



# Sustenance

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The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

## 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: Emerson Fellow Stefani Cox, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, CHC Leadership Award Honoree Senator Jerry Moran, Rep. James P. McGovern, and Leland Fellow Kerri Agee.



From left to right: Leland Fellow Emily Wei, CHC Leadership Award Honoree Rep. Betty McCollum, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Rep. James P. McGovern, and Emerson Fellow Kate Taylor



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



*CHC would like to thank all of our contributors who made the 5th Annual CHC Congressional Awards Ceremony possible!*

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Tres Bailey, Director of Federal Government Relations for Walmart, welcomes attendees to the CHC Awards Ceremony.



From left to right: Senator Al Franken, Greg Page, CEO and President, Cargill, and Dr. Eileen Kennedy, Professor at the Friedman School, Tufts University



Above: CHC board member Lou Gerber (l) and Under Secretary of the USDA, Kevin Concannon (r) join Emerson Fellows at the Awards Ceremony



Right: Audrey Rowe, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA

# 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



CHC Staff at the 5th Annual CHC Congressional Awards Ceremony

Leland fellows during their Country Policy Study in Senegal, where we learned more about the Obama Administration’s *Feed the Future* Initiative.

In May, I had the pleasure of giving the commencement address for the graduating students of Tuft’s Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. CHC has a close working relationship with the Friedman School, since we refer Emerson fellows there for graduate degrees, and recruit from and select graduates of the Friedman School to join our Leland fellowship program. I also participated in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Foundation public/private

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! ●



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and USAID Administrator Raj Shah



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

# Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

## Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program 17th Class Policy Work

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. ●



17th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows at their Commencement celebration

## Alumni Leadership Spotlight: Corey Yarbrough

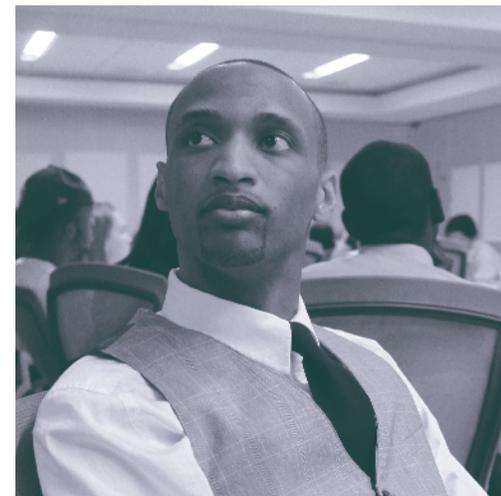
Emerson Program alumnus **Corey Yarbrough** moved to Boston after completing the fellowship in 2008. He found limited support for LGBTQ people of color there, and decided to establish an organization dedicated to serving and uniting the Black, Hispanic and Latino LGBTQ community. While working as an 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.

# Emerson National Hunger Fellows 18th Class, 2011–2012

After reviewing nearly 350 applications and conducting nearly 100 interviews, the Emerson Program is proud to introduce our 18th class of Hunger Fellows!

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



The 18th Class of Bill Emerson Fellows at the U.S. Capitol during training

# National Policy Report

By Edward M. Cooney

## 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 International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

## 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



From left to right: First Lady of Senegal, Vivianne Wade, meets in Dakar with Tiffany Imes

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 Prudencia** 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](http://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 6th Class of Leland Fellows Begin Field Work

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! ●



The 6th Class of Mickey Leland Fellows

## 6th Class of Leland Fellows (2011–2013)

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

# Leland Alumnus Supports South Sudan

By Michael Hakeem D. Johnson, Leland Alumnus, 1st Class, 2001–2003, Planning and Program Development Specialist, Technical Secretariat – Sudan Recovery Funds, c/o UNDP, South Sudan, Juba, South Sudan, [www.mdtf.undp.org](http://www.mdtf.undp.org)

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.



Michael Hakeem D. Johnson in Juba, South Sudan

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. *continued on page 10*



Mary LaVior

From left to right: Former Representatives Leland and Emerson at the House Select Committee on Hunger hearing

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



Photos from the Dadaab Refugee Camp, on the border of Kenya and Somalia. These Somali refugees survived a dangerous trek to Kenya from their drought and war affected villages and are now living in the world's largest refugee camp. Courtesy of Rick McNary, Numana Inc.

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, the Obama Administration's long-term agriculture and nutrition program, was provided with no resources in the House bill.

While the U.S. indeed faces budget challenges, it is critical that we maintain our global leadership by investing in nutrition, agriculture, and health programs. Our leadership mobilizes other donor nation commitments, United Nations action, and

encourages new partners such as private sector corporations and foundations to join in the effort. The U.S. must find a way to maintain our commitment to fighting hunger and famine, even in a difficult budget environment. Building a well-fed, peaceful world is in the moral and security interests of the U.S. and many other nations.

Congress plays a key role in the U.S. government fight against hunger by appropriating the funds for programs such as Food for Peace, Feed the Future, and 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](http://www.fews.net)
- Feed the Future [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov)
- Food for Peace [www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/ffp/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/)
- McGovern-Dole Global Food for Education Program [www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/foodaid/ffe/ffe.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/foodaid/ffe/ffe.asp)
- InterAction [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org)

# CHC Alumni Leadership Award

By Lauren Flax

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

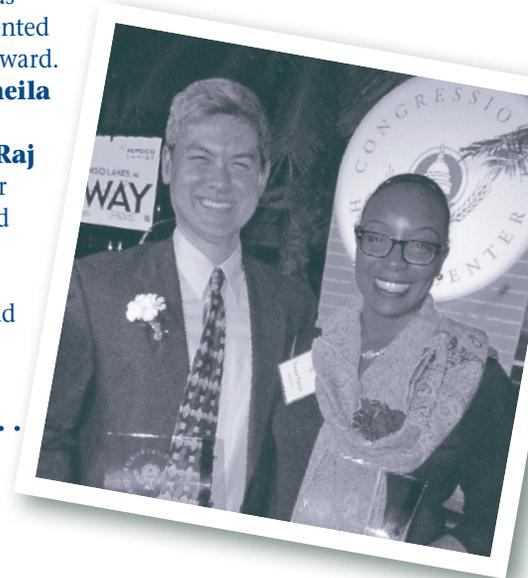
17 years, there is a large pool of alumni who not only are dedicated to making a positive impact on the world, but are emerging as leaders in the fight to end hunger.

## 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. **Ambassador Tony Hall**, CHC founder, joined us at the CHC Awards Ceremony and presented Rich Stolz with his award. **Representative Sheila Jackson Lee**, CHC Board Member and **Raj Shah**, Administrator of USAID, also joined us and presented Tammy Palmer with her award. Please read the following brief bios to learn more

about their work as fellows and throughout their careers since graduating from the programs. Congratulations to you both!



Rich Stolz and Tammy Palmer receive the CHC Alumni Awards

## Richard H. Stolz

After his fellowship with ACHC, 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, micro-finance and food security, emerging as a leader in the arena of international development. During the 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 Peru'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

*continued from page 6*

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](http://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.

CHC is honored to have highlighted on the site many beautiful and powerful photographs taken by **Elizabeth Whelan**. Elizabeth was a member of the 10th class of Emerson Fellows, served as Associate Director of the Leland Hunger Fellows Program, and is currently a MS Candidate in Food Policy

& Applied Nutrition at Tufts University. We are grateful for her continued contributions to our work.

The site was made possible thanks to generous contributions from our partners at C&S Wholesale Grocers and the ConAgra Foods Foundation.

Check it out at [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org) and be sure to sign up to receive e-news from CHC! ●

## 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

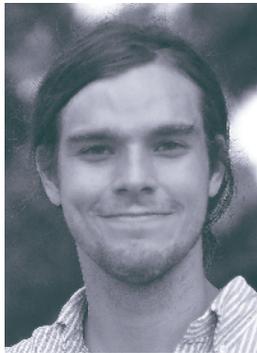
the past several years to our work and our mission. In June, Kyle moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where he is growing his

professional photography business: [www.kylegraybeach.com](http://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! ●



Lauren Flax



Kyle Beach

## CHILD Update

The Child Hunger Initiative on Learning and Development project helps fund the field and policy placements of CHC's Emerson National Hunger Fellows. One Fellow was placed with the National Conference of State Legislatures working with corporate and non-profit 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](http://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.



Representative Jo Ann Emerson

Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative James P. McGovern

Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee

Member of Congress

Ashley Aakesson  
Program Officer, Nutrition  
PATH

Pamela G. Bailey

President and CEO  
Grocery Manufacturers Association

David Beckmann

President  
Bread for the World

Karen Coble Edwards

Principal  
KCE Public Affairs Association

Katharine Emerson

Manager, Government Affairs  
Monsanto Company

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)  
Senior Counselor

The Livingston Group, L.L.C.

Jo Ann Jenkins

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Founder

.....  
In Memory Of:

Honorable Bill Emerson

Honorable Mickey Leland

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