Celebrating Leaders at CHC’s 5th Annual Congressional Awards Ceremony!

On Tuesday, April 12, CHC held our 5th Annual Congressional 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 Representative Betty McCollum and Senator Jerry Moran, leaders known for their bi-partisan approach to hunger and agriculture issues. Senator Moran and Representative McCollum were chosen to receive Bill Emerson & Mickey Leland Hunger Leadership Awards for their work on the House and Senate Hunger Caucuses, and for supporting domestic and international food security programs during a challenging budget environment.

At the celebration we also recognized our outstanding alumni leaders by presenting a former national and international fellow with the CHC Alumni Leadership Awards. This year, Tammy Palmer and Rich Stolz received the CHC Alumni Leadership Awards in recognition of their ongoing work to promote food security around the world and in the United States. 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 are vital partners with CHC in our work to “train and inspire leaders who work to end hunger, and to advocate public policies that create a food secure world.”

Congratulations to our Congressional and Fellowship Alumni Honorees!


From left to right: CHC Alumni Honoree Rich Stolz and Ambassador Tony Hall


From left to right: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, CHC Alumni Honoree Tammy Palmer, and USAID Administrator Raj Shah
**Underwriter ($50,000)**

Walmart

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**Partner ($30,000)**

General Mills Foundation

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**Harvester ($25,000)**

- Cargill, Inc.
- Kraft Foods
- Land O’Lakes Foundation, Land O’Lakes, Inc.

**Sower ($10,000)**

- Archer Daniels Midland
- Council for Biotechnology Information
- General Motors
- Mars, Inc.

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**Plower ($5,000)**

- AARP
- American Beverage Association
- Grocery Manufacturers Association
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Non-Profit and Individual Sponsor ($1,000)**

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- C&S Wholesale Grocers
- Food Marketing Institute

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**Friends of the Center ($2,500)**

- International Dairy Foods Association
- Nestle USA
- Pioneer Hi-Bred International
- Share Our Strength
- Snack Food Association
- Victory Wholesale Group
- WFP USA
- Winston and Strawn, LLP

**In-Kind Donations**

- Global Child Nutrition Foundation/School Nutrition Association
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- North American Millers Association
- Students Team Up to Fight Hunger (STUFH)

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- Monsanto Company
- PepsiCo
- Sodexo

**Sower ($10,000)**

- Archer Daniels Midland
- Council for Biotechnology Information
- General Motors
- Mars, Inc.

**Non-Profit and Individual Sponsor ($1,000)**

- 3M
- Alliance to End Hunger

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Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) and our Emerson/Leland Hunger Fellowships are not immune from the raging battle in Congress over reducing the national debt while maintaining core services for those in need. In the final Continuing Resolution (CR) bill for the 2011 fiscal year, our program funding in March was declared “an earmark” and our funding was removed from the bill. We are grateful to former USDA Food and Nutrition Services Administrator, Julie Paradis, and her staff who provided us with partial grant funds to enable the programs to continue.

With funds generated at our 5th Annual CHC Congressional Awards Ceremony and a generous grant from the ConAgra Foods Foundation, we will now be able to operate an 18th class of Emerson Fellows and the first year of our 6th class of Leland Fellows. We will need to raise $3 million for future classes of fellows and we are launching a major fundraising initiative in 2011–2012.

In an unusual but welcome turn of events in June, the same committee in the House of Representatives that removed our funding in March actually restored the amount of $1.5 million for the Emerson/Leland Fellowships without a designation as an earmark in the House-passed version of the 2012 Agriculture Appropriation bill. The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee provided $2 million for the Emerson/Leland Fellowships in early September. On November 18, President Obama signed the final Agriculture Appropriations bill into law. This bill provides the Senate level of $2 million in funding for the Emerson/Leland Fellowships, leaving us with a shortfall of $1 million.

We will need the help of all our supporters in Congress, corporations, foundations, and alumni to ensure the Emerson and Leland Fellowships continue!

In April I participated in the Jewish Council of Public Affairs Hunger Seder, “Let all Who Are Hungry Come and Eat.” The Hunger Seder took place at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, and was a moving experience to raise awareness about hunger and poverty. In April I also joined the Leland program staff and

Hunger Partnership meeting in Boston in May. The Hunger Partnership goal is to link legislators, private sector companies and national anti-hunger organizations as they identify innovative solutions to reduce hunger in America. In August, I was a presenter at an NCSL Partnership session at their annual meeting.

From left to right: Victoria Barnes, with General Motors, Rick Leach of WFP USA, and Katharine Emerson with Monsanto enjoy the CHC Awards Ceremony

In San Antonio, Texas in August. This event draws 7000 state legislators.

In June, Kim Perry, a CHC board member, invited me to be a participant at the Clinton Global Initiative America Forum in Chicago. The America Forum focused on job creation, and I shared with the attendees how the Emerson Fellowship program could be a model for creating jobs through scaling up service corps programs.

Finally, congratulations to the 17th class of Emerson Fellows and the 5th class of Leland Fellows who graduated from the fellowship programs this summer. Your work to end hunger inspires us and we wish you every success!
The 17th class completed their policy site placements in late July. Fellows provided policy research, analysis, writing, communications, and educational projects for 19 national policy organizations working to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. Their projects covered a range of issues, including

- Improving access to federal nutrition programs: SNAP, CACFP, WIC, Summer Food.
- Early childhood programs: Head Start and improving nutrition in child care settings.
- Anti-Poverty policy: social security, state poverty commissions, wealth disparity, feminization of poverty, immigration
- Agriculture: urban agriculture, CSAs, Let’s Move! Campaign
- Housing policy: gentrification, community development and racial justice
- Health care policy: Medicaid and CHIP, implementation of the new Affordable Care Act in Latino communities
- Homelessness: hate crimes, criminalization policies, impact of foreclosure on tenants
- Connections between poverty and the criminal justice system, with a focus on public defender services

Thanks to the wonderful, courageous 17th class of Emerson Fellows for their excellent work and firm commitment to ending hunger in the U.S. CHC wishes them all the very best of luck as they transition to post-fellowship life. We look forward to continuing to work together as they join the ranks of our terrific alumni community of leaders.

Alumni Leadership Spotlight: Corey Yarbrough

Emerson Program alumnus Corey Yarbrough moved to Boston after completing the fellowship in 2008. He found limited support for LGBTQ people of color there, and decided to establish an organization dedicated to serving and uniting the Black, Hispanic and Latino LGBTQ community. While working as an educator full-time, he and a co-founder established the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) to “inspire and empower Hispanic, Latino and Black LGBTQ individuals to improve their livelihood through activism, education, community outreach, and counseling.” HBGC offers support for coming out and spiritual growth, HIV/STI prevention and counseling, community service, networking and community building, and health and fitness activities. After gaining 501(c)3 status and developing a board and programs, Corey’s organizing and fundraising success recently allowed him to begin a paid full time position as Executive Director of HBGC.

Reflecting on how his experience the Emerson Program contributed to his recent accomplishments, Corey said: “The Emerson fellowship equipped me with the skills and experience necessary to successfully launch my own non-profit. Many of the research methods and community organizing skills I used to establish HBGC were introduced to me during the fellowship. The fellowship also gave me the confidence of knowing my experiences have value and I can use those experiences for positive change.”

14th class Emerson Alumnus Corey Yarbrough, Executive Director of Hispanic Black Gay Coalition in Boston.
After reviewing nearly 350 applications and conducting nearly 100 interviews, the Emerson Program is proud to introduce our 18th class of Hunger Fellows!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emerson Fellow</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Field Site</th>
<th>Field Site Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Baggé</td>
<td>Wheaton College</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Arizona Community Action Association</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tavia Benjamin</td>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
<td>Detroit Black Community Food Security Network</td>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
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<td>Josh Blair</td>
<td>Centre College</td>
<td>Berea, KY</td>
<td>Northwest Harvest</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Burket</td>
<td>Kenyon College</td>
<td>Potomac, MD</td>
<td>Detroit Food Policy Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Callahan</td>
<td>Syracuse University</td>
<td>Willimantic, CT</td>
<td>City Harvest</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Chung</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>Apple Valley, MN</td>
<td>Hunger Task Force</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiara Crawley</td>
<td>Bowie State University</td>
<td>White Plains, MD</td>
<td>Bread for the City</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>Ariana de Leña</td>
<td>University of California at Berkeley</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>Growing Power</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Thomas Furstenberg-Carroll</td>
<td>Northeastern University</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>City Harvest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodora Gibbs-Plessl</td>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>Hunger Task Force</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<td>Sabrina Hamm</td>
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<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Sacramento Housing Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angelynn Hermes</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>Midtown Partners</td>
<td>Jackson, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Hodges</td>
<td>Wesleyan College</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>Sacramento Housing Alliance</td>
<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvir Kaur</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>Hasbrouck Heights, NJ</td>
<td>Midtown Partners</td>
<td>Jackson, MS</td>
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<td>Montae Langston</td>
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<td>Fairfield, CA</td>
<td>Children’s Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiram Lopez</td>
<td>University of California at Santa Barbara</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>La Casa Norte</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Martinez</td>
<td>Tufts University</td>
<td>Evanston, IL</td>
<td>Association of Arizona Food Banks</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<td>Jasmine Mickens</td>
<td>Denison University</td>
<td>Newark, NJ</td>
<td>D.C. Hunger Solutions</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>John Pevy</td>
<td>Rhodes College</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td>Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleta Sprague</td>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>Warrenton, VA</td>
<td>Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
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The 18th Class of Bill Emerson Fellows at the U.S. Capitol during training
Update on the 2012 Farm Bill

Jerry Hagstrom, an eminent agriculture reporter in DC, noted at the 2010 fall meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures that the most important nutrition policy issues in the 2012 Farm Bill would be potential cuts in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) and preserving food choice in SNAP. Jerry was correct on both accounts.

The House of Representatives has passed a budget resolution calling for a block grant in SNAP. This proposal would cut $127 billion in SNAP program benefits over the next 10 years. The Food Research Action Center (FRAC) has delivered a letter with 2600 local, state and national groups stating how a block grant for SNAP would be detrimental to the nutrition and health status of SNAP participants. The House block grant proposal has not been advanced in the Senate, but remains on the table for future Farm Bill negotiations.

In the 2008 Farm Bill and in the health care reform debate, legislative amendments surfaced suggesting that the Secretary of Agriculture develop a list of nationally approved “good foods” and “bad foods.” The 44 million SNAP recipients would be denied the ability at the grocery store to choose any food items from the “bad food” list. CHC has joined a public/private coalition of anti-hunger groups and major food companies in opposing restrictions on foods that SNAP participants can choose when shopping for groceries for their families. Our coalition believes that if SNAP benefits were adequate, participants would be able to afford to purchase healthy foods. Low income SNAP participants should not be singled out and stigmatized in grocery stores because they have insufficient financial resources to purchase healthier, but higher cost items. Increased SNAP benefits as contained in President Obama’s America Recovery and Reinvestment legislation (an $80 increase in month household benefits) now allows SNAP participants to purchase healthier foods. The coalition opposes all efforts to limit food choice for SNAP participants including the NY request for a waiver restricting the purchase of sweetened beverages in SNAP.

National School Lunch Program Regulations

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 raised school lunch reimbursements by six cents. This was the first such increase since 1973. This legislation was a response to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report which called for a revised school lunch meal pattern that included more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low fat dairy products. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and First Lady Michelle Obama, (who has launched the Let’s Move! Campaign), view healthy school meals as a key component in reducing childhood obesity. USDA issued a proposed rule in January and received 130,000 comments by the April 13th deadline.

There is widespread support for the goal of the proposed rule, but there is also concern in some parts of the school food service community that a six cent increase is insufficient to provide the full variety of foods that would be required by the rule. There is also concern that new restrictions on sodium intake may affect how food tastes to children and therefore pose a barrier to increasing the consumption of healthier meals.

USDA believes that its goal of improving the nutritional quality of school meals can be achieved and is willing to work with schools and nutrition advocacy groups to address their concerns with the proposed rule. CHC has endorsed FRAC’s comments which highlight the need to make the rule more flexible by allowing children to choose the fruits and vegetables that they want. CHC and FRAC are also concerned about the cost impact of the proposed rule on school breakfast. The increased cost of the improved meal pattern (which we support) grows from 37 cents to 51 cents when fully implemented. However, no additional funds are provided by the legislation for this new, improved meal pattern. This could lead schools with large populations of low income children to drop out of the program.

Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriation Bill

The annual Agriculture Appropriations bill provides funding for many of the nutrition and anti-hunger programs that CHC and other allied organizations support. It also provides funding for CHC’s Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowship programs, through the USDA. The House passed its version of the bill on June 16, 2011. This legislation contained substantial cuts to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSF), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), and made substantial cuts to international food aid programs such as Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole Global Food for Education Program. The bill does contain $1.5 million for the Emerson/Leland Fellowship Programs, but this represents a 50 percent reduction from the annual $3 million appropriation required

continued on page 11
Leland Fellows Use Small Grants to Make Big Impacts

In 2007, CHC’s Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship Program awarded its first small grant, on the recommendation of Leland Fellow Damiana Astudillo, who was based in Bolivia for her fellowship. The grant provided funds for a quinoa processing machine for Bolivian farmers. This innovative processing machine decreased processing time from six hours to eight minutes, allowing communities to more easily consume the nutritious grain and help reduce the labor burden on women. The Small Grants Initiative of the Leland Hunger Fellowship program provides an opportunity for a select number of fellows to identify and support communities and local partner organizations through capacity building, technical assistance, and material support.

Several fellows in the 5th class of Leland Fellows have continued this tradition, taking advantage of the opportunity to make a positive impact with limited funds. The summaries below reflect their pragmatic and innovative approach to resolving food security and health challenges. Congratulations Lindsay Dozoretz, Gabriela Prudencia and Tiffany Imes – we commend you for your initiative and ingenuity!

- **Lindsay Dozoretz** introduced a low-cost, low-tech water storage tank to a village in rural South Africa. Ferro-cement is an appropriate building technique that makes efficient use of low-cost materials to construct durable, long-lasting, hygienic water tanks. The finished tanks allow rural communities to maintain a consistent and reliable water source in times of water shortage or drought, and contribute to the overall food and nutrition security of the community. The seven day training walks participants through the building process step-by-step, providing the opportunity for communities in similar circumstances to learn the valuable and easily transferable skill of ferro-cement water tank construction.

- Indonesia’s growing population and poor infrastructure makes solid waste management a critical issue for food security as it threatens livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. In Jakarta alone, the population produces six tons of solid waste per day of which approximately half remains uncollected, ending up in rivers and canals that eventually makes its way to the ocean. Gabriela Prudencio focused her efforts on Tidung Island, a once popular tourist destination now facing water contamination, high disease prevalence, and a steep decline in fish production. Gabriela used a multi-dimensional approach, partnering with local government and civil society groups to ensure long-term sustainability.

  Specific activities included: trash pick-up and garbage separation; reduce-reuse-recycle campaigns; garbage can procurement and placement; media campaigns announcing locations of garbage cans and discouraging littering; and the development of a website (www.sahabatseribupulau.com). The ultimate goal of this project is to create a healthy environment for members of the community.

- At her placement with USDA, Tiffany Imes conducted research on the management and control of aflatoxins, cancer causing metabolites that can lead to death in humans and animals. Aflatoxins produce fungi that grow on major agricultural crops, resulting in huge losses of productivity, thereby negatively impacting food availability, access, and utilization among local populations. High aflatoxin levels in export crops are strictly regulated, leading to further economic and nutritional losses. With her small grant award, Tiffany conducted field research in Senegal which gave her insight into the challenges faced by developing countries to control and manage the spread of aflatoxins. Senegal was an obvious choice for Tiffany for a number of reasons. As a major peanut producing country, Senegal is one of the aflatoxin hotspots of sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, Senegal is one of the targeted countries for the Obama Administration’s Feed the Future Initiative, and the Leland Fellows’ Country Policy Study took place in Senegal in April, making it practical and convenient to extend a week to conduct the study. Tiffany’s activities included documenting the impact of a pilot project using a biological control agent against aflatoxin, inspecting local storage and processing practices, and leading focus groups and interviews with farmers, scientists, and government officials. Tiffany also had the honor of meeting with the First Lady of Senegal, Vivianne Wade, who actively promotes the control of aflatoxin in the country. A best practices manual and a case study are two of the products Tiffany is developing which will be useful tools for future research. Additionally, a report on the applied research conducted at the institutional level will help shape future policy of aflatoxin management.
The incoming 6th Class (2011–2013) of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows joined us in Washington, DC in July for their pre-field training and are now beginning work in their respective field placements. We know they will make significant contributions to improving food security throughout Africa, Asia and Central America/Caribbean in the coming year!

6th Class of Leland Fellows (2011–2013)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Field Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giselle Aris</td>
<td>University of Oxford (UK)</td>
<td>Land O’Lakes</td>
<td>Arusha, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quinn Bernier</td>
<td>American University</td>
<td>World Agroforestry Center/International Food Policy Research Institute</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Hadekel</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Concern Worldwide</td>
<td>Lusaka, Zambia</td>
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<td>Shanti Kleiman</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
<td>Jijiga, Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Jacob Johnson</td>
<td>Universidad del Salvador (Argentina)</td>
<td>Action Aid</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>Lucy Myles</td>
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<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<td>Laura Ostenso</td>
<td>University of Sussex (UK)</td>
<td>World Cocoa Foundation</td>
<td>Accra, Ghana</td>
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<td>Alissa Pries</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Helen Keller International</td>
<td>Phnom Penh, Cambodia &amp; Maputo, Mozambique</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Savane</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Oxfam America</td>
<td>Dakar, Senegal</td>
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<td>Matt Styslinger</td>
<td>SIT Graduate Institute</td>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia and Dili, Timor-Leste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindsey Horton</td>
<td>Washington University in St. Louis</td>
<td>World Food Program</td>
<td>Phnom Penh, Cambodia</td>
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<td>Amy Ostrander</td>
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<td>Save the Children</td>
<td>Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Luis Cabrera</td>
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<td>Maryse Holly</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Meds and Food for Kids</td>
<td>Cap-Haitien, Haiti</td>
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<td>Rachelle Olden</td>
<td>The College of Charleston</td>
<td>World Vision International</td>
<td>San Salvador, El Salvador</td>
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Leland Alumnus Supports South Sudan


In January, 2011, the people of South Sudan voted to pass a referendum seceding from the north, to become an independent country in July 2011. In February, 2011, I arrived in country to an atmosphere punctuated with excitement and high expectations. Even the sign at Juba Airport welcomes visitors to “Africa’s newest country.”

On my first day as the new Planning and Program Development Specialist at the Technical Secretariat of the Sudan Recovery Fund, I carried, and still do, the same level of excitement and expectation – to come in and deliver alongside the people of South Sudan.

The Sudan Recovery Fund is a UN-administered multi-donor trust fund intended to build the capacity of state institutions and empower communities affected by conflict and poverty. The Fund contributes to strengthening the capacities of state institutions, in particular through its stabilization programs. The Fund has approved programs totaling US$111.8 million to a wide array of implementing partners including international and national non-government organizations (I/NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and national NGOs during three rounds of program funding. In my current role, I am working in some of the most food insecure counties in the world here in South Sudan, programming post-conflict recovery assistance, and mobilizing additional resources. I also assist in the design of national development plans, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for South Sudan for the transitional period, post independence.

The training and support I received as a Mickey Leland Fellow with CHC has directly contributed to my success as a former member of the U.S. Diplomatic Service, and currently as an international civil servant with the United Nations. The Leland Fellowship directly sensitized me to the issues around hunger, and broadened my knowledge of available tools and mechanisms in the international community to promote sustainable development and food security. Without such training and support, my ability to make an impact in South Sudan as part of the Secretariat of the Sudan Recovery Fund would not be as effective. The friends and colleagues I have met throughout my tenure as a Leland Fellow continue to be valuable contacts today as I perform my duties as an advocate for the poor around the world.

International Policy Report

By Margaret Zeigler, Deputy Director

Famine in the Horn of Africa

Each year in early August, I reflect on the life of former Representative Mickey Leland, a true leader in the U.S. Congress, who led a bi-partisan fight against global hunger and famine in the 1980’s. Mickey worked on these issues until his tragic death in a plane crash on August 7, 1989, while traveling on a famine mission in Ethiopia. Using his special platform as the Chair of the House Select Committee on Hunger in the House of Representatives, Mickey held hearings, made trips to famine affected areas, and leveraged his strong personal friendships with Republican Members of Congress, such as former Representative Bill Emerson, to get things done on behalf of the hungry and poor.

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Now in 2011, it seems like ‘déjà vu all over again.’ Famine in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, portions of Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya) was officially declared by the United Nations on Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Over 11 million people, primarily women, young children, and the elderly, are at high risk of death or severe malnutrition between August and December, 2011. The front page news images are horrific and heartbreaking. Faced again with a famine in this drought-prone and conflict-ridden region, I reflect back upon Mickey Leland and his life, and ask myself, “What would Mickey do?”

Mickey was first and foremost a man of action. He never tired of meeting directly with those impacted by hunger and famine in the most difficult to reach places like Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia. He talked with mothers as they held their dying children, walked through refugee camps with UN and humanitarian aid agency staff, and negotiated with political and military leaders in developing countries to urge them to do the right thing and provide vulnerable people with food and lifesaving assistance.

Mickey also brought his direct experience back to his District in Houston, Texas, and to the Halls of Congress, where he pursued every opportunity to mobilize attention and resources for the hungry. He reached out across party lines and across Congressional Committee boundaries to pull together the House Select Committee on Hunger. Mickey cultivated friendships across the aisle to build consensus around the vision that the U.S. should be a global leader in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Today in Congress, there are still bi-partisan leaders working together to fight hunger and promote global food security. But the current noise about the debt ceiling debate and U.S. deficit threatens to drown out their voices. The House recently passed an Agriculture Appropriations bill and a Foreign Operations bill that dramatically cut U.S. emergency food assistance programs and the long-term agriculture development and nutrition programs that would help mitigate these food crises. The Food for Peace Program, the U.S. emergency assistance lifeline, was cut by 31 percent, and the Feed the Future Program, which is currently operating in the most difficult to reach places.”

Congress plays a key role in the U.S. government fight against hunger by appropriating the funds for the McGovern–Dole Food for Education Program. Together, these programs account for less than one half of one percent of the entire U.S. budget. In a House Floor Speech on July 28, Representative Jim McGovern powerfully argued “With the worst drought in 60 years hitting the Horn of Africa, these cuts amount to the U.S. turning its back on its own strategic interests and walking away from our international commitments. Instead, we need to increase our emergency response to the current crisis, ensure we have the resources to invest in long-term development, and continue our global leadership in ending hunger and famine once and for all.”

Like Mickey Leland, we can take action in our own way. We can learn more about these programs by visiting their respective websites, and support them by advocating for full funding. We can become engaged with humanitarian aid agencies that are currently operating in the Horn of Africa, and we can urge our Members of Congress to work together across party lines to not abandon our global leadership mantle in the fight to end hunger.

**Websites:**
- Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) www.fews.net
- Feed the Future www.feedthefuture.gov
- Food for Peace www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/
- InterAction www.interaction.org
At this year’s CHC Awards Ceremony we recognized two former fellows with the CHC Alumni Leadership Awards. The awards are given to alumni from the National and International Hunger Fellows programs for their continuing work in improving food security, reducing poverty and promoting social and economic justice. Both programs are structured to give fellows the skills and expertise necessary to become anti-hunger and social justice leaders. After graduating more than 400 fellows over the past 17 years, there is a large pool of alumni who not only are dedicated to making a positive impact on the world, but are emerging as leaders in the fight to end hunger.

2011 CHC Alumni Leadership Award Recipients
This year we selected Rich Stolz, a member of the 3rd class of National Fellows, and Tammy Palmer, from the 1st class of International Fellows, to receive the Alumni Leadership Awards. They embody the dedication and commitment it takes to end hunger and achieve social and economic justice.

Richard H. Stolz
After his fellowship with CHC, Rich Stolz was hired by his policy placement site, Center for Community Change, and worked there from 1997–2008. He then worked as Campaign Manager at Reform Immigration FOR America from 2008–2010, but then returned to Center for Community Change.

Rich’s commitment to economic and social justice in the United States is evident in his hard work and dedication in both community organizing and policy development. He worked for creation and passage of immigration reform and continues to work directly with communities to seek local perspectives to maximize the impact of policies, programs, and advocacy. Rich has created, organized and managed a number of networks, programs, and non-profit organizations, successfully enacted major anti-poverty legislation, organized and expanded the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, and facilitated some of the largest rallies and mobilizations in American history.

Throughout the past 15 years, Rich has achieved more than many achieve in a lifetime. However, he is a modest leader who has been described by a colleague as “a humble servant of the downtrodden.”

Tammy L. Palmer
Over the past 12 years, Tammy has become an expert in the areas of agribusiness, rural finance, microfinance and food security, emerging as a leader in the arena of international development. During her fellowship, Tammy was placed with USAID in Uganda and Washington, DC, which served as a foundation for her eventual career as a Foreign Service Officer with USAID. After her fellowship Tammy has held the following positions – East Africa Regional Coordinator for the Global Education Partnership; Project Director of the Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture (GINA) Project for USAID; and Deputy Director of USAID/Peru’s Alternative Development Office where she managed its flagship activity, the $84 million Integrated Development Program. The project in Peru promotes alternative livelihoods for farmers in Perú’s former coca-growing regions, transforming the economies and lives of farmers there.

Throughout her career, Tammy has managed projects in over seven countries: Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Afghanistan and Peru. In April, 2011, Tammy joined USAID/Liberia where she manages its civil service reform program. She is working with Liberia’s key economic ministries, such as the Ministry of Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Mines.

The CHC Alumni Award is not Tammy’s first award. She has received the USAID Agency-wide Meritorious Award in recognition of her senior leadership capabilities and devotion to public service in the U.S. Government.

Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriation Bill
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to train leaders to end hunger throughout the U.S., Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Senate has passed an Agriculture Appropriations bill that restored a number of the House-passed cuts to Food for Peace, McGovern-Dole Global Food for Education, and to domestic programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). The final bill was signed into law on November 18 by President Obama, and restored funding close to the Senate levels for most of these vital programs. Visit www.frac.org for detailed information on the final bill funding levels.
Visit us on the Web!

CHC is pleased to announce an exciting redesign of our website. The new site includes a map of CHC’s domestic and global partners, a publications library, highlights of CHC’s advocacy and policy work, and lots of great information about Hunger Fellows and the Fellowship Programs.

Farewell Kyle and Lauren

CHC sends a fond farewell to Kyle Beach and Lauren Flax, two of our employees who have made vital contributions through the past several years to our work and our mission. In June, Kyle moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where he is growing his professional photography business: www.kylegraybeach.com. Kyle managed our database with precision and skill, kept CHC’s technology operations in top-notch order, and brought a great sense of humor to the office. Lauren also departed in June to attend graduate school at the University of Denver, where she is studying to receive a dual Master’s degree in Social Work and Public Policy. Lauren coordinated the publication of Sustenance and our annual reports, and worked hard to make our annual CHC Congressional Awards Ceremonies highly successful events. The CHC staff and fellows miss you already, and we wish you great success in your future endeavors. Thank you both, and you will always be part of our extended CHC family!

CHILD Update

The Child Hunger Initiative on Learning and Development project helps fund the field and policy placements of CHC’s Emerson Fellow. One Fellow was placed with the National Conference of State Legislatures working with corporate and nonprofit partners to raise the visibility of hunger and offer innovative solutions to state legislators for ending hunger. A second Fellow was placed with the Food Research and Action Center. This Fellow researched existing state wellness policies for the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Funding from this grant has also made it possible for CHC to develop a communication strategy for promoting the impact of Emerson Hunger Fellows (including our new website) and CHC federal policy work. Policy papers for the CHILD project are now available on CHC’s website (www.hungercenter.org): “How is the Federal Government Organized with Respect to Influencing Child Hunger” and “The Role that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regulatory Process Plays in Reducing Childhood Hunger and Improving Nutrition and How You Can Participate.” The CHILD project is funded by the ConAgra Foods Foundation.

Lauren Flax

Kyle Beach