



Sustenance

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The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

Hunger Exists Here

The 11th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows collaborated with renowned muralist Xavier Cortada and participants from across the United States to create "Hunger Exists Here," a dramatic anti-hunger mural. The mural serves as the culmination, or "Capstone," project of the 11th Class, and

is designed to both reflect the field experiences of Fellows and capture a diverse group of people's thoughts, feelings and experiences about hunger and poverty. The 5x18 foot "collaborative message mural" is currently on display at D.C. Central Kitchen, located at 425 2nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. ●

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Above: 11th Class Fellows with the capstone mural, *Hunger Exists Here*.



Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



Updates

The commencement ceremony for the 11th class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows was held at the Reserve Officers Association on Capitol Hill on July 21st. Kim Perry, Director of D.C. Hunger Solutions, a project of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), gave a moving speech about the value of mentors in the lives of young people. Judith Stermer and the capstone committee

announced the creation of the Xavier Cortada mural, Hunger Exists Here, which is now housed at D.C. Central Kitchen (see front page for description and picture).

We now have a 12th class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows and a 3rd class of Leland International Hunger Fellows, trained and placed with field organizations. We received over 500 applications for the 41 selected Fellows. ●

Victory Against Hunger

We have announced the 32 winners of our 13th annual Victory Against Hunger Awards, sponsored by CHC board member David Kantor and his wife, Leslie, of Victory Wholesale Grocers of Boca Raton, Florida and Springboro, Ohio (see chart on right). This year's theme was "fighting hunger through improving access to the Child and Adult Care Food Program." Four groups, often referred to as "Team Utah," were nominated by Senator Robert Bennett from Utah. These groups have played a

significant role in providing quality child care to young children in Utah. Team Utah donated their \$1000 cash award to victims of Hurricane Katrina. This year, CHC received 84 nominations for the VAH awards from members of Congress. The following individuals joined me on the selection committee: Stanley Garnett, Director of USDA FNS Child Nutrition Division and his staff; Geri Henchy of FRAC; 11th Class Emerson Fellows Pip Colvin and Deanna Wilson; and CHC staff member Amera Bilal. ●

Sen. Bennett (center) congratulates VAH winners from Utah.



Awardee	Congressperson
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Service (MT CACFP) (MT)	Sen. Max Baucus (MT)
Alliance for Children; Child Care Nutrition Program; Child Management Associates; Helping Hands, Inc (UT)	Sen. Robert Bennett (UT)
New York State Department of Health (NY)	Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (NY)
T & T Tutor World (NC; SC)	Rep. Henry E. Brown, Jr. (SC) Rep. David Price (NC)
Catholic Charities Maine Family Child Care (ME)	Sen. Susan M. Collins (ME)
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (PA)	Rep. Mike Doyle (PA) Rep. Melissa Hart (PA)
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago (IL)	Sen. Richard Durbin (IL)
Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center (MO)	Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO)
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County (IA)	Sen. Tom Harkin (IA)
Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force (OHRTF) (OR)	Rep. Darlene Hooley (OR)
VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger (VT)	Sen. James Jeffords (VT) Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT) Rep. Bernard Sanders (VT)
Family Resource Network (SD)	Sen. Tim Johnson (SD)
Clarendon Family Day Care, Inc. (MA)	Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (MA) Sen. John Kerry (MA)
Rhode Island Community Food Bank (RI)	Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (RI) Sen. Jack Reed (RI)
Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. (4-C) (WI)	Sen. Herbert Kohl (WI)
Sports for Kids (CA)	Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)
Quality Care for Children (GA)	Rep. John Lewis (GA)
Supplemental Child Care Services (CT)	Sen. Joseph Lieberman (CT)
Crowley's Ridge Development Council (AR)	Sen. Blanche Lambert Lincoln (AR)
Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. (IN)	Sen. Richard Lugar (IN)
Love Little Children, Inc. (CA)	Rep. Daniel Lungren (CA)
Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc. (NY)	Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY)
Worcester State College Food Assistance Program (MA)	Rep. Jim McGovern (MA)
Contra Costa Child Care Council's Child Health and Nutrition Program (CA)	Rep. George Miller (CA)
Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida (FL)	Sen. Bill Nelson (FL)
So Others Might Eat (SOME) (DC)	Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)
Lincoln Family Service Food Program (NE)	Rep. Tom Osbourne (NE)
Children's Hunger Alliance (OH)	Rep. Deborah Pryce (OH) Rep. Patrick Tiberi (OH)
Food Bank of the Rockies (CO)	Sen. Ken Salazar (CO)
Association for Child Development (ACD) (MI)	Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI)
Del Norte Child Care Council (CA)	Rep. Mike Thompson (CA)
Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse (NY)	Rep. James T. Walsh (NY)

National Policy Report

Originally, Congress deferred action on Budget Reconciliation legislation until October 19th. That decision was directly related to the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina on the impoverished residents of New Orleans. However, budget reconciliation legislation did proceed. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees were required to cut \$3 billion from nutrition, agriculture, or conservation programs. CHC, along with many other local, state and national organizations, opposed cuts in the Food Stamp Program or any other nutrition program in reaching this budget reduction-driven target. Readers can review a letter listing the arguments against cutting the Food Stamp Program, signed by over 1000

groups on the FRAC website (www.frac.org). **Senator Gordon Smith** and several other members of the Senate Hunger Caucus also sent a letter to the Senate Agriculture Committee opposing cuts in Food Stamps. Bread for the World and other members of the Food Policy Working Group have also sent a letter opposing cuts in Food Stamps to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. The letter was signed by the heads of all major religious organizations in the U.S. The impact of these letters on the Senate Agriculture Committee was significant. No cuts were made to the Food Stamp Program. However, the House Agriculture Committee voted to cut \$3 billion from agricultural programs and

\$844 million from the Food Stamp Program. The House food stamp cuts were reduced to \$800 million on the House floor in November. A House/Senate Conference committee will determine whether any cutbacks will be made to this critically important program and other low income programs for poor and hungry people.

The **WK Kellogg Foundation** made four grants totaling \$4.675 million to four groups for work on developing a progressive Farm and Food Policy. The groups are the American Farmland Trust, Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC), Environmental Defense, and the Northeast-Midwest Institute and their partner, the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. The groups are

expected to “work collaboratively to advance four interlocking policy initiatives that will unite diverse constituencies and help to build a more sustainable agriculture and food system in the United States.” CHC has received a \$55,000 subgrant from CFSC for work primarily on the Healthy Foods and Communities initiative over the next three years. This initiative will expand access of low-income consumers to healthy foods by integrating local and regional agriculture more closely with community food and nutrition assistance efforts. CHC’s specific role is to enhance and broaden the working relationship between CFSC groups, farmers, environmentalists, and conservation groups with the nutrition and anti-hunger communities. ●

Interaction with Allied Groups

An essential part of CHC’s mission is to assist allied organizations to achieve their programmatic and policy goals. I currently serve as a consultant to **America’s Second Harvest (A2H)** Board of Directors Outcome’s Committee and as a member of their board Stakeholders subcommittee. The Stakeholders subcommittee surveys all A2H-affiliated food banks each year on how A2H is meeting their needs. At a meeting facilitated by Peter Dunn, A2H incoming board chair, benchmarks were created to aid in the achievement of goals set by member food banks and the board of directors, which are to reduce the number of hungry people in America by 50% by 2010; to increase the amount of food collected and distributed by A2H by 920 million pounds by 2010; and, to build

a nationwide anti-hunger movement.

In September, John Kelly, Emerson Program Co-Director, and I participated in the **FRAC** Hunger Leaders meetings. About 60 people from over 40 states and 5 national anti-hunger groups attended. The meeting focused on the impact of Hurricane Katrina on poor and hungry people in the Gulf States. There was universal praise for the speedy and efficient response of **USDA FNS** Food Stamp and Child Nutrition staff on behalf of Katrina victims. Plans were made regarding a response to budget reconciliation cuts in agriculture and nutrition programs. State and local anti-hunger groups are also beginning deliberations on policy for the 2007 farm bill. It was exciting to learn about local advocacy campaigns around after school snack programs

and school breakfast expansion programs. Many groups are also actively involved in creating local school “wellness policies” on nutrition education, physical fitness, and competitive foods.

John Kelly and I, along with Jose Ravano, Leland Program Co-Director, participated in the **Bread for the World** Hunger Report review meeting in September. CHC staff were reviewers for the report’s chapters on food stamps, child nutrition, and international hunger.

Two other allied groups we work with include the **School Nutrition Association (SNA)** and **RESULTS**. I was a speaker at the RESULTS annual dinner on the topic of nutrition program policy and politics. I attended SNA’s annual meeting in Baltimore where I met with Jean Jones and Gene White, who are

co-authors of a new book on the first hundred years of child nutrition. I serve on SNA’s advisory committee which functions as a review committee for this new publication.

In October, I gave a policy update on federal legislation at the 11th annual Child Care Food Program Conference in Anaheim, California. Also on the panel were Keith Churchill from the USDA FNS Policy and Program Development Branch, Geri Henchy of FRAC, Paula James of **Contra Costa Child Care Council’s** Child Health and Nutrition Program, and Carole Griffin, who represented the **CACFP State Directors Association**. I also attended a workshop and dinner in New York City sponsored by **The Hunger Project**, which focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. ●

Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Emerson Program Staff

Farewell 11th Class

In July, CHC celebrated the many accomplishments of the 11th Class at their commencement ceremony, where celebrants were greeted by Master of Ceremonies Ed Cooney, and CHC Board Co-Chairs Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA), who

all praised the work of the Emerson Fellows.

Highlights included the keynote address from **Kimberly Perry**, Director of D.C. Hunger Solutions, and the presentation of leadership awards to **Angela Martin** of the Oregon Food Bank and **Jeremy Rosen**, of Volunteers of America. Both awardees

were honored for their leadership roles in the anti-hunger community and excellent mentoring of Emerson Fellows. A heartfelt thank you to all Emerson Fellow Supervisors and congratulations to the 11th Class for a year of outstanding work! ●



11th Class Fellows Alexis Bylander, Barrett Ebright, and Lucinda Megill celebrate their commencement.

12th Class Arrives for Field Training

In August, the new Fellows gathered at the William Penn House for field training where they were provided with an orientation to the Emerson Program and the CHC, and an extensive overview of hunger in the U.S. Advocates and program administrators from D.C. including some from **USDA, FRAC, and alumni** of the **Hunger Fellowship** streamed into the Penn House to share their expertise with the Fellows.

The first goal was to define hunger and explore its manifestations in the U.S. **Steve Carlson** from USDA introduced the concept and measurements of household food security and its trends over the last 2 decades. Program staff provided context by examining the history of the public and private solutions to hunger.

Trainers also introduced new Fellows to many of the federal feeding programs: the Food Stamp Program—the primary safety net against hunger in the U.S.; School Breakfast, School Lunch, After

School Snacks and Supper; Summer Food; Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); the Child and Adult Care Food Program; and, Local Wellness Policies. Extensive training on community food security, the U.S. agricultural system, and federal programs related to agriculture support and markets were provided as well.

The Fellows also explored the links between hunger and health with leading practitioners and advocates. **Dr. Deborah Frank** from the Boston Medical Center gave an inspiring presentation on the physiology of hunger and its effects on child development and experts from **Families USA** discussed the U.S. health care crisis, as well as Medicaid and S-CHIP, the government health insurance programs for very low-income people.

In order to examine hunger in the broader context of other issues and problems faced by low-income people, the Fellows also learned about



12th class Fellows on Capitol Steps during field training.

affordable housing, tax policy, welfare reform, and institutional racism. Additionally, **Dr. Peter Edelman** provided a historical look at the war on poverty and the welfare system in the U.S.

Trainers helped Fellows build skills such as effective professional communication, community organizing, group decision making, and conflict management. Field training was a huge success!

In addition to reaching these ambitious goals, the Emerson Fellows bonded as a professional learning and support community. The 12th Class of Emerson Fellows arrived at the Penn House with a disparate collection of backgrounds and experiences and left for their field sites overflowing with new information and motivation.

A special thanks to our wonderful trainers! ●

Welcome 12th Class

CHC is proud to welcome the new class of Emerson Hunger Fellows! This group of 24 smart, energetic young leaders possesses a wide range of skills, experiences, backgrounds, and they share a

common vision of justice in a country without hunger. Our Fellows include a raspberry farmer from North Dakota, a radio journalist from Texas, a marathoner from Arkansas, and a Food Systems major

from San Francisco. We also have domestic violence specialists from Kansas, Miami, and Maryland; two college varsity gymnasts; a ballerina; a campaign finance reformer; and two organic gardeners. The

24 Emerson Fellows speak 12 different languages, work now in 13 different states, and are implementing programs and providing services for 20 organizations serving low-income people across the country. ●

Emerson Hunger Fellow	College	Hometown	Field Site Organization	Location
Brigit Adamus	Cornell University	Corvallis, Oregon	San Francisco Department of Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture	San Francisco, California
Madina Agénor	Brown University	Bethesda, Maryland	The Grow Clinic of Boston Medical Center	Boston, Massachusetts
Kevin Anderson	Northwestern University	Chicago, Illinois	Alameda County Community Food Bank; Alameda County Social Services Agency; U.S. Department of Agriculture	Oakland, California
Larisa Bowman	Brown University	Dallas, Texas	Utahns Against Hunger (Local Wellness Policy Fellow)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Cecilia Cárdenas-Navia	Yale University	Lubbock, Texas	Utahns Against Hunger (Food Assessment Fellow)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Dana Conroy	Davidson College	Oldsmar, Florida	D.C. Hunger Solutions (Community Food Security Fellow)	Washington, D.C.
Indivar Dutta-Gupta	University of Chicago	Roswell, Georgia	D.C. Hunger Solutions (Food Stamp Outreach Fellow)	Washington, D.C.
Lauren Forbes	Vassar College	Tampa, Florida	Children First of Oregon	Portland, Oregon
Natalie Halbach	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Plymouth, Minnesota	Community Farm Alliance (Farmers' Market Fellow)	Louisville, Kentucky
Aiyeshia Hudson	Florida State University	Miami, Florida	Hunger Task Force (Emergency Food Assessment Fellow)	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Shijuade Kadree	Emory University	Fairburn, Georgia	Center for Economic Progress (Financial and Community Education Fellow)	Chicago, Illinois
Matthew King	University of California, Santa Cruz	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Washington Food Coalition	Seattle, Washington
Joseph Lee	Duke University	Leicester, North Carolina	Farm to Table (Food Assessment/Communications Fellow)	Santa Fe, New Mexico
Matthew Lewis	Dartmouth College	Evanston, Illinois	Oregon Food Bank	Portland, Oregon
Roshin Mathew	Reed College	Missouri City, Texas	Center for Economic Progress (Capacity Building and Training Fellow)	Chicago, Illinois
Elizabeth McCarthy	Harvard University	Little Rock, Arkansas	FoodChange (Outreach Fellow)	New York, New York
Rebekah Miller	Rhodes College	Springfield, Missouri	Children's Alliance	Seattle, Washington
Brett Murphy	Rice University	Norman, Oklahoma	National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness, Southern Regional Office	New Orleans, Louisiana
Miles Patrie	North Dakota State University	Bowdon, North Dakota	Farm to Table (Food Assessment/Policy Fellow)	Santa Fe, New Mexico
David Pope	Davidson College	Charleston, South Carolina	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute	Boston, Massachusetts
Samuel Raskin	University of California, Santa Cruz	San Francisco, California	Community Farm Alliance (Community Food Assessment Fellow)	Louisville, Kentucky
Almas Sayeed	University of Kansas London School of Economics	Lawrence, Kansas	FoodChange (Research Fellow)	New York, New York
Amanda Wagner	Franklin and Marshall College	Bridgeport, Pennsylvania	Community Food Bank	Tucson, Arizona
Karen Wong	Pomona College	Bellflower, California	Hunger Task Force (Universal School Meals Fellow)	Milwaukee, Wisconsin

12th Class Field Work Highlights

In California's Bay Area, **Kevin Anderson** and **Brigit Adamus** are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, community based organizations, and city and county officials to improve the effectiveness of Food Stamp Outreach to eligible persons not currently receiving benefits. They are evaluating programs, developing demonstration projects, and providing recommendations

for changes to application processing and outreach practices.

Larisa Bowman is working with Utahns Against Hunger in Salt Lake City schools to implement local wellness policies in low-income districts. She is devising a comprehensive policy that addresses childhood obesity and the high incidence of hunger and food insecurity.

Dana Conroy is at D.C. Hunger Solutions conducting a community food assessment of D.C. by evaluating access to federal nutrition programs, supermarkets, and local, fresh produce in stores, schools, and other institutions. Dana is also researching differential pricing in supermarkets, the existence of cooperative food stores and buying clubs, and the relationship of food-

based businesses to economic development.

Lauren Forbes is at Children First of Oregon conducting research to document the link between the lack of affordable child care and food insecurity in Oregon. Her research will provide the content for a child care policy brief that will be distributed to policymakers, the media, and the general public. ●

12th Class Fellows Assist with Katrina Relief

Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast during the Fellows' field training in D.C. and many became involved in relief efforts as soon as they began their field work.

Emerson Fellow **Brett Murphy** is currently conducting an oral history project on Hurricane Katrina. He was due to begin his field placement with the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness in New Orleans when Katrina hit, but he is currently working out of their D.C. office until the New Orleans office re-opens. He will be traveling to the Gulf region conducting interviews with evacuees, service providers, volunteers, and church

officials, hoping to inject the voices of victims and the communities that have come to their aid into the discourse on this catastrophe. Brett is also working on a technical assistance project, conducting post-Katrina needs and resource-gap analyses for service providers dealing with issues of homelessness and affordable housing.

In Washington, D.C. Fellows responded to the arrival of evacuees at the emergency shelter at D.C. Armory. Emerson Fellow **Dana Conroy** provided technical assistance to churches across the city on how they could best aid the evacuees and how they could become



New Orleans, 2 weeks after Hurricane Katrina.

emergency shelters under the relaxed rules for the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Fellow **Indivar Dutta-Gupta** compiled an extensive "questions and answers" document for evacuees and volunteers, explaining rules for the disaster food stamp program as well as pointing people to resources to help enroll children in local schools, secure housing, find legal assistance, and apply for other government benefits.

11th Class Fellow **Shawn Powers** completed a report during his policy placement with the Food Research and

Action Center about the use of Emergency Food Stamps after natural disasters. This report, entitled "An Advocates Guide to Disaster Food Stamps," has been widely disseminated to city and state officials and advocates across the country in the wake of the two hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. The report was posted to the USDA website, used as a resource by hundreds of advocates, and Hunger Fellows nationwide relied on it to inform their work assisting evacuees. ●

The **Hope House** is a small community service center that provides services to people in one of the poorest neighborhoods in New Orleans. The Hope House building sustained only minor damage in the storms and flooding, but the folks whom they serve with literacy training, a food pantry, transitional housing,

and myriad other services were some of the hardest hit. The CHC has made a donation to the Hope House for \$1200 and we encourage readers to give what they can. Please send donations to:

The Hope House
c/o Don Everard
3701 Taft Park
Metairie, LA 70002

Emerson Fellows "Next Steps"

Alumni from many classes have recently gained employment with well renowned organizations, enrollment in elite universities, and a few have even tied the knot!

7th Class:

- Alejandra Lopez-Fernadini started her Masters in Public Policy at Duke University.

8th Class:

- Alison Leff began her MBA at University of Michigan.
- Brooke Evans completed her Masters and is working with the Sex Abuse Treatment Center in Honolulu.
- Shireen Zaman wed Zafar Iqbal in Syracuse, New York and celebrated their union again in Bangalore, India.
- Matt Ching wed Megan Newell in Salem, Oregon on October 1, 2005.
- Sarah Farmer Curran and her husband Pete moved to Lugano, Switzerland to teach at The American School in Switzerland.

9th Class:

- Many 9th class alumni began graduate school this fall: LaFleur Stephens started her Ph.D. in Public Policy at University of Michigan; Katelin Isaacs began her Ph.D. in Sociology at Duke University; Saleem Hue Penny began a Masters in Clinical

Below: 8th class alum Matt Ching and his new wife Megan.

Right: 9th Class alum Robert Campbell and his new wife Liz.

Psychology at Catholic University; and Sarah Borron began a Masters in Food, Society and Agriculture at Tufts University.

- Jenny Rottmann moved to Portland, Maine to work as an organizer with the Maine People's Alliance.

- Justin Weinstein-Tull, Molly Neck and Carrie Johnson began law school; Justin at Yale, Molly at St. Mary's and Carrie at NYU.

- Robert Campbell moved to Syracuse, New York, wed Liz Giovanetti and is the Public Affairs Officer at the Food Bank of Central New York.

- Peter Kim will complete his Peace Corps service in Cameroon late this fall.

- Bridget Murphy lived in Guanajuato, Mexico this summer and moved to Chicago this fall.

- After a brief visit to the U.S. and a cameo at the 12th Class Alumni Dinner, Maryn Olson returned to Namibia for another 2 years with the Lutheran Service Corps.

10th Class:

- Law school: Rachel Lopez is at the University of Texas at Austin and Wick Ruehling is at the University of Kentucky.

- Patience Butler returned to her former policy site to be a Grant Manager at Share Our Strength.

- Kim Jones is at the London School of Economics working on a joint Masters in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing.

The Food Research and Action Center recently released a report on access to the Food Stamp Program researched and prepared by **11th Class Emerson Fellow Shawn Powers**. Entitled *Food Stamp Access in Urban America: A City-by-City Snapshot*, the report has received extensive media coverage and received the most hits of any story on CNN.com in several major markets on the day of its release. The report highlights the positive impact of the Food Stamp Program on children and families in 25 major urban areas, but also revealed that only 62 percent of eligible people in these cities participated in the program in 2003. The full report is available on the FRAC website. (or Link to report: <http://www.frac.org/pdf/cities2005.pdf>)

- Amaliya Morgan-Brown is with the National Health Service Corps in Providence, Rhode Island.

- Rebekah Park began her Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology at UCLA.

- Elizabeth Whelan will be staying on with Partners in Health in Haiti.

11th Class:

- Dennis Barrett and Alexis Bylander both stayed on with their policy sites: Dennis is at Families USA and Alexis is a consultant with RESULTS, Inc.

- Many Fellows found employment here in D.C.: Alexandra Cawthorne is at Citizen's Commission on Civil Rights; Katy Mastman is with Planned Parenthood; Estera Barbarasa is at Ayuda, Inc.; Philip Colvin is doing Katrina relief with FRAC; Andrea Matsuoka joined Fowler Hoffman consulting; Lucinda Megill is a 3rd grade teacher at Gibbs Elementary

School; Dan Murphy is at the Urban Institute; and Peter Andrews is with the Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

- Erin Hoekstra, Shawn Powers, and William Connors moved overseas: Erin is a Rotary Scholar at the University of Manchester; Shawn began his Fulbright in the Philippines; and Will moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- Chandra Kring and David Pedulla are both in New York City: Chandra is at NYU for a Masters in Public Policy and David is an NYC Urban Fellow.

- Shireen Cama and Deanna Wilson began medical school at Harvard and Yale, respectively, and Micah Schwartz began law school at GWU.

- Sarah Osmer is in Immokalee, Florida organizing farm workers at Interfaith Action.

- Judith Stermer accepted a job at her former field site: the Vermont Food Bank. ●

A toolkit entitled *Addressing Hunger and Nutrition: A Tool Kit for Positive Results*, recently published by the Hunger and Nutrition Partnership of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), was researched and co-authored by **Katie Gliotti, a 10th Class alumna, and Chandra Kring, an 11th Class alumna** who worked with Katie at NCSL during her policy placement. The publication, comprised primarily of issue briefs on federal nutrition programs and related anti-hunger initiatives, is a resource for state policymakers on the many public, private and non-profit sector programs that address hunger and nutrition.



International Policy Report

By Margaret M. Zeigler, Deputy Director

CHC Celebrates World Food Day

In an effort to raise awareness about the devastating impact of chronic hunger around the world, CHC Board Co-Chair James P. McGovern (D-MA), introduced Action Against Hunger's dramatic hunger exhibition on Saturday, October 15. Action Against Hunger set up 50 standing silhouettes, each representing a person, in Dupont Circle in the heart of

Washington, D.C. Every four seconds a gong rang out and one silhouette was laid down symbolizing the fact that every four seconds, a person dies of hunger overseas. Speaking from the center of Dupont Circle where the dramatization of global hunger took place, Rep. McGovern challenged viewers to remember that over 850 million men, women and children

suffer from hunger overseas. "There are some problems and challenges that cannot be solved in my lifetime. But hunger isn't one of them. If the political will exists, we can eliminate worldwide hunger in our lifetime." ●

L to R: Michael Johnson (Leland Fellow 2001-2003), Rep. James P. McGovern, and Chung Lai (Leland Fellow 2003-2005) at Action Against Hunger's World Food Day Event.



CHC Co-Sponsors Microcredit Seminar on Capitol Hill

How can private commercial banks and lenders play a greater role in helping reduce hunger and poverty overseas? And how can they reach into the underserved rural areas of the developing world, where the vast majority of the poorest people live?

To explore recent lessons learned and the potential for greater private sector involvement in the field of microcredit (providing low-interest, small loans and training to entrepreneurs), CHC co-sponsored a seminar for Members of Congress, Congressional staff, private sector lenders and microcredit experts from the World Bank and other development institutions on October 27th in the U.S. Congress. CHC partnered with the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to organize and host the seminar.

CHC board co-chair, Rep. James P. McGovern, welcomed the panelists and opened the seminar with a strong

charge for the expansion of microfinance as a process that sustains and empowers individuals and communities, stating it is "much more than banking the unbanked."

Expert panelists included Henri Dommel, the Rural Finance Technical Advisor for IFAD, Scott Graham, Business Development Manager of FINCA, and *continued on page 12*



At podium, Rep. James P. McGovern; seated (l to r): Scott Graham, FINCA; Robert Annibale, Citigroup; Maria Otero, ACCION; and Henri Dommel, IFAD.

CHC Board Member Travels to Africa

by Marshall Matz, CHC Board Secretary

I recently traveled to Southern Africa in my capacity as board chair of a private organization, Friends of the World Food Program, along with anti-hunger leaders in the U.S. government. I also wanted to share my observations with the readers of *Sustenance*, since I serve as a founding board member of the Congressional Hunger Center.

On my trip, I saw things there that were simply unimaginable in the year 2005, such as villagers making a road with only a shovel, hoe, and plastic bucket to carry the dirt, and people walking over 15 miles to town to sell some fish or vegetables. I also witnessed the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on children—such as in Zambia, where out of a population of

11 million, one million are orphaned because one or both of their parents have died from the disease.

The U.S. and other donor governments are responding, but much more needs to be done. First, the Bush Administration's AIDS program is much appreciated, but the health and drug components must be complemented *continued on page 11*

Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

New Leland Fellows Receive Training

The third class of Leland International Hunger Fellows arrived at their field sites and began their efforts to fight hunger overseas! In June, the new class of Leland Fellows participated in a retreat and training designed to improve the Fellowship experience. Both the retreat and training were coordinated and planned by Leland alumna Mette Karlsen.

The retreat was held at the Coolfont Resort in West Virginia and the secluded, nature-filled setting provided a perfect environment for Fellows to reflect on past accomplishments, their upcoming two years in the Fellowship, and their future career plans. Since the Leland Fellows are based in 13 different countries, the retreat also enabled them to learn more about each other and helped forge the lasting personal and professional connections for the future. In addition to creating their professional and personal development

plans, the Fellows participated in leadership and teamwork exercises through an outward bound training program.

From the Coolfont Resort, the Fellows headed to Washington, D.C. for intensive briefings from the **Congressional Research Service, USAID, USDA and InterAction**. The briefings provided an overview of the many considerations and policies that inevitably impact on their work as Leland Fellows. While in D.C., the Fellows also further developed their skills in cross-cultural communication, monitoring and evaluation, and heard personal accounts of the passion and work of Mickey Leland, the namesake of their program. Both the retreat and training program fueled excitement about the challenges and opportunities of working overseas in the fight against hunger.

The training activities and briefings included the following topics:



Rep. James P. McGovern (far right) welcomes the new class of Leland Fellows to Capitol Hill.

- Myers-Briggs Assessment and Analysis
 - Professional Development Planning (**Language and Culture Worldwide**)
 - Influence Strategies in Communication
 - Negotiating Effectively
 - Seeking, Providing and Receiving Feedback
 - Communicating Effectively Across Cultures
 - Navigating Organizational Culture
 - Dealing with Difficult People and Situations in the Field
 - Personal Safety and Security
 - Introduction to Global Hunger Issues
 - "What is Policy and Advocacy?" (**InterAction**)
 - Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation (**Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance-FANTA**)
 - Introduction to US Govt. Laws, Food Aid and Trade (**Congressional Research Service**)
 - Overview of Global Hunger Patterns (**Economic Research Service of USDA**)
 - USDA's Role in Global Hunger (**USDA**)
 - Overview of USAID (**USAID**)
 - Office of Food for Peace (Farmer to Farmer Program)
 - Link between Food Security and Environment
 - Famine Early Warning Systems Network (**FEWSNET**)
 - Briefing from Leland International Hunger Alumni
- Equipped with new skills, knowledge and lasting connections, the Leland International Hunger Fellows departed for their field sites in July. Prior to their departure, the Fellows established a web-log (blog) to continue *continued on page 10*



Leland Fellows participate in Myers-Briggs Assessment exercises during their retreat at Coolfont during June training.

their sharing of experiences with each other while dispersed throughout the world. Since arriving at their field sites, Fellows have shared their work and personal experiences through written

accounts and photographs and continue forge the strong links and provide support and insight for each other in their efforts to fight hunger regardless of the region of the world where they currently work. ●

CHC extends a warm thank you to **John Zarafonetis**, Mickey Leland Fellows Program Advisory Board Member, for his support of the Leland Fellows! John has provided invaluable mentoring for our Fellows and programmatic advice, and we applaud his extra efforts on our behalf during the months of September through November, 2005.

Notes from the Field

Leland Fellows have immersed themselves in their field work-plans. In their reports below, selected fellows highlight the strengths and challenges of the situations they will tackle over the next year.

Quinoa and Nutrition in the Bolivian Altiplano *by Damiana Astudillo-Eterno, International Plant and Genetic Resources Institute-Bolivia*

These past three months have been full of intense learning in many areas I was not familiar with: nutrition, biodiversity, Andean Crops and participatory approaches among them. One of my tasks in the field is to assess what effects high market prices and increased commercialization of Quinoa (a grain grown in the Andes) are having on household consumption, nutrition and biodiversity maintenance. All the data and information I have gathered so far in preparation for

this project points to a very complicated answer. On the one hand, increased income for farming households is a positive outcome; on the other, market forces may be reducing the incentives to maintain quinoa's diversity.

The higher prices of quinoa may also be prompting farmers to reduce consumption of quinoa at home and instead, buy cheaper and less nutritious foods—exacerbating nutritional problems within their communities. It is also not clear how increased household income impacts nutrition (as all this is mediated by nutritional knowledge), who controls the household income, and the availability and quality of other foods. The complexity of this issue clearly highlights the challenges I face ahead.

I am hopeful that the year I will spend in these communities will allow me to understand their problems from their perspective. I look forward to working with Andean farmers in Bolivia to identify appropriate solutions that reconcile their cultural and nutritional needs with their long term survival in a harsh mountain environment. In meeting their long term and short term needs it may be possible that Andean households can also meet the requirements of markets and contribute to biodiversity conservation.



People Living with HIV/AIDS in Senegal Require Greater Nutritional Care and Support *By Mike Manske, Counterpart International-Senegal*

While Senegal has made many achievements in transmission prevention, much work remains to improve the level of nutritional care and support. As a Leland Hunger Fellow based at Counterpart in Senegal, I have been assisting the HIV field officer in coordinating and developing food aid and nutritional care and support programs for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the northern and central regions of the country. During the past few months, I have learned from past and personal interviews about some of the gaps that this USAID-sponsored program will attempt to fill in coming years.

Caregivers maintain that when they consult with HIV patients they often spend much more time than they would with other patients



Top: Boxes of cans of Vitamin A-enriched vegetable oil and sacks of lentils are being loaded for future food distribution activities in Louga, Senegal.

Bottom: Mike congratulates a participant after a training session on counseling in Ndioum, Senegal.

because of the need to provide additional care and support. Several rural doctors maintain that proper nutritional counseling is a high priority for their patients, although little nutritional training has taken place.

Individuals and households affected by the virus are faced with many socioeconomic constraints, which lead to food insecurity. A seropositive



Quinoa plant.

woman reflected, "I cannot meet my dietary needs while living at my brother's home with my 7 children . . . and cannot make sure that everyone gets [enough] food." Such sentiment is echoed throughout this area.

Through my work as a Leland Fellow at Counterpart, I hope to contribute to better program and policy solutions for people living with HIV/AIDS, especially in nutrition care and support. ●

Food Security in Honduras

By Amanda Rives, *Christian Children's Fund-Honduras*

My workplan assignment is to develop and implement a food security strategy for Christian Children's Fund Honduras (CCFH), an NGO which works in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, health, education, and income-generating activities, benefiting over 70,000 individuals.

In the last few years beneficiaries in the southern region of Honduras have suffered from severe drought, crop failure, and food insecurity. In 2004, CCFH was given a grant to study the issue of food security; a needs assessment and potential interventions from an anthropological perspective were commissioned. I am using these studies, data and research from academia and local institutions, and the collaboration of CCFH

The 2003-2005 class of Leland International Hunger Fellows completed the program in May. Since finishing the fellowship, they have embarked upon careers, some continuing with the organizations where they served as a Leland fellow.

● **Elizabeth Brown** is with USAID covering programs in Cuba.

● **Andrew Fuys**, with the International Land Coalition in Rome during his Fellowship, continues with

and their partners to design a year-long plan.

With the needs assessment stage completed, I am working with field staff to carry out a nutrition survey which will be followed by a participatory rural appraisal, which is comprised of extensive village-level input, in order to design interventions. Highlights of the final product will include a rights-based and child-focused approach; capacity building and institutional collaboration; and a strong monitoring and evaluation component which will strengthen local ownership of the proposed interventions. For more details on this project, see my blog at <http://amandainhonduras.blogspot.com/>. ●

the organization but this time based in New York, where he will serve as the U.S. liaison to the Rome headquarters.

● **Chung Lai** has also taken a position with her Fellowship organization and is now the Food Security Research Specialist for Land O' Lakes.

● **Charlie Ehle** remains with Catholic Relief Services and is an Emergency Response Specialist within their Emergency Operations Team. Since taking the appointment, Charlie has already assisted with their work in Niger.

● **Grace Jones** also stayed with her host organization and is the Program Officer for Counterpart International in their Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture Division.

● The World Food Program extended an offer to **Ellen Kramer** who continues her work in nutrition in Sudan.

● **Ilisa Gertner** stayed with the American Red Cross and is working on their programs dealing with the tsunami in Asia. She recently returned after making visits throughout the various tsunami-affected countries.

● **Amanda King** will continue with the International Food Policy Research Institute as a Research Analyst until she departs for Indonesia in January, 2006.

● **Jen Mayer** is a Disaster Operations Specialist for USAID in their Office for Disaster Assistance, Disaster Response and Mitigation Division. Jen manages the emergency portfolio for Northern and Southern Sudan.

● After completing the Fellowship, **Steve Archambault** opted to go the academic route and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Development Economics and Natural Resource Management from the University of New Mexico.

● **Rosa Lugos** continues to work with IFAD in Rome on Global Resource Mobilization.

● **Mette Karlsen** has accepted a position with her field placement host organization, Save the Children, as a Food Security Manager in Tajikistan.

● **Jason Forauer** is currently in East Africa working on food security issues with development organizations. ●

CHC Board Member Travels to Africa

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with a food component. Drugs are vital, but if there are no nutrients and calories available, the anti-retrovirals will not be effectively used. Second, the U.S. must find a way to expand the McGovern-Dole School Feeding program to provide a nutritious meal each day in the school setting for the millions of children who need access to a safe place to grow and learn. And third, a major investment in agriculture and irrigation for the rural areas of Africa is critical to break the cycle of famine and dependency on international

aid handouts. Africans are capable of feeding themselves, but will require private and public assistance and major policy changes in the arena of agricultural development to do this.

On World Food Day, we must recommit ourselves and our resources to offer a helping hand to the over 850 million people around the globe who suffer from hunger. To learn more about the issue of hunger, please visit CHC's website, www.hungercenter.org, or Friends of the World Food Program, at www.friendsofwpf.org. ●



Amanda (far right) and two friends survey a Honduran tomato crop.

New Additions

The CHC family is growing! We are pleased to welcome Sophia Gavasheli, daughter of Leland Program Co-Director Susie Wood and her husband, Alexander.

Also, we welcome the arrival of Laila Barret Anderson White to the CHC family. Mom Kristin, Emerson Program Co-Director, and dad, Kevin, are doing just fine. Congratulations!

CHC is proud to announce the addition of 10th class alumna Allegra Cira to the CHC Staff. Allegra is serving as a Program Associate with the Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program, and her



Above: Baby Sophia.
Top right: Baby Laila.
Right: Allegra Cira.

responsibilities include training coordination, recruiting and selection management, and oversight of various Fellow program activities. ●



CHC Co-Sponsors Microcredit Seminar on Capitol Hill

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Maria Otero, President of ACCION International. Robert Annibale, Global Director of Citigroup's Microfinance division, served as discussant at the end of the panelists' presentations to highlight opportunities and challenges for future partnerships between the private sector and development organizations.

Expanding appropriate financial services to rural areas is a major, necessary, and difficult challenge for successful global poverty reduction. It is estimated that less than

ten percent of those households in need of microcredit currently have access to such services. To illustrate how expanding financial services might work, the panelists discussed successful approaches and examples.

FINCA International representative Scott Graham said that FINCA's ground-up approach to commercializing—using donor funding to create a network of 22 affiliate programs worldwide—has allowed the organization to scale up and draw on com-

mercial sources, and more rapidly expand its village banking operations. "Donor funding has been the catalyst that allowed FINCA's programs to reach operational self-sufficiency and begin to draw on commercial funding," Graham said.

ACCION International, which leverages donor funding to provide banks with the assistance they need to move successfully 'down market' into microfinance, was responsible for creating the first commercial microfinance bank, Bolivia's BancoSol, in 1992. It has become the model followed by other ACCION partners, and much of the rest of the field. ACCION's experience with commercial microfinance in the 1990s is one reason why commercial banks are now attracted to microfinance.

For a detailed description of the seminar, please visit CHC's website at www.hungercenter.org and click on "Microcredit Seminar." ●



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Founder

Ambassador Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey
Founding Director

In Memory Of:
Honorable Bill Emerson
Honorable Mickey Leland

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Alliance Against Hunger

Max Finberg, Ambassador Tony Hall's longtime staffer and founding CHC program director, now directs the Alliance to End Hunger. The purpose of the Alliance is to engage diverse institutions in an effort to win the shifts in U.S. public opinion, institutions and policy to reduce hunger at home and overseas. People who want to learn more about the Alliance can visit their website at www.alliancetoendhunger.org. To contact Max directly, please send e-mail to m.finberg@alliancetoendhunger.org.