food equipment assistance, and improved methods for use of direct certification (state matching system) data systems.

A new administration will arrive in January 2009 and will be met by a host of child nutrition advocates seeking vast changes in structure, financing, and operation of child nutrition programs.

CHC has been asked to be an adviser to the Child Nutrition Forum's (CNF) national steering committee,

co-chaired by **Marshall Matz** of the School Nutrition Association and **Ellen Teller** of the Food Research and Action Center. In our advisory role, we met with senior staff at the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee. In mid-September, the Forum leadership met with the executive committee of the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA) to seek a common legislative agenda. The combined membership of these two groups exceeds 20 million. ●

# Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Joy Wiskin and Aileen Carr

## Emerson Fellows Policy Work

From March through July, the 14th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows made significant contributions to their policy organizations by planning briefings, organizing conferences, providing research, writing reports, and conducting outreach. The Fellows worked on a variety of hunger-related policy issues, including food stamps, child nutrition, homelessness, health, immigration, race, and antipoverty initiatives. Just a few of this year's many policy highlights include:

**Fatima Carson**, placed with the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), analyzed Food Stamp Program participation and practices in 25 large cities for the FRAC publication, *Food Stamp Access in Urban America: A City by City Snapshot*. This report calculates the unclaimed food stamp benefits lost to each city when

eligible individuals do not participate in the Food Stamp Program. Fatima explained, "The findings of this project emphasize the important role the Food Stamp Program plays, not only in the lives of program participants but also in the economies of our nation's largest cities." Fatima also created a toolkit on senior Food Stamp Program participation and nutrition. Through interviews with USDA officials, state allies, local food stamp offices, advocates, and nutrition service providers, she documented best practices in the field of senior nutrition.

**Brad Johnson** helped convene a child nutrition roundtable discussion at the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR's) annual conference that focused on promising practices and policy proposals to help prevent hunger, malnutrition, and obesity in Latino children. Brad also developed fact sheets and

Brad Johnson, 14th Class Fellow, with Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, at the Food Research and Action Center's Annual Benefit Dinner

wrote a paper analyzing the trends of poor nutrition and hunger and their comorbidities among Latino children. Brad's work will be used to raise awareness about how hunger and obesity are increasingly linked to health complications and chronic diseases in Latino children. "Through my work at NCLR, I have seen the power of advocacy organizations in giving a voice to the voiceless and educating our legislators on issues affecting our communities on the ground," he said.

**Rachel Winch**, placed at the House Hunger Caucus, worked to increase awareness of domestic and international hunger issues among Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. She coordinated a series of briefings to educate Members and their staff on a variety of hunger-related issues, including: the impact of rising food costs on international and domestic hunger, agricultural development as a long-term solution to the hunger crisis, and hunger and nutrition policy changes in the new Farm Bill. Rachel also created an anti-hunger toolkit for Members of Congress which she used during one-on-one visits with Congressional staff.



Rachel said, "I am continually rejuvenated by Members of Congress and their staff who care deeply about improving the lives of the people they represent."

**Alexander Villaverde** worked at the Corporation for Enterprise Development



Rachel Winch, 14th Class Fellow, moderating a panel during the Congressional briefing on the Impact of Rising Food Costs on International Food Aid

(CFED) on the Self-Employment Tax Initiative (SETI). He researched tax laws to help low-income self-employed businesses utilize the tax system to build assets, analyzing the impact that



Fatima Carson, 14th Class Fellow, with a client during a food stamp outreach session

federal and state tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Saver's Credit, and the Child Care Provider Credit have on the self-employed. Alexander saw tangible connections between his field and policy site experiences: "My experience here at CFED has allowed me to continue building upon my experience at my field placement, the Center for Economic Progress, in helping communities through the tax system. Working on connecting microenterprise with the tax system to assist people in need has been very rewarding."

**Adrienne Alexander** helped inform the policy work of the low-wage work division of the Center for Community Change (CCC) by collaborating with coalition members, tracking legislation, and researching existing models. Through a CCC partnership with the Marguerite Casey Foundation, Adrienne was part of a team



14th Class Fellows, JoEllen Pederson and Brad Johnson, at Clagett Farm, harvesting garlic during a professional development day

that helped develop a policy platform that incorporated the voice of low-income families. She wrote materials about the right to organize, the enforcement of existing labor laws, the minimum wage, and workforce development issues. Adrienne also created a database that will provide information on each

Congressperson's committees and caucuses, and their records on relevant policy issues. Of her time at CCC, Adrienne said, "I'm glad I've had the opportunity to work on low-wage work issues, as they affect millions of Americans. I definitely intend to continue work on these issues." ●

## Spotlight: Connecting the Field to Policy

Emerson Fellows **David Tian** and **Lindsey Baker** presented their groundbreaking work on diabetes and nutrition services at the June 2008 national conference of the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA). Through their research conducted with Food & Friends, David and Lindsey discovered that one in eight ANSA clients has diabetes—a much higher rate than the national average of 7 percent.



David Tian and Lindsey Baker, 14th Class Fellows, present their field work research findings at the 2008 ANSA Conference

"Addressing Diabetes in Our Communities" outlined best practices in medical nutrition therapy for diabetes, addressed the connection between diabetes and other chronic illnesses such as cancer and HIV/AIDS, outlined current approaches to diabetes among ANSA-member organizations, and explored the role of nutrition services organizations in the prevention of diabetes in high-risk populations. For copies of their reports on diabetes and nutrition services for individuals with life-threatening illnesses, please email [dtian@hungercenter.org](mailto:dtian@hungercenter.org) or [lbaker@hungercenter.org](mailto:lbaker@hungercenter.org). ●



The 14th Class of Bill Emerson Hunger Fellows at their commencement

## Farewell to the 14th Class

On July 23rd, the 14th Class of Bill Emerson Hunger Fellows celebrated their commencement with co-workers, friends, and family at the beautiful City View Room at George Washington University. CHC Board Co-Chairs, **Rep. Jo Ann Emerson**, and **Rep. Jim McGovern** thanked the members of the 14th Class for their hard work. Civil Rights leader and **Rep. John Lewis** praised the Fellows for a year of dedicated service

and presented the class with the keynote address. Rep. Lewis shared stories about his experiences as a young civil rights leader and encouraged the graduating Fellows to continue their determined pursuit of justice.

The Emerson Fellows honored the accomplishments and commitment of **Varga Garland** of the Community Food Bank in Tucson, Arizona and **Mark Greenberg** of the Center for American Progress by presenting them with

this year's leadership awards. The Bill Emerson Leadership Awards recognized the recipients' valuable contributions to the anti-hunger community and mentorship of Emerson Fellows.

CHC would like to extend a most sincere thank you to each Emerson Fellow supervisor who worked with a 14th class Fellow. You have demonstrated your commitment to developing leaders in social justice by mentoring Emerson Hunger Fellows and working

to provide them with rich learning experiences, and we are grateful.

The 14th Class also presented **Ellen Teller** of the Food Research and Action Center with a special "fairy godmother" award to recognize her unique role as an advocate of the Fellowship program and mentor to the 14th Class.

Best wishes to the 14th Class of Emerson Hunger Fellows. Congratulations on a job well done! ●

## Announcing the 15th Class of National Hunger Fellows!

The Congressional Hunger Center warmly welcomes the 15th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows! Members of the class represent a wide range of diverse backgrounds and accomplishments, including three Bonner Scholars, one Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow, one Phi Beta Kappa, and one Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Policy Fellow. Whether serving as Americorps VISTA volunteers, high school teachers, or Congressional staff assistants, members of this new class of Fellows have already demonstrated a commitment to public service. The 20 outstanding young women and men will be placed in 10 communities across the U.S. to address issues of hunger, nutrition, public health, and community food security. They gathered in Washington, D.C. on September 2nd to undergo 10 days of field training to prepare them for their 6 months of field work. Congratulations 15th Class and Welcome! ●

Emerson Hunger Fellow	College	Hometown
Benjamin Bowman	Fordham University	Glastonbury, Connecticut
Veronica Conti	Cornell University	Gaithersburg, Maryland
Sarah Custer	McGill University	Somerset, New Jersey
Kayleigh Gamble	Northwestern University	Kansas City, Missouri
Eric Hoffman	St. Mary's College	Owings Mills, Maryland
Mickey Hubbard	Davidson College	Gainesville, Georgia
Eileen Hyde	DePaul University	Burlington, Vermont
Sofya Leonova	University of Chicago	Oviedo, Florida
Kelly Meredith	University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill	Carolina Beach, North Carolina
Morenike Mosuro	Guilford College	Takoma Park, Maryland
Raquel Oriol	Kenyon College	Bronx, New York
Nico Quintana	Smith College	Eugene, Oregon
Michael Richardson	Morehouse College	Winston Salem, North Carolina
Cristina Sepe	Stanford University	Lakewood, Washington
Collin Siu	Willamette University	Mililani, Hawaii
Mark Stovell	Ohio University	Tipp City, Ohio
Christine Tran	University of California—Los Angeles	South El Monte, California
Stephany Whitaker	Berea College	Richmond, Kentucky
Ayanna Williams	Colgate University	Bowie, Maryland
Renita Woolford	Duke University	Kennesaw, Georgia

# Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

## Leland Fellows Prepare for Policy Year

4th Class Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Retreat and Training: July 17–26, 2008

### Policy Retreat

The 4th class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows returned to Washington, D.C. on July 17, 2008 to begin 10 days of policy training. The training began with an informal lunch with CHC board co-chairs **Rep. Jo Ann Emerson** and **Rep. James P. McGovern**. Emerson and McGovern encouraged the Leland Fellows to bring recommendations from their field experiences to both of them, as the Representatives begin to craft legislation in the coming year to improve international hunger programs and to address the global hunger crisis. The fellows then traveled to Virginia Crossings Conference Center in Glen Allen, Virginia, where they had the opportunity to share challenges and successes, and to delve more deeply into their varied experiences at

United Nations agencies, U.S. government institutions, and international research organizations and nongovernmental development agencies. The fellows also took the Myers-Briggs test and analyzed their personality types as well as their leadership styles. It was a refreshing and stimulating time for building a team dynamic and to prepare for the intensive week of policy training ahead.

### Fellows Present Their Field Work to D.C. Policy Audiences

The fellows returned to Washington, D.C. from Virginia Crossings for 6 more days of policy training. Training opened on Monday, July 21 with a full day of presentations by Fellows on their field work. Supervisors, guests, and colleagues from the Washington, D.C. policy community attended. **Kurt**



Adam Norikane presents his field work with Christian Children's Fund in Zambia

**Burja** presented his work on the World Food Program social safety net projects in Cambodia and **Meaghan Murphy** shared stories about her work with Mercy Corps on economic growth initiatives in Mongolia. **Emily Bancroft** explained how Physicians for Human Rights works in partnership with Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS to build a health rights advocacy movement in Uganda. **Rachel Bingham** described her work at the Millennium Challenge Corporation in assisting with compact implementation in Mali and **Anne-Claire Hervy** gave a presentation on empowering African higher education for Africa's agricultural and rural development transformation. Other presenters included **Alder Keleman** who shared information about her research in Mexico

with maize diversity, markets, and agricultural policy and **Francisco del Pozo**—who conducts research on prices of staple crops in the Andean Regions from his base at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Santiago, Chile—talked about expanding the use of electronic platforms to enable poor farmers to use market information to obtain better prices for their products.

### Fellows Learn from the Washington, D.C. Policy Community

For the remainder of the week, Fellows attended briefings and panel discussions on topics as varied as the U.S. Farm Bill, non-U.S. approaches to foreign development assistance, the U.S. legislative process, the General Accounting Office (GAO) report on African government and donor efforts



At the World Bank, Erick Fernandes presents his work on the impacts of climate change around the world to the Leland Fellows



Leland Fellows enjoy lunch at the White Tiger before heading out to meet with their hometown Representatives and Senators

to address hunger in Africa, and multisectoral approaches to development.

Fellows learned about advocacy and lobbying efforts from a diverse panel of experts, including **Todd Shelton** from InterAction, **Erin Tunney** from Bread for the World, **Sue Schram** from ACIDI/VOCA, and **Ann Steensland** from the Alliance to End Hunger. They also received briefings by **Charles Hanrahan** from the Congressional Research Service on the international food aid programs and changes to the programs enacted in the Farm Bill of 2008. **Thomas Melito** and **Philip Thomas**, of the International Affairs and Trade Group of the GAO provided an in-depth presentation on their groundbreaking report, "International Food Security: Insufficient Efforts by Host Governments and Donors Threaten Progress to Halve Hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2015." Congressional staff, including **Aleta Botts**, staff director of the House Agriculture Sub-Committee on Foreign Agriculture and **Dianne Preece** and **Graham Harper** of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations

Committee, provided responses from the perspective of Congress on the Farm Bill and the GAO report.

**Asma Lateef**, from Bread for the World Institute, and **Tony Gambino**, former USAID mission director during the Clinton Administration, briefed the fellows on U.S. foreign assistance and prospects for reform. **Steven Hansch** moderated a panel of experts from embassies in Washington, D.C. on a range of approaches to foreign development assistance. Panelists included **Aud Kolberg**, the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, **Fernando de la Cerda**,



Leland fellows Meagan Keefe, Alexis Jones, Carmen Jaquez, Alder Keleman, Francisco Del Pozo and Leland Associate Director Elizabeth Whelan at the commencement ceremony for the 14th class of Emerson Fellows

legal counselor from the Embassy of Guatemala, **Vivian Schatz**, formerly with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and **Annette Sheckler**, a development consultant and advisor to the Embassy of Ethiopia. Fascinating differences emerged between ways in which many of these countries implement programs, and a lively discussion about best approaches gave the Fellows food for thought.

Fellows visited the World Bank, where **Ambassador Abdoulaye Diop** of Mali shared information about the critical challenges facing the farmers and pastoralists of his country from climate change. Senior agricultural economist and land management advisor, Erick Fernandes of the World Bank gave a comprehensive overview of the various impacts of climate change around the world and how the World Bank was responding by providing funding for adaptation and mitigation strategies. **Rod Hunter** of the Hudson Institute and **Natalie Dinicola** of Monsanto described effective policies for improving agriculture in the face of climate change,

including plant and seed breeding technology for drought tolerance.

During the training week, Fellows were also briefed on the international food price crisis by a range of experts at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The panel was moderated by **David Orden** of IFPRI and included **John Hoddinot** from IFPRI, **Kenn Crossley**



At the Leland Policy Training, John Hoddinot from IFPRI shares his knowledge about the social impacts of the food price crisis.

from the World Food Program, and **Patricia Bonnard** of FEWSNET. The panelists outlined the scope of the problem around the world in which there are now over 100 million new people hungry due to skyrocketing prices of corn, rice, soybeans, and wheat. They also described the most effective program interventions for protecting the most vulnerable people, particularly pregnant women and children under the age of six.

On the final day of training, a panel talked about multisectoral programming and the importance of integrating agriculture, health, nutrition, food security, and access to clean water. Panelists included **Gwendolyn O'Donnell Blake** of Project

Concern, **Andrew Jones** of CARE, **John Sauer** of Water Advocates, and **Dave Evans** of Food for the Hungry, International. These panelists are experts in designing holistic programs to more effectively achieve poverty alleviation and food security.

**Ellen Dorsey**, executive director of the Wallace Global Fund and former board chair of Amnesty International

USA, gave a challenging overview of the growing convergence of economic, social, and cultural rights approaches with traditional political and civil human rights approaches. Ellen outlined how international relief and development agencies are grappling with issues related to applying rights-based approaches to urge governments to provide minimum

standards of access to health care, lifesaving medications, food, and clean water. At the same time, political and civil human rights organizations are seeking ways to address root causes of human rights violations, which often are based in lack of food, water, health, and shelter.

The training concluded with **Gene White**, advocate for international school

feeding and former president of the American School Food Service Association, sharing her inspiring reflections on leadership.

Thanks to all our wonderful panelists, trainers, host organization supervisors and staff, along with the Fellows themselves, for making the week-long policy training so rich and rewarding! ●

## Congratulations to Our New Host Organizations

We are happy to announce the host organizations that have been selected for the 5th class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows. The 5th class will begin in July 2009. Congratulations to the following organizations.

Organization	Program Area	Field Site	Policy Site
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS/ Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)	HIV/AIDS	Kampala, Uganda	Washington, DC/ Cambridge, MA
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA)/ National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors—South Africa (NASTAD)	Nutrition, HIV/AIDS and Public/ Private Partnerships	Cape Town, South Africa	Washington, DC
Catholic Relief Services	School Feeding, Nutrition	Mopti, Mali	Baltimore, MD
Health Alliance International	Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Integrated Primary Health Care	Bouake, Cote d'Ivoire	Seattle, WA
Land O'Lakes	Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Agricultural and Livelihood Development	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Arlington, VA
Save the Children	Agricultural Development, M&E, Global Food Crisis, Nutrition	Nampula, Mozambique	Washington, DC
World Food Program	Agricultural Development, Market Analysis	Lilongwe, Malawi	Rome, Italy
CARE	Climate Change, Agricultural Development, Social Protection	Lilongwe, Malawi	Washington, DC
<b>ASIA</b>			
Bioversity International	Genetic Diversity, Agricultural Development, Climate Change	New Delhi, India	New Delhi, India/ Rome, Italy
Christian Children's Fund	Agricultural and Livelihood Development	Pasig City, Philippines	Washington, DC
Helen Keller International	Nutrition	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Mercy Corps	Nutrition, HIV/AIDS	Jakarta, Indonesia	Washington, DC
World Food Program/ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	School Feeding, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS	Cambodia	Washington, DC
World Bank	Nutrition, Global Food Crisis	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Washington, DC
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>			
Millennium Challenge Corporation	Agricultural Development, Land, Gender, Credit, Rural Finance	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Washington, DC
FNDE/ Global Child Nutrition Foundation	School Feeding, Nutrition, Monitoring and Evaluation	Brasilia, Brazil	Alexandria, VA
World Food Programme	School Feeding	La Paz, Bolivia	La Paz, Bolivia

## Victory Against Hunger Awards Announced

Celebrating outstanding efforts in fighting hunger through creating innovative farm to school programs, twenty-five organizations were awarded Victory Against Hunger Awards by the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), Victory Wholesale Group, and National Farm to School Network. From California to Maine, we applaud the efforts and energy across the country working to increase nutrition in schools and provide children with lasting education in agriculture, health, and the environment.

The annual VAH Awards were established by **David Kantor**, President of Victory Wholesale Group, to

recognize outstanding organizations in the United States that work to end hunger and improve nutrition and health at the local level.

Congratulations to the following awardees:

Albuquerque Public School District, NM  
 Anderson School Districts 2,3, and 5—Farm to School Program, SC  
 Columbus East High School's "Cultivating Futures" Program, IN  
 Community Food Connections, AZ  
 Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, CA  
 Food Literacy Project, KY  
 Foodlink, NY

Growing Home, IL  
 Hartland Elementary School's Farm to School Program, VT  
 HEAL Project, CA  
 Healthy Acadia, ME  
 Hoosier Hills Homegrown Natural Meats Cooperative, IN  
 Jubilee Project, TN  
 Kids First, RI  
 Little Falls Community School District, MN  
 Local Matters, OH  
 Mechanicsburg Area School District, PA  
 Missoula County Farm to School Program, MT  
 National Hmong American Farmers, Inc., CA

Oelwein Community School District, IA  
 Sustainable Food Center's Sprouting Healthy Kids Program, TX  
 The Food Trust's Kindergarten Initiative, PA  
 VT Food Education Every Day, VT  
 Willamette Farm and Food Coalition's Farm to School Program, OR  
 Worcester Public Schools, MA

For additional information about the 2008 winners, Victory Wholesale Group and The National Farm to School Network, please visit [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org). ●

## CHC Hosts IFAD Seminar



Cheryl Morden (IFAD) introducing Guest Speaker Dr. Marilyn Carr

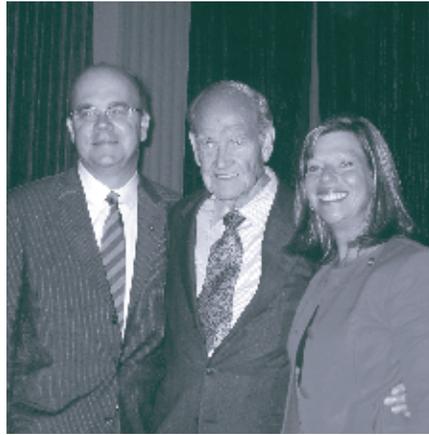
The Congressional Hunger Center offered its conference room to host the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Seminar on May 20, 2008. The event focused on the international food price crisis and the importance of increasing productivity in rural areas. **Dr. Marilyn Carr**, development economist and author of *Technology, Policy and Poverty Reduction* was the main speaker. Her presentation was entitled "Lightening the Load: Labor Saving Technologies for Rural Women." Over 50 people attended the luncheon from

various international and national organizations including Bread for the World, Oxfam America, Global Trade Program, Heifer International, The Development Executive Group, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Winrock International.

This luncheon was part of a series of seminars co-sponsored by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPI), IFAD, and the World Bank. CHC was pleased to host this luncheon and welcomes organizations to hold future events in CHC's conference space. ●

## CHC Board Co-Chairs Receive Hunger Leaders Award

Congressional Hunger Center Board Co-Chairs, **Rep. Jo Ann Emerson** and **Rep. James P. McGovern** received the 7th Annual Friends of the World Food Program Leaders Award on Tuesday, July 8 in the Cannon House Caucus Room on Capitol Hill. Emerson and McGovern were honored for introducing bipartisan legislation to expand the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and for their many collaborative efforts to address



(left to right) Rep. McGovern, Ambassador McGovern, and Rep. Emerson at the Friends of the World Food Program Award Ceremony on Capitol Hill

domestic and international hunger. In her remarks upon receiving the award from **Ambassador George McGovern**, Rep. Emerson stated, "Congress has worked to expand nutrition programs in the Farm Bill and has responded to the international food crisis needs. Freedom from hunger is a human right, and we must work

together to do more in the coming years as partners in these efforts." Rep. McGovern added "I'm particularly grateful to be recognized along with my friend Jo Ann Emerson, who has been a true champion on behalf of the world's hungry. I believe that hunger is a political condition—we have the resources to end hunger; what we need is the political will to make it happen." ●

## CHC's Aileen Carr a "Rising Star"!

Emerson Program Co-Director **Aileen Carr** was one of 5 selected from a national pool of 100+ highly qualified candidates to receive OMB Watch's 2008 "Public Interest Rising Star Award." OMB Watch is a nonprofit government watchdog organization located in Washington, D.C. that works to promote open government,

accountability and citizen participation. As part of their 25th Anniversary celebration, they presented these awards, which "recognize the outstanding, dedicated work of younger people and encourage their continued efforts to promote and protect the public interest for many years to come." Of course, CHC has known for years that

Aileen is a stellar "rising star." Congratulations Aileen!

For more information about the award, and the September 17th awards ceremony, please visit [www.ombwatch.org](http://www.ombwatch.org). ●

John Podesta, President of the Center for American Progress, presents Aileen Carr with OMB Watch's Public Interest Rising Star award.



Steven Strawn

## Many Thanks to Natalie Lempert

**Natalie Lempert** joined the Mickey Leland Fellowship Program team as our training and alumni support intern for spring/summer of 2008. She is pursuing a joint MA/JD focused on international relations at American University.

Natalie completed her BA in international relations/Spanish at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She has spent time both at the Genocide Teaching Project in Washington, D.C. and in the Children's Village (for incarcerated parents and

their children) in Beijing and speaks six languages, from Portuguese to Polish to Mandarin.

Her CHC work include researching and documenting past Leland Fellows' placements and career paths and helping prepare for the July

retreat and policy training for the Leland Fellows in Washington, D.C. She told us, "It has been thrilling to learn about the Center and to help support the Center's success." Thanks, Natalie! ●

## ¡Adios Angelina Pérez!

CHC dearly misses the talented **Angelina Pérez**, former administrative/publications coordinator. Angelina began attending American University Washington College of Law in August to pursue her interest

in international public law. She was a valuable asset to the management team and accounting department for 2 years. During her time at CHC, she oversaw the Victory Against Hunger Awards Program, coordinated

the publication of four editions of Sustenance and two annual reports, and helped plan CHC's 15th Anniversary Gala. She left in early August. Good luck in law school and remember to study! ●

## Farewell Joy

**Joy Wiskin**, who was an integral member of the Emerson Program team for nearly 2 years, left CHC during the summer. During her time at CHC, she generously offered her skills, enthusiasm, and warm heart to the Emerson Fellows, CHC staff, and our partner

organizations. In particular, her special talents for writing, event planning, and conducting Fellow interviews were great assets to CHC. She also single-handedly designed, implemented, and institutionalized a stellar new system for Fellows selection that improved the quality of

the Emerson Program overall. We thank Joy for her many contributions and congratulate her on a job well done. Joy is beginning a graduate program in conflict analysis at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution this fall. ●

## Jose Graduates

In February 2008, **Jose Ravano**, the director of the Leland International Hunger Fellowship, graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center with

a Judicial Doctorate. Jose also received a certificate as a Public Interest Law Scholar and a scholarship in Refugees and Humanitarian Assistance. In addition, he was honored

with the Joyce Chiang Memorial Award for public interest and demonstrable commitment in public service. Congrats Jose! ●

## CHC Welcomes Twana Jemerson!

In late May, CHC welcomed **Twana Jemerson** as our new Human Resources (HR) Manager. Twana brings with her years of experience working with AmeriCorps volunteers as an HR specialist with the Corporation for National and Community Service and program management skills developed during her time with the nonprofit Hands on Atlanta.

Twana earned an MSA in organizational development from Trinity University in Washington, D.C. and a BA in communications from Georgia State University. She will use her talents to emphasize staff development and training and institutionalize HR functions and processes in the coming year. Current and incoming staff and fellows look forward to



Twana and CHC Board Member, Jim Scheibel

her invaluable guidance and assistance on all HR-related topics. Welcome Twana! ●



Representative Jo Ann Emerson  
Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative Byron Dorgan  
Member of Congress

Representative Dennis Hertel  
Member of Congress (Retired)  
Attorney at Law  
The Livingston Group, L.L.P.

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Representative Frank Wolf  
Member of Congress

Ashley Aakesson  
Executive Director  
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti

David Beckmann  
President  
Bread for the World

Karen Coble Edwards  
Principal  
KCE Public Affairs Association

Elizabeth Emerson-Leger  
President  
The Leger Company, Inc.

Vicki B. Escarra  
President and CEO  
America's Second Harvest—The Nation's  
Food Bank Network

Brian Folkerts  
Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs  
Kraft Foods

Al Franken  
Actor/Comedian

Lou Gerber  
Legislative Director  
Communications Workers of America

David Kantor  
President  
Victory Wholesale Group

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

Manly Molpus  
President and CEO  
GMA

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

In Memory Of:  
Honorable Bill Emerson  
Honorable Mickey Leland

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