



# Sustenance

August 2010 Vol. 7, No. 1

The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

## A Celebration of Leadership!

On Tuesday, June 15th, CHC held our 4th Annual Awards Ceremony at the beautiful U.S. Botanic Garden on the National Mall. Over 300 attendees from the domestic and international anti-hunger community, from the Obama Administration, Congress, and from corporations and foundations joined us that evening to recognize extraordinary leadership by Members of Congress in the fight against domestic and international hunger.

At the awards ceremony, we paid tribute to **Senator Richard G. Lugar** and **Representative John Lewis**, both stalwart leaders known for their bipartisan approach to public policy. Senator Lugar and Representative Lewis

were chosen to receive Bill Emerson & Mickey Leland Hunger Leadership Awards for their distinguished careers in crafting legislation that improves nutrition, enhances agriculture for farmers, and promotes more just social conditions for those living in poverty.

For the first time, CHC introduced the CHC Alumni Leadership Awards, which will continue as an annual tradition. We present these awards to an alumna/alumnus from each of our fellowship programs for their work to promote food security and social justice in the U.S. and around the world. This year, **Javier Silva**, a CHC national fellow in 1999–2000, and **Ashley Aakesson**, a CHC international fellow in

2001–2003, received these awards. Please read more about their outstanding accomplishments on page 11 of this issue of Sustenance.

We especially extend a grateful thank you to our Awards Ceremony Underwriter, Walmart, for major support of this event.

Walmart and our other sponsors enable CHC to “train and inspire leaders who work to end hunger, and to advocate public policies that create a food secure world.”

Congratulations to Senator Lugar, Representative Lewis, Javier Silva and Ashley Aakesson! ●



From left to right: Rep. James P. McGovern, Senator Richard G. Lugar, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow Gabriela Prudencio



From left to right: Rep. James P. McGovern, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Rep. John Lewis, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow Meisha McDaniel and Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow Girmay Zahilay



From left to right: Ambassador Tony Hall and alumnus Javier Silva



From left to right: Alumna Ashley Aakesson and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee



CHC would like to thank all of our contributors who made the 2010 Congressional Hunger Center Awards Ceremony on June 15th possible!

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Tres Bailey, Director of Federal Government Relations for Walmart, spoke on behalf of Walmart, the Evening's Underwriter



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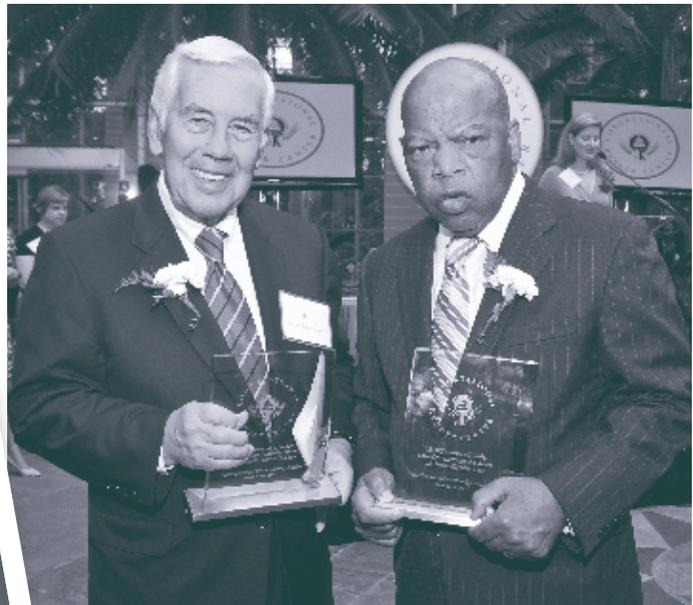


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Senator Richard G. Lugar and Representative John Lewis after receiving awards at our event June 15th.

# Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



In January I traveled to Africa to conduct a site visit to a current Mickey Leland Fellow, **Sonia Lee**, and to learn more about food security in Uganda and Rwanda. Sonia is placed for her Leland fellowship with the Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA) in Kampala, where she promotes the right to health through both research and advocacy. She is currently coordinating the activities of the Health Workforce Advocacy Forum (HWAFF), a coalition of health professionals seeking to solve Uganda's human resources for health crisis. Sonia and I were able to visit many food security and development projects in Uganda, known as 'the breadbasket of East Africa.' We are grateful to **Jeff Mungu**, director of the World Food Program (WFP) field office in Soroti, Uganda, who arranged and accompanied us on two visits to households and farms headed by women. Many men have died in Uganda from the lengthy civil war there or from HIV/AIDS, leading to hunger and poverty for women-headed households. WFP provides support to the women by supplying agricultural assistance and better quality rice seeds. These families now double their production of rice in half the time of previous harvests.

After visiting Sonia, I traveled to Rwanda, where I was hosted by Mickey Leland Fellow alumna **Carmen Jaquez**, who is currently the Livestock Director for Land O'Lakes in Kigali. Carmen introduced me to a number of potential Leland host organizations including Catholic

Relief Services, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), USAID, CARE and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Since returning from Africa, I have attended board meetings for the Community Food Security Coalition in New Orleans and Detroit (at the Farm to Cafeteria Conference). The Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy invited me to be the keynote speaker at their Alumni Weekend. The Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine (of the National Academies) asked me to address the members of the board on issues related to the 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization and 2012 Farm Bill at the Summer Policy Retreat in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

On June 15th, CHC held our Congressional Awards

ConAgra Foods Foundation is the major donor supporting CHC's work on domestic nutrition policy. The Foundation provides a grant for our Child Hunger Initiative on Learning and Development (CHILD), with the following policy goals: improving the quality of school meals by increasing School Lunch meal reimbursements; broadening access to Universal Free School Breakfast; and revising and enhancing nutrition standards for foods sold in school vending machines and in the a la carte lines that "compete with" school meals.

In the pending Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Ceremony where we honored two of the greatest living legends of the anti-hunger, civil rights and foreign affairs communities: **Senator Richard G. Lugar** and **Representative John Lewis**. Speakers that evening included USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, **Dr. Kathleen Merrigan**, and U.S. Agency for International Development's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, **Susan Reichle**.

The 16th class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows held their commencement from the program on July 21st. The commencement speaker was **Sam Kass**, the White House Food Initiative Coordinator, White House Chef, and adviser to First Lady Michelle Obama on the food policy agenda of the Let's Move Campaign. Congratulations to the Emerson Fellows!

legislation (CNR), there are provisions that provide an extra six cents in school reimbursements tied to the improvement of meal quality. There is also language that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish revised nutrition standards for "competitive foods" that are sold throughout schools during the entire day. The House version of the CNR (HR 5504) provides funding for competitive grants to promote the expansion of the School Breakfast Program. The Senate version of the CNR (S 3307) also creates new paperless options for universal school meals. CHC staff have advocated

The 5th class of Leland International Hunger Fellows returned from their field placements in Africa, Asia and Latin America for a 10 day policy training and retreat. They are now beginning their policy year placements with their host organizations, where they will bring their valuable field experiences to help craft better food security policy.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome **Pamela G. Bailey**, President and CEO of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, to the CHC Board of Directors. Pam has held senior management positions at several prominent private sector companies, and has served in the White House for three U.S. Presidents. We are grateful for her leadership and her participation on CHC's board. ●

along with allied organizations for these legislative improvements.

The CHILD grant also underwrites the field and policy work for four Emerson National Hunger Fellows. Fellows working on CHILD have completed field and policy projects focused on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), school lunch and school breakfast programs, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and statewide anti-hunger initiatives. To obtain copies of these reports, please contact **Kristin Anderson** at CHC at [kanderson@hungercenter.org](mailto:kanderson@hungercenter.org)

# Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

## Leaders Building Leaders: The Emerson Alumni Mentoring Initiative

By Kyle Beach

A fellowship, in the truest sense of the word, does not end with a commencement ceremony. In commitment to that ideal, the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship, now set to host its 17th class of fellows, has launched a new alumni mentoring initiative to expand the fellowship experience by fostering stronger relationships among alumni and fellows.

The Emerson Alumni Mentoring Initiative aims to provide a stable and structured relationship, so that fellows may access information, seek guidance, and develop their network of like-minded social justice seekers. In past program evaluations, fellows and alumni have suggested that a structured mentorship would be a positive addition to the fellowship.

In this initial pilot phase, 16th class Fellows applied for the program by submitting a short application that Emerson staff used to match the fellow with an alumna/alumnus who has similar interests and goals. Fellows and mentors correspond and meet throughout the mentorship to set goals, talk through challenges, and reflect on their roles in social justice work.

According to initial reports from fellow and alumni participants, having an alumni mentor benefits a fellow by providing a personal relationship that helps fellows

navigate current and future professional decisions. The relationship also creates access to networks and opportunities, built on the common experience of participating in the fellowship program.

The peer-based, non-supervisory relationship gives the fellow an additional resource for guidance, support and advice. **Amara Foster**, 16th class Fellow, said: "I see my relationship with my mentor as informing and supporting the relationship I am trying to develop with my supervisor at work—I have asked for advice on how to approach my boss on certain issues, and she has helped a lot in that way."

A mentor also provides insight on job and school transitions. **Daniel Lau**, 16th class Fellow, describes his relationship with **Gagan Gupta**, his 14th class mentor: "Gagan has enriched my fellowship experience through affirmation of my struggles and successes...and provided invaluable insight into post-fellowship decisions. By sharing his transition process and offering guidance as I approach mine, I feel more confident determining what to do next." Current fellow **Sarah Lyons** said that her mentor, 5th class alumna **Ingrid Drake**, is providing an unthreatening and judgment free atmosphere. This allows her to confide in her mentor on issues from the personal to the professional and gives Sarah confidence



Emerson Fellows Meisha McDaniel, Tasha Askew, Jen Bailey, Tim Shadix, and Patrice Mobley at the White House for a tour of the gardens.

and direction for seeking out her own goals.

For alumni, the mentorship offers a leadership opportunity, a way to reconnect with the fellowship program, to expand professional networks for alumni, and the ability positively affect the experiences of the current fellows.

**Sarah Borron**, 9th class alumna who is mentoring **Patrice Mobley**, said: "It has surprised me to realize just how many professional lessons, large and small, I have learned from and since the fellowship. Mentoring Patrice forces me to articulate those lessons so I can share them, which is very personally satisfying." **David Pedulla**, 11th class alumni and mentor to **Tim Shadix** also finds that being a mentor "has given me an opportunity to reflect about where I have come

since my Hunger Fellow experience and what has changed about my worldview, and what has stayed the same. Working with my mentee has really opened up the space for me to reflect more about my career—what I like about it and what I might like to change." The main motivation for mentors lies in the desire to strengthen the overall fellowship experience.

Through this new initiative, CHC has amplified its leadership development activities for fellows and alumni in the fight against hunger and poverty. Nearly all mentors describe their relationship with their mentee as mutually beneficial. The mentorship expands on that sense of community, by fostering these relationships. And in essence, that is what the mentor program is all about; expanding fellowship. ●

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# In the Field and Behind the Policy: Reflections from a Current Fellow

By *Tim Shadix, 16th Class  
Emerson Fellow*

I think what originally most attracted me to the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship was the way the program is structured to include both a community-based field placement and a policy placement in Washington, D.C. I really liked the idea of seeing how problems of hunger and poverty can be addressed at different scales and policy levels. Although field and policy placements can seem at first to be disconnected, discrete experiences, I have seen clear connections between the two because my work in both areas has focused so heavily on the unavoidable complexities of policy implementation.

My field placement experience at the California Association of Food Banks was somewhat unique. Rather

than focusing on a single community, I spent much of my time traveling around the state of California in search of innovative food stamp outreach strategies. As often as I found myself lost in the tangled highways of Los Angeles and San Diego, the real challenge of my work was mapping out the array of food stamp regulations, practices, and technologies administered mostly at the county level in a state with 58 counties. I quickly understood how much county policies and attitudes affected the ability of low-income individuals to access food stamps, a federal program that should, in theory, offer the same entitlement to everyone.

My work in Washington, D.C. at the Migrant Legal Action Program has focused almost exclusively on school

food programs, but my experience with food stamps in California has been of tremendous value in approaching the regulation of other federal nutrition programs at the national level. Because I witnessed in California how regulations and policy so strongly affect how counties deliver services to their communities, it has made perfect sense to me to comb through federal regulations in great detail. And my knowledge from my field placement has helped me to analyze how federal guidance, or the lack thereof, will impact policy implementation “on the ground.”

My policy work focuses on access to federal nutrition programs by migrants and individuals with limited English proficiency. The efficient and accurate implementation of

programs at the local level is crucial for these extremely financially vulnerable communities, especially the provision of federally mandated translation services and navigating complex rules regarding migrant status. My policy placement has allowed me to apply my understanding of local access and program delivery as I figure out how best to be an advocate at the national level for communities experiencing extreme poverty. I have also expanded my understanding of implementation to include the process of how federal policy is translated into specific regulations.

When it comes to social policy, passing good legislation is only half the battle, at best. The many nuts and bolts of actually implementing policy, from federal regulations to training county staff, in reality often play just as great a role in determining how effectively social policies deliver on their goals of reducing hunger and poverty. This is perhaps one of the clearest lessons I have learned in both my field and policy placements as an Emerson Hunger Fellow. I know these lessons will be valuable in whatever work I pursue, at any scale, because no matter the policy area or the location, what really matters is how the policy is actually encountered by the people it is intended to serve. ●



Emerson Fellows at Common Good City Farm in D.C.'s Letdroit Park neighborhood for a Professional Development Day training.

# Poverty in the Suburbs?

## Policy Reflections from a Current Fellow

By Etan Newman, 16th Class  
Emerson Fellow

A recent conversation about the research I'm doing for my policy placement at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program elicited what has become a typical response: puzzled silence. "Suburban poverty?" my questioner finally blurted. "I wouldn't usually think of using those words in the same sentence."

In images found often in the media, domestic poverty remains an urban problem, contained in blighted areas of our largest cities; poor people ride buses, eat at soup kitchens, sleep on stoops, and survive on government assistance. Hungry children live in high rise apartment complexes in urban Baltimore, New York, or Detroit, not in single family homes in suburban Fairfax County, Virginia, or Mountain View, California.

But Brookings' Metro Program, the think-tank's group that works on issues related to the health and well-being of cities and metropolitan areas, has begun to turn this outdated impression on its head. In January, Brookings released a report entitled, *The Suburbanization of Poverty: Metropolitan Trends 2000–2008* that used census bureau data to show that in the largest 100 metro areas in the country, there are now 1.5 million more people in poverty living in suburbs than in the primary cities. Furthermore, poverty in the suburbs grew by 25% between 2000 and 2008, more than five times as fast as poverty in primary cities. The report argued that it is time for a re-imagining of the suburbs, and a re-thinking of policies and programs that address poverty as a strictly urban problem.

The report garnered a great deal of media attention

throughout the country. Each local news outlet wanted to know how this shift impacted their community. What was driving this change? Were low income city residents being forced out by gentrification? Were middle class residents of the suburbs falling on hard times? Were low skill jobs more readily available in the suburbs?

By situating me among a small group of Brookings researchers studying the suburbanization of poverty for my policy placement, CHC has provided the opportunity to search for answers to these questions in the context of one metropolitan area: Washington, D.C. I've mined census bureau data for clues, such as the share of D.C. area low income suburbanites that are elderly, foreign born, or college graduates. I've used geographic information systems (GIS) software to create maps showing schools that have seen a large increase in students enrolled in free or reduced price meals. And I've gone out to suburban communities to speak with government officials, school principals, and non-profit

service providers about change in their communities. The result will be a case study that, when published alongside similar studies of other metropolitan areas, will illuminate the factors driving a changing geography of poverty and discuss the policy implications of these changes.

As I collect my notes to begin writing, I am amazed by all I have learned—about demography, about the D.C. area, and about the variety of strategies that local government can adopt to either embrace or ignore change. I am confident that the case study will add descriptive color to the new paradigm that sees trends of poverty and opportunity cutting across entire metropolitan areas. But more importantly, I hope that my work helps convince policymakers to take the positive steps necessary—supporting affordable housing, updated transportation policy, and other public investments—that will address the unique challenges faced by low income suburbanites. ●

## Emerson Program Evaluation 2010

CHC is once again conducting a formal evaluation of this program. Since the last evaluation five years ago, CHC staff has implemented changes to improve the outcomes of the program, especially with regard to training, field and policy site partnerships, and commitment to anti-racism. The evaluation will take a retrospective look at the past five classes of the Emerson Program and report

on how specific changes have impacted program outcomes. A rigorous evaluation process led by Innovation Network will give us the feedback we need to meet our long term goals. CHC will be contacting recent alumni and partner organizations soon to ask for your participation and feedback. Thanks in advance for your assistance with this important evaluation process!

C&S Wholesale Grocers has made a generous \$30,000 grant to CHC in support of our efforts to collect, digitize, catalogue and post to CHC's website the Emerson Fellows' Hunger Free Community Reports (HFCRs). During the field component of the fellowship, Emerson National Hunger Fellows design, create, write, and/or produce an HFCR. These reports include, but are not limited to, written reports, websites, videos, toolkits, mapping projects and presentations and provide recommendations on how to reduce hunger in a targeted geographic area. CHC has supported the research, development and production of more than 220 HFCRs and field projects since 1994, but has lacked the capacity to widely distribute them. HFCRs are a wonderful resource that we will now make readily available to the anti-hunger community and the general public via our website. The grant will enable us to post reports written between 2001 and 2009. Thank you, C&S Wholesale Grocers!



# Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

## Leland Fellows Complete Field Year, Prepare for Policy Year

The 5th class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows completed their field year on June 30, followed by a two week home leave before reuniting in Washington, D.C. for a ten day policy training beginning July 15. They have managed a diverse array of activities during their field

year—from our fellow in Laos working with the World Food Program to develop the country office's monitoring and evaluation strategy, to our fellow in Ethiopia who provides livelihood support for people living with HIV/AIDS for the Land O'Lakes Dairy Development Program. We are excited to welcome

the 5th class back to D.C. and look forward to hearing accounts of their experiences and accomplishments in the field!

To get a flavor of what our Leland fellows have been up to during the past year, three of them are highlighted below: **Curan Bonham**, who works to

ensure the preservation of crop biodiversity in India; **Emily Wei**, who writes a personal account of her work in rural Malawi; and **Carlos Centeno**, who co-managed a food facility program funded by the European Union in Guatemala. ●

### Curan Bonham

#### Connecting Farmers with Improved Resources

As a researcher with Bioversity International in New Delhi, India, Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow **Curan Bonham** studies and analyzes how smallholder farmers may increase their access to and use of germplasm (seeds or plant tissue for planting or plant breeding) conserved in

local gene banks. Originally intended for conservation purposes, scientists are now beginning to see the need for reciprocal trade in germplasm, which goes not just from farmers to genebanks, but also from genebanks back to farmers. Curan's research focuses on resource poor farmers who have been largely bypassed by the gains achieved through the introduction of improved varieties and technologies during the

green revolution. These farmers have few options when choosing to replace their obsolete varieties that are no longer adapted to the changing environment.

In order to analyze the constraints faced by farmers in acquiring germplasm from gene banks, Curan conducts surveys with gene bank managers, farmers, breeders and other stakeholders to establish how gene bank material is currently used and how it might be more widely distributed in the future. A second component of the research is to monitor the performance of the germplasm in trial plots on farmers' fields as a mechanism to evaluate useful varieties. The underlying goal of the research aims to provide a linkage between marginalized farmers and genebanks which could serve as a model for future attempts to popularize varieties and improve production for smallholder farmers.

Curan will continue this important research in the coming year during his fellowship policy placement at Bioversity International's headquarters in Rome, Italy.

### Emily Wei

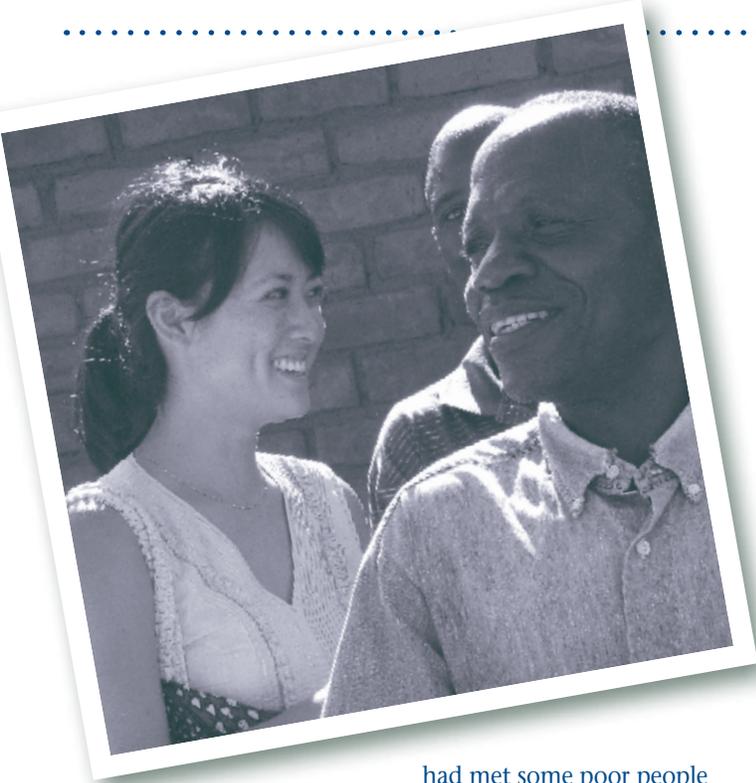
Emily Wei conducts field research on social protection and food security for CARE International in Malawi. After analyzing the data, Emily and others at CARE prepare policy papers and briefs that help translate the field research into U.S. policy advocacy goals. Emily provides CARE Malawi with a broader picture of the movement for social protection throughout the country and region, performing donor interviews and background research on the subject. The blog below, posted by Emily in February, describes a day of field work in rural Malawi.

#### Emily Wei in Malawi

Yesterday we went to a village about 90 kilometers off the main road on a dirt road called Namaluweso. The road to get there runs with the lake on the north and some smaller mountains on the south, and each time we make the 1 ½ hour drive over near-collapsing bridges, waterways and corrugated (like cardboard) dirt roads, I'm stunned by Malawi's landscape. Even the driver,



Curan Bonham, left, talks with farmers in Rajasthan, India



Emily Wei in Malawi

a Malawian born and bred, couldn't help but keep turning his head to look out the window at the magnificent sunset off the tree-lined lake.

The day before, we had administered our poverty scorecard (a 10-question scorecard which gives us a score which can help us determine their poverty levels based on a nation-wide household survey and some special statistical analysis, made by some pretty smart people). The scorecard is out of 100 points, and asks questions like, "how many children in your household are under 14?" and "where do you get your water?" In the villages we had visited in the past 2.5 weeks, the lowest score we had come across was 10, while our score cut-off for which we defined households as "ultra-poor" had hovered around 30. In this village, even poorer than the ones we had already been to, the score cut-off was 19, and one household scored a 4. I thought we

had met some poor people in the other villages but, yet again, I was wrong. How could it get worse? Let me tell you...

Vanessa, one of the research assistants, and I walked about 30 minutes to get to the family's house, after being pointed multiple times in their direction. "Are we there yet?" "no, keep going" "there yet" "no, a little further" "?" "!" When we finally arrived, we found the family's compound made up of a mud brick house, and a few other mud buildings thatched with straw, for cooking, bathing and storing things. The place was at the furthest end of the village, coming right up to the mountain. It was a beautiful spot, with a spectacular view of what was beyond, and yet, poverty didn't seem to make room to appreciate these things. Instead, the paradox was that living with such a great view also meant living furthest away from a water source, the main dirt road if someone were to get sick, and little interaction with neighbors, which meant little ability to access

information about development initiatives, social happenings and other things. It was so far, in fact, that when there was a chicken disease outbreak in the village, people brought their chickens to stay at this house so their chickens would not get sick. How poor was this household? It was chicken-quarantine poor.

The household scored a 4 on the poverty scorecard, which meant they had nothing—no chairs, no tables, no radio, not even a lamp to light their house at night. The household was made up of 6 kids, 2 parents and a grandmother, who could not afford to go to the hospital when she was ill, and ended up finding ways to treat herself, in ways that we could not even imagine.

Essential to the work we are doing is the ability to understand how these programs are reaching our beneficiaries and what their needs are. CARE's Lift-up research was informing a greater perspective on social protection measures, yet it was difficult to walk away without the promise of a program to directly help a family like this. Nevertheless, the work CARE Malawi is doing is essential for evidence-based policy, which will eventually inform U.S. policy makers on how they can better channel their initiatives to reach those who are in most need.

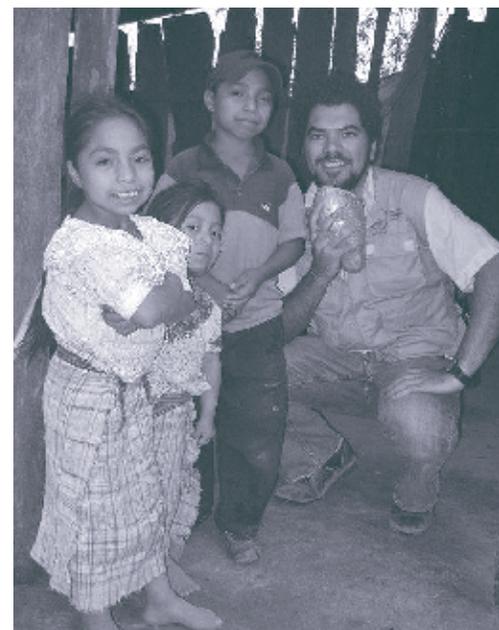
### *Carlos Centeno*

#### **Fighting Hunger in Guatemala**

For his Mickey Leland Fellowship field placement, **Carlos Centeno** serves as a Program Officer in Guatemala with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). As part of his fellowship work plan, Carlos was

named Co-Manager of the WFP portion of the Food Facility Project, a multiyear program that promotes integrated agriculture, nutrition, and social safety net programs in food insecure areas of Guatemala. The Food Facility, funded by the European Union, is a major part of the Guatemala WFP Country portfolio, and has been a challenging and meaningful growth opportunity for Carlos. As Co-Manager, Carlos helps support the WFP national program office for this project. He also is a liaison with other UN agencies, with Ministries of the Government of Guatemala, and with other non-governmental organizations (NGO's) operating in the target areas. He has also coordinated program activities, such as Food for Work (with 8,000 family beneficiaries), supervised distribution of fortified blended foods (Vitacereal) to reduce malnutrition for 50,000 pregnant and lactating mothers and 100,000 children, and helped manage the Purchase For

Carlos Centeno meets with program beneficiaries in rural Guatemala.



Progress (P4P) program in which 4,000 smallholder farmers sell their maize to use for Vitacereal production.

In addition to his work on the Food Facility project, Carlos has participated in several WFP Guatemala emergency operations. Since the devastating Tropical Storm Agatha struck the country in May, 2010, he has served as part of a four member advisory team, co-authoring and editing two Flash Appeals for donor funding (Food Insecurity—Acute Malnutrition Appeal and the Tropical Storm Agatha Appeal). And he participated in providing emergency support during a multiyear drought in the Dry Corridor of Guatemala, a region that is suffering from extreme weather conditions leading to deep food insecurity and poverty of people in these rural villages.

WFP Guatemala office staff elected Carlos to represent them in Guatemala UN meetings, providing him with a unique opportunity to hone his leadership skills. Carlos has also written executive briefings for the WFP Executive Director, **Josette Sheeran**, and published several stories on the WFP website and on ReliefWeb, a UN website that provides a focal point for humanitarian action in emergencies around the world.

Carlos' experiences in WFP's Guatemala Country Office will provide him with valuable insights and lessons learned that can be integrated into his upcoming policy placement in WFP headquarters. He has also made lasting contributions to WFP Guatemala program operations and staff capacity during his field year placement. Congratulations, Carlos! ●



A mother receives Vitacereal, a nutritious weaning food, used for children between 6 months and 3 years of age in Guatemala.

## Leland Fellows Find Opportunities to Build On Skills

Leland Fellows may apply for Professional Development Funds which are intended to support activities that contribute to the professional development of each fellow. Funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including participation at workshops or conferences, skills training, and language courses. Take a look at some of the innovative ways our 5th class fellows took advantage of these funds and enhanced their field year.

● **Kerri Agee** traveled to Kenya to participate in a 5 day workshop entitled "Economic Development Programming in the Context

of Orphans and Vulnerable Children."

● **Erica Holzaepfel** conducted a field mission to Mali to assist with the mid-term evaluation of a Food For Education program.

● **Emily Wei** undertook a short-term consulting assignment in Ethiopia to provide technical assistance to beneficiaries of an Income Generating Activity program.

● **Carlos Centeno** participated in the "Junior Professional Officer Induction" seminar at the World Food Program headquarters in Rome.

● **Tiffany Imes** enrolled in a 5-week online course, *Participatory Research and*

*Development*, offered by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

● **Amy Margolies** joined a technical mission with

Brazilian government representatives to assist Bolivia in establishing homegrown school feeding programs. ●

The Mickey Leland Fellowship Program is fortunate to have **Joy Wiskin** as an integral member of the team. Joy provides consulting and support for the Leland Fellowship on all program operations and training, and assists with ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities.

In May, Joy received a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University's

Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. In June, she passed the State Department's rigorous Foreign Service written examination, and has recently published two articles based on her Master's degree research: "Genocide in Burma" and "Rape and Gendercide: The Story of All Wars."

Thank you, Joy, and congratulations on your recent accomplishments!

# Congressional Hunger Center Awards Ceremony

Celebrate~Honor~Recognize



From left to right: Susanne Palmieri, USDA Under Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, Rep. John Lewis, Dr. Namanga Ngogji, Marshall Matz, Franck Attère



From left to right: Kate Hangle and Jim Travis of Monsanto, Lloyd Day and Cole Rojewski of Syngenta, and Margaret Zeigler from CHC



CHC Staff

# National Policy Report

By Edward M. Cooney

## Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)

### President Obama

Included \$1 billion in his budget request to Congress for the 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** and Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services **Kevin Concannon** have worked diligently on promoting the President's priorities for this legislation. These priorities include improving the nutritional quality of school meals, expanding nutrition program access to eligible, but not participating children, and giving the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish nutrition standards for foods that "compete" with school meals. These are the foods served in a la carte lines at lunchtime in schools and vending machines.

Anti-hunger advocates see the 2010 CNR as the second significant step by the Obama Administration designed to meet the Administration pledge to end childhood hunger by 2015. The first step was the inclusion of \$20 billion in increased SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly the Food Stamp program) in the stimulus legislation.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair, **Blanche Lambert Lincoln**, has been able to produce a bipartisan bill that does contain several significant improvements in child nutrition programs. The Committee approved giving the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish

nutrition standards for competitive foods, a nationwide expansion of suppers for after school programs through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and major changes in direct certification that will allow the addition of one million children to school meals programs. Under direct certification, children that qualify for one federal program are automatically eligible without further paperwork for school meals. Restrictions on private non-profit sponsors in the Summer Food Program and paperwork burdens in CACFP were removed. However, the Committee bill, (S 3307), only meets half of the President's funding request and replaces the President's recommendations for funding the legislation with controversial offsets (cuts in funding) from other agriculture and nutrition programs.

### Representative

**George Miller**, Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee and

### Representative Todd

**Platts**, Ranking Member on the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Children, have introduced legislation (HR 5504) which builds upon the Senate bill. This House bill is significantly closer to the President's recommendation (\$8 billion) and does contain provisions which expand the School Breakfast, CACFP and Summer Food Programs. However, this legislation does not as yet contain *continued on page 11*

# CHC Alumni Leadership Award

At this year's Congressional Hunger Center Awards Ceremony, held on June 15th, we launched the CHC Alumni Leadership Award. The award has been created to recognize alumni who provide leadership in the implementation of programs and policies that improve food security, reduce poverty and oppression, and promote justice. We also considered how the selected honorees work directly with affected communities and/or seek out local perspectives and who utilize the network of fellows' expertise to enhance their work.

We selected one alumna/alumnus from the National Hunger Fellowship program, and one alumna/alumnus from the International Hunger Fellowship program to receive this award,

## Javier Silva

Javier Silva's commitment to poverty alleviation and social justice is evidenced by his long history of work on economic development that he started as a fellow and has continued in the ten years since graduating from the program. Javier continues to contribute to the fellowship program by serving on the advisory board for eight years, supervising and mentoring fellows, and serving on fellowship selection panels.

Javier was a CHC national hunger fellow in 1999–2000, and worked during his field placement at La Fondita de Jesus in Santurce, Puerto Rico. While at La Fondita de Jesus, he worked as part of a committee to design a pilot individual development account (IDA) that served as a model for Puerto Rico's subsequent IDA programs. During

his policy placement in the Fellowship, Javier worked at the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) in Washington, DC. At CFED, he helped promote asset-building and individual development accounts at national policy forums and the media.

Javier currently is a Community Affairs Analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He analyzes community and economic development issues and also serves as a liaison to the community in the Second District of the Federal Reserve. He works with financial institutions, community-based organizations, and local governments to create and promote financial products and programs focused on financial needs of low and moderate income communities and individuals.

Congratulations to CHC Board Member, **David Beckmann**, who is the 2010 World Food Prize Laureate! Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** made the announcement on June 16th at a special ceremony in Washington, DC. As founder and president of Bread for the World, and as a dedicated member of CHC's board, David has been an effective advocate, seeking justice for hungry people around the world. David shares the World Food Prize, which is the Nobel Prize equivalent for food and agriculture, with **Jo Luck**, president of Heifer International.

a recognition that we plan to continue as an annual tradition. We are proud of all of CHC's Emerson and Leland Fellowship alumni, and we are pleased that we have created a platform to honor their outstanding accomplishments.

Our 2010 CHC Alumni Leadership Awards were given to **Javier Silva** and **Ashley Aakesson**, two individuals who embody the dedication and commitment it takes to end hunger. **Ambassador Tony Hall**, CHC Founder, joined us on June 15th to present the award to Javier who traveled from New York City to be with us. **Representative Sheila Jackson Lee**, CHC Board Member, presented the award to Ashley, who traveled from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## Ashley Aakesson

Ashley Aakesson has been a leader in the area of international development, nutrition and food security and has maintained a commitment to CHC and the international fellowship program for over ten years. She helped design the international fellowship program, conducted a qualitative evaluation of the national fellowship program, and was selected to serve in the first class of international fellows from 2001–2003.

She was placed for her fellowship field year with Save the Children in Ethiopia, and worked as part of a team on an integrated food security, nutrition and health project in rural Ethiopia. Her research included infant and child

feeding practices. During her policy placement in Washington, D.C. with Save the Children, Ashley provided technical assistance to seven food security projects across sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin American/Caribbean region.

Ashley is currently Executive Director of the Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti (CNP). She was in CNP's offices in Leogane, Haiti, during the earthquake on January 12, 2010, that devastated the country. CNP works to provide nutrition, breastfeeding support programs, safe water, and mobile clinic programs in Haiti. Ashley also serves on the CHC Board of Directors. ●

## National Policy Report

*continued from page 10*

offsets that actually fund the legislation. The Education and Labor Committee held a hearing on HR 5504 on Thursday, July 1st and a markup (decision making session) was held on July 15th.

Congress must pass legislation authorizing the continuation of the Summer Food Program, the Special Supplemental Food Program, and other nutrition program

provisions by September 30th or pass a Continuing Resolution authorizing these and other child nutrition programs.

Anti hunger advocates are working with the White House and House and Senate Members and staff to ensure that a robust 2010 CNR is enacted before September 30, 2010. Stay tuned for developments. ●

## Farewell Elizabeth

CHC wishes a fond farewell to **Elizabeth Whelan**, Associate Director of the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program since 2006 and freelance writer and photographer. In the fall, Elizabeth will start as a graduate student in Boston at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. We congratulate you Elizabeth on this next chapter of your life, and we thank you for all you have done for CHC and the Leland Fellows. Your friendly smile, kind words, and dedication



to seeking justice for hungry people around the world inspires us. ●

## Welcome Emily

CHC is excited to welcome **Emily Byers** as the Leland Program Co-Director with a focus on policy and special initiatives. Emily has partnered with CHC for many years, serving as a policy site supervisor to an Emerson Fellow. She has over eight years of policy experience in international trade and agriculture. Before coming to

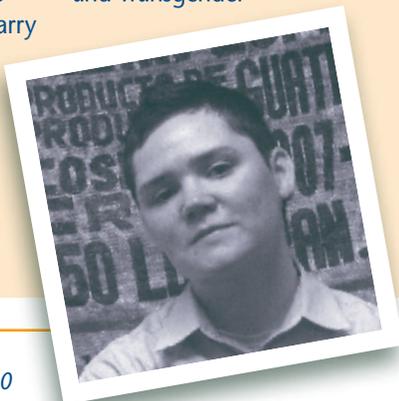
CHC, Emily started the DC office for the Seattle based organization, Initiative for Global Development (IGD), a network of business leaders that champions effective solutions to global poverty. Prior to Emily's position at IGD, she worked at Bread for the World, where she led the organization's policy and legislative advocacy



work on international trade and agriculture. Welcome Emily! ●

We are proud to welcome **Nico Quintana** to CHC as the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship Advisor. Nico was hired in January, 2010, and provides mentoring, support, direction, and technical assistance for the Emerson Fellows as they carry out their work plans. As a former community organizer, Capitol Hill staffer, and 15th class Emerson Fellow, Nico has been actively working to fight poverty, hunger

and institutional oppression on a local and national level. We are also proud to recognize Nico on the recent publication of his report entitled "On The Street, The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender



Homeless Youth." Written after Nico was a Bill Emerson Fellow based at the Center on American Progress (his policy site placement during his fellowship), the report focuses on the unique difficulties faced by gay and transgender homeless youth and the federal government's responsibility in addressing this problem. Welcome to CHC and congratulations, Nico, on this milestone report and your contribution to the national policy dialogue!



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

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

Senator Byron Dorgan  
Member of Congress

Senator Al Franken  
Member of Congress

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Ashley Aakesson  
Executive Director  
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti

Pamela G. Bailey  
President and CEO  
Grocery Manufacturers Association

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  
Feeding America

Brian Folkerts  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Kraft Foods

Lou Gerber  
Communications Workers of America (Retired)

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

Daniel S. Kahn  
U.S. Department of Justice

David Kantor  
President  
Victory Wholesale Group

Alejandra Lopez-Fernandini  
Senior Policy Analyst  
New America Foundation

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Kimberly Perry  
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Mary Catherine Tokar  
Vice President, 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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Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) organization

EMERSON NATIONAL  
HUNGER FELLOW

## Alumni Updates

CLASSES 8-15

JULY 2010

*Here is a quick snapshot of where alumni from the last 8 classes are and what they've been up to in the last couple of years. Note to alumni from Hunger Fellow classes 1-7: we'll include your updates in the next issue of Sustenance. Please email Aileen at [acarr@hungercenter.org](mailto:acarr@hungercenter.org) with any updates you'd like to share, including location, job, education, family, and other news. Thanks!*

## 8TH CLASS

**Liz Aloï** graduated from Columbia's law school, worked on anti-trust issues at the Department of Justice, and now works with Senator Leahy on the Judiciary Committee in D.C.

**Kate Bolz** is now Research and Policy Coordinator on the Low-Income Economic Opportunity Program at Nebraska Applesseed Center for Law in the Public Interest in Lincoln.

**Matt Newell Ching** is a new father to Abraham, and is a regional organizer at Bread for the World based in Portland, OR.

**Brooke Evans** has an MSW and is living in her home state of Hawaii doing crisis social work.

**Sarah Farmer** gave birth to healthy twins last year. She lives in Colorado, works as a project coordinator at a local nonprofit.

**Catherine Giles** recently moved to Boston at Harvard University's Prevention Research Center where she is managing a study on after-school programs and coordinating a cost effectiveness analysis of obesity prevention programs.

**Alma Gonzalez** lives in Long Beach, CA and just completed a MSW from the California State University, Long Beach. She's teaching nutrition to low income families and is

planning to do school counseling with at risk youth.

**Mayuri Guntupalli** is now living and working in Dubai.

**Brit Holmberg** is studying social work and theology in Chicago.

**Alison Leff** got an MBA from University of Michigan and now works on education issues for a consulting firm in New York City.

**Mary Elizabeth May Evans** is the Director of Community and Economic Development at Midtown Partners, a community development corporation in Jackson, Mississippi that will serve as a field placement for a 17th class Emerson Hunger Fellow!

**Darcy O'Brien** is a high school English teacher in Long Beach, California.

**Shephali Patel** is a physician working at a Chicago hospital, and recently returned from Haiti where she was helping with earthquake relief. She is expecting a baby boy in November 2010.

**Stacey Roen** got an MPA last year and is living in New York City.

**William Rosales** is an attorney and recently moved to Los Angeles to work with the National Hispanic Institute.

**Laura Russ** is a PhD candidate at UCLA in Urban Planning and is doing research abroad.

**Kate Sablosky Elengold** is living in D.C. and working as an attorney in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Danielle Witherspoon Kranjec** is married and is a mom to a baby boy.

**Jennifer Woodworth Blackwell** is farming in rural Vermont with her husband and two children, Ida and Angus.

**Shireen Zaman** is living in the D.C. area and gave birth to a son, Zayn, last winter. She recently started as Executive Director at Institute For Social Policy And Understanding.

## 9TH CLASS

**Matthew Achhammer** is living in Baltimore and working as a photographer.

**Sarah Borron** has an MS in nutrition from Tufts University. She recently moved back to the D.C. area and is working at Food and Water Watch.

**Robert Campbell** completed his MPP from UC Berkeley, worked for USDA in CA, and moved back to D.C. with his wife Liz and son Lucas. He is now working as an analyst at the Government Accountability Office.

**Jenna Churchman** is Director of Prosperity Partners, a collaborative economic development project with Community Action Marin in northern California.

**Katelin Isaacs** finished her PhD in Sociology from Duke University and returned to D.C. for a new job with the Congressional Research Service.

**Carrie Johnson** graduated from NYU law school and is a

housing rights attorney in New York City. She is engaged to be married and planning to move to D.C. soon.

**Peter Kim** completed his law degree from University of Pennsylvania and is living in New York City working as an attorney.

**Anna Krieger** got a JD from U.C. Berkeley and works as an attorney in San Francisco.

**Amy Matthews** has worked on urban farming and youth development in Chicago and Cleveland and is now farming in Denali, Alaska.

**Bridget Murphy** is living in Chicago and working with Emerson Program field site Logan Square Neighborhood Association. She recently married and completed a degree in Urban Planning and Policy from University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Molly Neck** completed law school at St. Mary's in 2008 and is working as an attorney at Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison, & Tate, Inc. in San Antonio.

**Maryn Olson** completed her MS in London and now works for the Postville Response Coalition in Iowa on immigrant rights issues and economic justice.

**Saleem Hue Penny** is getting an MSW at the University of Chicago and is interning in Office of the Inspector General at IL Department of Children and Family Services this summer. He is engaged to marry Katie Gunter.

**Hun Quach** married Joel Curtin and lives in D.C. She works for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on international trade.



**Jennifer Rottmann** is living in Portland, ME working at a new job with the Environmental Health Strategy Center and is getting married this summer.

**Eric Steiner** completed his law degree from George Mason University and is working for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. He is engaged to marry Jennifer Walker.

**LaFleur Stephens** is nearly done with her PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

**Ebony Walden** got a Masters in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia and has worked on community development projects in Virginia and New York. She lives in Charlottesville.

**Justin Weinstein-Tull** completed a dual degree in law and public policy from Yale and Harvard, clerked for a federal judge and is now an attorney in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice in D.C.

#### 10TH CLASS

**Heather Axford** graduated from the University of Virginia law school and is now an immigration attorney at Central American Legal Assistance in Brooklyn, New York.

**Patience Butler** is living in D.C. and just started a new job at the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

**Roxy Caines** is an EITC expert at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in D.C. She has completed a nutrition study program at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, and is the Director of Aziza Wholistic Wellness.

**Allegra Cira** graduated from DePaul University Law School and is now an attorney at a child welfare/civil rights legal services organization in Chicago called the Family Defense Center. She is marrying Justin Fischer in September.

**Rachel Clay** is living in the D.C. area working at Microsoft.

**Sean Coffey** earned an MPP from University of North Carolina, married Liz Victoreen, and moved to Oakland, California to do community based economic development.

**Yesenia Garcia** earned a Masters from Tufts University in International Law and Diplomacy and is living in D.C. She recently married Hans Friedhoff.

**Sarah Garrett** got an MBA from Stanford and is working in San Francisco at Low Income Investment Fund, which provides lending for affordable housing, charter schools and community facilities.

**Katherine Gigliotti** graduated from UCLA law school and returned to D.C. to work as an attorney at Latham & Watkins.

**Kim Jones Bailey** is a Senior Health Policy Analyst at Families USA (where she did her Emerson Fellow policy placement). She gave birth to Katherine Joy Bailey on June 2.

**Lori Leibowitz** recently graduated from Georgetown University Law School and received a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship. She will spend the next year working at The Women's Collective in D.C. doing policy and advocacy work with HIV positive women.

**Rachel Lopez** graduated from the University of Texas with a law degree.

**Shana McDavis-Conway** is Co-Director of the Emerson Program at CHC. She married Eva Townsend first on St. Croix 2 years ago, and again in D.C. in March 2010.

**Rajiv Magge** completed his M.D. at University of Pittsburgh and just moved to Boston to start his residency at Harvard University hospitals.

**Amaliya Morgan-Brown** is living in Oregon.

**Bridget Purdue** graduated from law school at Ohio State

and is living in Columbus, Ohio.

**Wick Ruehling** completed his law degree from the University of Kentucky.

**Jeanine Valles** is an attorney at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Elizabeth Whelan** recently left CHC to start a Masters in Applied Nutrition at Tufts University in Boston (where her new housemate will be fellow fellow Rajiv Magge).

**Bob Zager** is a Senior Project Manager at the Center for Social Development in St. Louis.

#### 11TH CLASS

**P.J. Andrews** recently graduated from Harvard University with a masters of education and is planning to move to D.C. this summer.

**Estera Barbarasa** recently graduated with an MPP from Harvard and moved back to D.C. for a new position as an Economic Growth Specialist with RTI International.

**Dennis Barrett** graduated from law school at the University of Virginia.

**Alexis Bylander** graduated with a master's in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University and is now living in Minnesota working with the Statewide Health Improvement Program on chronic disease prevention.

**Shireen Cama** completed her M.D. from Harvard University and after working on rural access to health care in Guatemala, she recently began her residency in San Francisco.

**Alexandra Cawthorne** is working on women's health and poverty issues at the Center for American Progress.

**Phil Colvin** is working at the Universal Services Administrative Company and is a student in an MBA program at Loyola University.

**Will Connors** is a freelance journalist working in Nigeria.

He was recently published in the *Wall Street Journal*.

**Barrett Ebright** is married and works for a community development corporation in Portland, OR.

**Mariestella Fischer-Vélez** lives in D.C. and works as a political appointee in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Erin Hoekstra** is in Manchester, England working at Peace Maker UK, where she developed a new leadership development program.

**Chandra Kring Villanueva** recently accepted a fellowship on state policy from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; she is working in Austin, Texas.

**Katy Mastman** graduated from NYU law school and is working as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Andrea Matsuoka** is attending UCLA law school.

**Lucinda Megill Legendre** is married and working as an elementary school teacher in Philadelphia.

**Dan Murphy** is getting a PhD in Economics and Public Policy at University of Michigan.

**Faith Nyirenda** is living in Seattle and pursuing and MBA at the University of Washington.

**Sarah Osmer** is leaving an Executive Director position at Just Economics, an economic development nonprofit organization in Asheville, NC to attend graduate school in public policy at UNC Chapel Hill.

**David Pedulla** is studying Sociology in a PhD program at Princeton University. He recently returned from a summer research project in Norway and published an article in *The Nation* on workforce challenges in the Great Recession.

**Shawn Powers** completed a master's in international development from the University of Cambridge and an MPA from Princeton and hopes to work in Africa on food security and poverty alleviation.



Alumni living in Los Angeles from the 2nd, 4th, 12th, and 13th classes volunteer at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Together, they packed weekend take-home food for 780 school kids. Special thanks to Azad Oommen for coordinating the field trip! This past year there have been several alumni gatherings in cities all over the country, typically coordinated by CHC staff during field site visits to current fellows. Please don't wait for us to arrive! If you are interested in connecting with other alumni in your area, email Aileen at [acarr@hungercenter.org](mailto:acarr@hungercenter.org).

**Micah Schwartz** got a JD from George Washington University and is an attorney in Washington, D.C. at Latham & Watkins.

**Judith Stermer** is working as communications and public affairs director at the Vermont Food Bank (her Emerson Fellowship field placement).

**Laura Tatum** is living in D.C. and working as a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Labor

**Deanna Wilson** graduated from Yale medical school, spent a year in Honduras on a child malnutrition project, and just started her residency in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins, where she is focusing on urban health.

#### 12TH CLASS

**Brigit Adamus Hatch** is living in Portland, OR with her husband Josh. She is in her 4th year of medical school at the University of Oregon.

**Madina Agénor** is studying public health in a PhD program at Harvard and is interning

with Center for American Progress this summer.

**Kevin Anderson** lives in the D.C. area and works with Friends of the World Food Programme.

**Larisa Bowman** completed her law degree from Stanford University and is clerking for a judge in Massachusetts; she married Chris last summer.

**Cecilia Cárdenas-Navia** is a PhD candidate at Yale University in medical anthropology.

**Dana Conroy** completed her MPP at the University of Michigan and just began a new job with the City of Boston in the Mayor's office.

**Indi Dutta-Gupta** married Shally Venugopal last summer in Bali and India and works on the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee.

**Lauren Forbes** is in law school at American University.

**Natalie Halbach Valpiani** is working on her thesis for a PhD program in Nutrition from Tufts University. She and her

husband James live in North Carolina.

**Aiyeshia Hudson** is a high school teacher with Teach for America in Miami and getting a Masters in Education and Social Change from the University of Miami.

**Shijuade Kadree** recently completed a combined law and public health degree from Emory University.

**Matt King** is married and living in Portland, OR. He works at a past field site as the Statewide Services Director at Oregon Food Bank.

**Joseph Lee** completed an MPH from UNC and is now a Social Research Specialist at University of North Carolina.

**Matthew Lewis** is in a Masters in Urban Planning program at UC Berkeley.

**Roshin Mathew** got a Masters in Library Science from UMD and moved out to Los Angeles last year, where she is working as a librarian and writing a screenplay.

**Beth McCarthy Wikler** is studying health policy in a PhD program at Harvard University.

**Rebekah Miller** is working with the Center for Social Development in St. Louis.

**Brett Murphy** is studying law at Harvard University.

**Miles Patrie** lives in D.C. and works as a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Agriculture working on farm policy.

**David Pope** lives in D.C. and works with the White House Domestic Policy Council.

**Samuel Raskin** is an educator at Mobile Minds in Los Angeles, CA.

**Almas Sayeed** just completed her first year at UCLA law school.

**Amanda Wagner** is working with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission on regional food system planning and studying Urban Planning at University of Pennsylvania.

**Karen Wong** is a Research Associate in the Food Assistance Division at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

#### 13TH CLASS

**Eric Ares** lives in downtown Los Angeles and works as a housing rights organizer.

**Nikita Barai** lives in Indianapolis and just started her third year of medical school at Indiana University.

**David Coffman** is living in New Orleans working with the Second Harvest Food Bank (his field placement as a Fellow).

**Anyu Fang** received a master's degree from the London School of Economic and is now studying law at Stanford University.

**Kaitlin Gravitt** is living in California and working for the Center for Community Change (her former policy site).

**Toni Holness** is in her final year at the University of Pennsylvania where she is working toward a dual degree in law and economics.

**J.P. Howard** graduated from Georgetown Law School in 2010 and is clerking for a Federal District Court Judge in D.C. He and Brandi are engaged to be married.

**Eliberty Jimenez** is getting married in August and starts law school at Rutgers University this fall.

**Jamillah Jordan** completed her masters in urban planning at UCLA last year and has been living in Japan teaching English.

**Amelia Kaye** is working on social entrepreneurship at Ashoka, and is planning to apply to business school.

**Takhani Kromah** completed a master's at the London School of Economics and is working in London with the British Red Cross in the Africa department.

**Megan Lent** is living in New York City working with Cornell University's Cooperative Extension office supporting

nutrition education programs for low-income families.

**Nick Maryns** completed his MPP from Harvard University last year and is working with the State of Minnesota on education and job training with the Governor's Workforce Development Council.

**Sindri McDonald** completed an MPA at Columbia and recently began work as a policy analyst at SEIU's Local 32BJ in New York City.

**Amrit Mehra** lives in D.C. and works as a political appointee at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**Kate Mitchell-Tombras** recently graduated from Georgetown University Law School and is working with the Senate Judiciary Committee. She is married and lives in Alexandria, VA.

**Jimmy Purvis** is studying law at UC Berkeley.

**Sarah Sibley** is living in D.C. and working with the White House Office of Correspondence.

**Shanique Streeet** is pursuing a graduate degree in African Studies at UCLA.

**Srinidhi Vijaykumar** is pursuing an MPP at the University of Chicago and interning in D.C. for the summer at GAO.

**Kathleen Wood** completed her Fulbright program in Honduras and is living and farming in Colorado.

#### 14TH CLASS

**Adrienne Alexander** graduated from University of Minnesota with an MPP and recently started a job in Chicago organizing with AFSCME.

**Lindsey Baker** lives in D.C. and works with Feeding America on a new national child hunger fellowship program.

**Fatima Carson** recently graduated from University of Indiana Bloomington with an MPP and just accepted a

position with an economic development consulting firm in Bloomington.

**Katherine Chen** is living in San Francisco and working with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations. She starts an MPP program at the University of Michigan this fall.

**Cody Fischer** is living in D.C. and working at the Alliance to End Hunger. He is engaged to marry Kate Byrne.

**Gagan Gupta** lives in D.C. and was recently promoted to Senior Legislative Liaison at the Corporation for National and Community Service.

**Amber Herman** recently left the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is now working at Year Up, a northern Virginia job training program.

**Brad Johnson** recently completed a masters in international relations from Princeton and is living in NC consulting on a project with National Council of La Raza (his former policy site).

**David Kane** is Executive Director of Collective Roots, a food systems change organization in Palo Alto, CA. He'll be starting law school at UCLA in the fall.

**Katherine Moos** recently moved to Denver to work as Program Manager at the new statewide anti-hunger organization, Hunger Free Colorado.

**Elizabeth Oquendo** is pursuing a law degree at Temple University and working at Philadelphia Legal Assistance's food stamp clinic. She is interning at FRAC (her former policy placement) for the summer.

**JoEllen Pederson** is living in Tallahassee, FL and pursuing a PhD in sociology at Florida State University.

**Will Perreault** is married and living in D.C. He works as a consultant on international development projects with DAI.

**Isha Plynton** just completed her first year of law school at American University.

**Bianca Pullen** is living in Boston working with Boston Medical Center on children's health issues as she prepares for medical school.

**David Tian** just completed his second year of medical school at Harvard University.

**Alexander Villaverde** recently left CFED and moved back to his hometown of New York City.

**Rachel Winch** is living in Arizona and working with Border Links.

**Corey Yarbrough** is living in Boston and working as a Program Manager at Let's Get Ready, a college readiness program for low-income youth. He is also the co-Founder of Hispanic Black Gay Coalition.

#### 15TH CLASS

**Benjamin Bowman** is working on an organic farm near St. Louis.

**Veronica Conti** is finishing her VISTA placement in Seattle and beginning an MPH at the University of North Carolina in the fall.

**Sarah Custer** is living in New Haven, CT finishing up her year as a VISTA volunteer. She is hoping to move back to D.C. later this summer.

**Eric Hoffman** is managing a policy campaign on genetic engineering for Friends of the Earth in D.C.

**Mickey Hubbard** is staying on in Jordan after completing his Rotary Scholarship program.

**Eileen Hyde** is living in D.C. working as a program specialist at Feeding America, focusing on senior hunger and child nutrition programs.

**Sofya Leonova** is living in D.C. and working as a staff assistant for U.S. Congressman Dan Lipinski.

**Kelly Meredith** got married in Hawaii, moved to Austin, TX, and is working as the SNAP Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Capital Area Food Bank of Austin.

**Nikki Mosuro** lives in the D.C. area and works as Program Associate for Jubilee Housing's Youth Services.

**Raquel Oriol** is working in her field site city of Tucson, AZ as a Nutrition and Physical Educator at the United Way.

**Nico Quintana** is the Fellowship Advisor for the Emerson Program at CHC and recently published a report on federal response to gay and transgender homeless youth.

**Michael Richardson** is supporting Bonner scholars around the country with the Bonner Foundation in New Jersey.

**Cristina Sepe** lives in Seattle where she is a research coordinator with the Center on Reinventing Public Education.

**Collin Siu** recently left his job with U.S. Rep. Al Green to begin his graduate studies in public policy at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School.

**Mark Stovell** moved to New York City to work as a research assistant at the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

**Christine Tran** is starting her second year as an Illinois Early Childhood Fellow at the Latino Policy Forum in Chicago.

**Stephany Whitaker** recently began graduate studies in public health at Eastern Kentucky University and works with at-risk youth from Appalachia in an Upward Bound program.

**Ayanna Williams** is living in Morocco working as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

**Renita Woolford** recently completed her first year in medical school at the University of Ohio.