

RESULTS Advocate

BUILDING CHAMPIONS TO END POVERTY

Building Bridges as Budget Cuts Loom

“Hope is a decision, not a feeling,” said Joanne Carter, executive director of RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund. “Whatever we feel, I’d argue we need to decide to act with hope — hope about what’s possible and hope about the bridges we can build on issues that matter for the world.”

Carter was addressing the challenges that RESULTS faces with a sharply divided Congress and deep budget cuts proposed for poverty-reduction programs. RESULTS activists were gathered around speaker phones in cities across the country to hear her speak. Carter reminded them that RESULTS’ work has never been easy, yet we have demonstrated over and over that the programs we champion, like education for all children around the world, early childhood development programs in the U.S., microfinance, and child survival, can actually create bipartisan consensus.

Take 1994, for instance, when Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-AL) became chair of the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, which oversees the foreign aid budget. Rep. Callahan had never voted in favor of a foreign aid bill. Rather than despairing, RESULTS enlisted the help of key allies in Congress and asked Rep. Callahan to take on the issue of child deaths from poverty-related causes, and he did. He spearheaded the creation of the Child Survival and Health Account in the foreign aid budget, which is now funded at almost \$500 million annually for child survival and maternal health programs.

“We never know who our allies and champions will be,” Carter said. “This is a moment where our particular strengths are so

valuable. We have important relationships across the political spectrum and the willingness to get in there and influence new members.”

To be successful in times like these requires creativity. Our current cam-



Rebecca Sullivan

RESULTS is working across the political spectrum to sustain critical programs for low-income people like Head Start and health care for the world’s most vulnerable people.

aigns were chosen to build bridges and have maximum impact. For example, we’re supporting funding for new vaccines that could save the lives of 7.6 million children and the rollout of a new diagnostic tool that will transform the fight against TB. (Read more about these campaigns on page 4.)

Our U.S.-focused campaigns aim to protect and expand early childhood development programs and build support for strategies that encourage savings. These campaigns tackle some of

the root causes of inequality, break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, and build on RESULTS’ history of engagement in these issues. (Read about one of our new chapters taking action on page 6.)

Success also depends on amplifying our voice, so we’re starting new RESULTS chapters in congressional districts where we don’t currently have a presence. We’re giving constituents the opportunity to speak knowledgeably and persuasively to their representatives while letting representatives know that their constituents care about people struggling with poverty. (Read about RESULTS’ expansion on page 7.)

“I am clear we can make real progress this year if we continue to do what we do best,” Carter said. And what’s that? We make the case powerfully to decision makers and the media; we work across the political spectrum, building bridges and support from unexpected allies; and no matter the challenges, we refuse to give up.

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Empowering ordinary people to become extraordinary voices for the end of poverty.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Changing Perceptions of Poverty in the U.S.



Erica Lansner

In late 2007, as banks were crumbling around the U.S., Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank did something radical. They opened a microfinance bank in Queens, NY. Following the original Grameen model, which was developed in one of the world's poorest countries (Bangladesh), Grameen America placed 500 women borrowers into groups of five, then made loans of up to \$3,000 for small business ideas developed by the groups. As they built their businesses, the women met weekly to make payments and contribute to a savings account.

Just twelve months after opening, the Jackson Heights branch of Grameen America had loaned over \$1.5 million to 550 women and added branches in Brooklyn and Manhattan, with plans to open in other U.S. cities. RESULTS teamed up to tell this story at the March 31 nationwide release of the documentary *To Catch a Dollar: Muhammad Yunus Banks on America*. The movie was shown in 227 theaters. RESULTS chapters cohosted 37 showings and educated attendees.

“Having successfully highlighted the power of microfinance to help lift the world’s poorest people out of poverty, RESULTS is in a prime position to spread the word about the importance of credit and building assets for low-income people in America and the power of advocacy to bring that vision to scale,” said Meredith Dodson, RESULTS’ director of domestic campaigns.

RESULTS activists shared about RESULTS’ asset-building campaign, which is promoting the Saver’s Bonus. The Saver’s Bonus would let low-income workers in the U.S. put all or part of their tax refund into a savings product, which would be matched by the government up to \$500 per year. “Current U.S. policy allocates billions of dollars to asset building through things like mortgage interest and property tax deductions, but only 3 percent of the benefits go to the bottom 60 percent of households,” said Dodson. “Compare that to the top 1 percent, who receive 45 percent of the benefits. The Saver’s Bonus is a simple, common sense option that gives low-income Americans the opportunity, convenience, and incentive to begin saving. What’s so exciting is how much of a game-changer saving can be — low-income families that save money are more likely to have children who escape poverty.”

Hundreds of people at the *To Catch a Dollar* premier signed up to become involved with RESULTS. The event also kicked off a long-term campaign to reframe perceptions of poverty in this country and to extend the reach of financial services to those in need. Each week in April, events are bringing attention to a specific topic, from the “unbanked” in America to the need for financial literacy. RESULTS is hosting several online webinar trainings and even a “Twitter Party” during the policy week of April 25 in order to educate and activate theatergoers looking for a way to make a difference.

RESULTS Activists Gather for Regional Conferences

RESULTS activists in (left to right) California, the Pacific Northwest, Texas, and New Jersey (not pictured) gathered for regional conferences this spring to develop their advocacy skills and get inspired by getting together.

Dee Diallo, who is originally from Guinea in West Africa, shared about his experience at the regional conference in Washington state: “I spent that weekend with a group of people who

understand that we live in a shrinking global village, making us more closely interdependent than ever before. It was uplifting and inspiring. Since discovering RESULTS less than a year ago, I’ve seen the proof that even small actions count, especially when combined with other people’s efforts. Thank you for helping me be engaged and an agent of positive change in this global village.”



In Bangladesh, Seeing Is Believing

By Jennifer Maurer, RESULTS Senior Policy Associate

We sat in a small courtyard (though big by Bangladeshi standards) beside a large and sturdy home, surrounded by healthy women and children. We had come to Bangladesh to see evidence that it is possible to create a system in which people who are seemingly stuck in poverty can live healthy, productive, and even prosperous lives.

This past January, Patrick Hughes, founder and president of Inclusion Solutions; Brian Shaw, chairman, Asia Pacific, for the British firm Fresh @ Leagas Delaney; Nick Arena, RESULTS' former chief operating officer; and I spent two days visiting programs run by BRAC. BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) is a development organization that recognizes that people are poor because of a lack of opportunities, not a lack of potential. Its programs, which reach an estimated 110 million people, include microfinance, primary schools, TB treatment, and much more.



“The woman whose courtyard we were in proudly recounted how she had purchased three rickshaws with her first loan, which she then rented out to male drivers. From there, her business grew.”

economic activity with complex financial portfolios — and having tremendous success.

The woman whose courtyard we were in proudly recounted how she had purchased three rickshaws with her first loan, which she then rented out to male drivers. From there, her business grew and grew. Now she could help her son pay for a driving test and license so he could get a well-paying job in Dhaka, the country's capital. Another woman had used her loan to expand a small store. It was now a large store with employees.

These women had come far, but there were others who started from much more dire circumstances. To meet them, we travelled

“While the tools looked rudimentary, the women were engaging in vibrant economic activity with complex financial portfolios — and having tremendous success.”

Photos this page by Patrick Hughes

to one of BRAC's Ultra-Poor Programs. The women who enter this program have no assets and eat barely one meal a day; many are shunned by their neighbors and even family. BRAC helps them plan an income-generating activity, provides them with necessary assets, and coaches them on how to run their business, improve their health and nutrition, and get their children into school.



Jennifer Maurer, RESULTS' senior policy associate, shared a happy moment with microfinance borrowers in Bangladesh.

Standing tall, graduates of the Ultra Poor Program eagerly asked us to visit their homes to see what they had accomplished. Their businesses started very small, but grew. One woman began with just one cow, but now she had two cows, six goats, and lots of chickens. She brought her animals out from behind her house one at a time. “That's not all,” she said, after each round. “Look at what else I've achieved. Can you believe it?”

With proceeds from her livestock, she had built a house, and like all the other borrowers we met, she used her new income to ensure that her children went to school and had medicine and nutritious food.

Seeing really is believing, which was certainly true for both Brian and Patrick, who joined the trip to learn about real solutions to poverty. “I guess I had expected to find a bunch of people sitting in the dark, feeling sorry for themselves, and I haven't found that at all,” Brian shared. “What I've found is a bunch of people who are driven, who are motivated, who are energetic, who want to help themselves ... It's giving people the tools that they need to change their own lives. It's just incredibly impressive.”



Lining Up for Life: New Vaccines

Tabitha Muikali could only watch helplessly as her eldest son battled the disease that kills more children than any other. The little boy spent a month at Langata District Health Centre in Nairobi fighting pneumonia — and lost.

On February 14, Tabitha returned to Langata with her youngest son, one-year-old John Dolo, but this time she came to *protect* him from pneumonia. They waited in line with hundreds of other women and children for the brand-new pneumococcal vaccine. Pneumococcal disease is the leading cause of pneumonia. It also leads to meningitis, sepsis (blood poisoning), and otitis media (infection of the middle ear), which can cause permanent deafness.

Tabitha and John live in Kibera, Kenya's largest slum, which houses over a million people in an area the size of New York City's Central Park. Families are crowded into tin-roof shacks that average 12 feet by 12 feet, most lacking basic sanitation and running water. In a place like this, communicable diseases like pneumonia spread quickly. Each year, an estimated 35,000 Kenyan children, and more than 1.5 million children worldwide, die from it.

Few people realize the toll that pneumonia takes on our youngest and most vulnerable, yet over one-third of the 8.8 million children under five who die each year succumb to this preventable and treatable disease or to rotavirus, which is the leading cause of diarrheal disease. Because pneumonia and rotavirus rarely take the lives of children in wealthy countries, they have received inadequate attention — until now.

Thanks to an organization called the GAVI Alliance, two breakthroughs have occurred. A vaccine for rotavirus was introduced in 2006 and the pneumococcal vaccine was launched in 2010. By the end of 2011, the latter will have been introduced in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Yemen, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mali.

Changing the Vaccine Market to Reach All Children

It is particularly remarkable that the pneumococcal vaccine was rolled out in some of the world's poorest settings in the same year it was introduced in the U.S. Typically, it takes up to 10 years for

new vaccines to move from the wealthiest countries to the poorest. The GAVI Alliance, whose partners range from UNICEF to vaccine manufacturers to donor and endemic country governments,



Tabitha Muikali lost her first son to pneumonia, which kills more children under five than any other disease in the world. Acutely aware of the high risks of contracting pneumonia in Kibera, she was one of hundreds of mothers from the shanty town who lined up for the chance to protect their children from the disease. Her youngest, John Dolo, now has a lifetime of protection.

was created precisely to make this happen. Its vision is of a world in which the latest life-saving vaccines are made available to children regardless of where they are born.

"GAVI was set up to expand access to immunizations in the poorest countries in a sustainable fashion," explained Geoff Adlide, GAVI's director of advocacy and public policy. "It's not simply a matter of raising money and providing it to poor countries. It's about shaping the way vaccine markets work. GAVI has been able to bundle the demand that is out there in the developing world and, on the other side, pool significant donor resources together, and in that way cause the vaccine producers to realize that there might be another way of doing business for them that would also do good. Vaccine prices are coming down as a consequence of this market-shaping intervention."

New vaccines to combat pneumonia and rotavirus present an extraordinary opportunity, but they are not yet widely available to the children who need them most — those in the poorest countries. The World Health Organization has recommended that the two vaccines be introduced into all national immunization programs, particularly in countries with high child mortality. Yet, of the 129 million babies born in 2008, only 8 percent received the rotavirus vaccine. By the end of 2011, the pneumococcal vaccine will only be in nine countries.

"A child in a low-income country is 17 times more likely to die before they reach the age of five," Adlide pointed out, "... and 118 times more likely to die from rotavirus than if they lived in the



Take On the Biggest Child Killers

U.S. That's a phenomenal inequity that we all need to address, and we can address it."

Accelerating Progress

Without a doubt, vaccines are some of the highest impact and lowest cost health interventions on the planet. A few doses are bringing a lifetime of protection to John Dolo. Vaccines not only prevent deaths and promote health, they also reduce the burden on stretched health care systems. Widespread vaccination even benefits individuals who are not immunized by reducing the prevalence of the disease and breaking the chain of transmission, an effect known as "herd immunity." Further, immunization programs can serve as a backbone for improving health systems as a whole.

As *Washington Post* columnist and former George W. Bush speechwriter Michael Gerson wrote, vaccines are also "some of the largest humanitarian contributions of developed nations to the rest of the world." Since its founding in 2000, GAVI has supported the immunization of nearly 300 million children for diseases ranging from measles to polio. These efforts are estimated to have prevented 5 million deaths. With adequate funding, said Adlide, "we can save a further 4 million just in the next five years. That's a massive acceleration."

This June, government and foundation donors from around the world are gathering in London for a pledging conference to determine their future contributions to GAVI. RESULTS is asking

Vaccines are some of the highest impact and lowest cost health interventions on the planet. RESULTS is helping to create a world in which the latest life-saving vaccines and other health technologies are made available to all children regardless of where they are born.

Congress for a \$175 million contribution for FY2012 to expand pneumococcal and rotavirus immunization programs. If funded sufficiently, GAVI plans to support the rollout of the pneumococcal vaccine in more than 40 countries by 2015. Thirty-three GAVI-eligible countries are planning to introduce the rotavirus vaccine.

"Even with the expanded funding we are seeking, the funding provided for vaccines would be modest, yet few things make such a tremendous impact in terms of lives saved and future health protected," said Joanne Carter, RESULTS/REF executive director. "It's about impact, and it's about equity."

"We've got the opportunity to ensure that children in developing countries have the same protection from these killer diseases as children do in Australia or in the United States," said Adlide. "We have it in our reach to do it — how can we not?"

Get involved in RESULTS' child health and vaccine campaign. Visit www.results.org.



All photos these pages: © GAVI/2011/Riccardo Gangale

A Game-Changer for Tuberculosis

A new DNA-based technology to diagnose tuberculosis (TB) may be the most important public health breakthrough for TB in over half a century. GeneXpert dramatically reduces the time it takes to diagnose a person with the disease. It also detects if a patient is resistant to first-line TB drugs and can detect TB in people with HIV, all without the need for a high-tech laboratory.

The current way of diagnosing TB relies on technology invented before automobiles. It can take weeks to provide results and often misses TB in those at highest risk (such as people living with HIV and young children). GeneXpert provides a diagnosis in less than two hours and improves detection of TB by 30 percent and of multi-drug resistant TB by 300 percent. Rapid diagnosis of TB — especially in people living with HIV who die rapidly without treatment —

means millions more lives could be saved this decade. And because treating TB means stopping its spread to others, GeneXpert could prevent TB transmission on a massive scale if used widely, ushering in an era where eliminating TB is possible.

"Our work in global health should be driven by the simple premise that where you are born should not determine whether you have access to life-saving technology, whether it's antiretroviral therapy to treat AIDS, a new vaccine to prevent pneumonia, or a diagnostic to detect TB," said RESULTS/REF Executive Director Joanne Carter. "Opportunities like GeneXpert can be the nexus of technology and justice if we seize them. RESULTS is working to make it a reality."

A New RESULTS Chapter Speaks Up About Poverty in Idaho and Around the Country

Too often, Victoria Craig's clients would end up frustrated when they tried to contribute through volunteering. "They would sign up and no one would call them, or once engaged, there would be little support or training," said the life coach. "I, too, really wanted to find a place where I could have a broader effect. I also became aware that, because of personal and cultural conditioning, women in particular have a difficult time speaking up for causes they believe in."

That awareness led Craig to attend the conference "Sister Giant: Rousing the Sleeping Giant of American Womanhood," led by renowned author and RESULTS/REF board member Marianne Williamson in February 2010. On the final day, RESULTS' staff gave a presentation on how attendees could channel their passion for helping the world's children through our local chapters. "RESULTS seemed different in that the heart was in the right place, *and* there was training available," said Craig.

Back in her hometown of Boise, Idaho, Craig took advantage of RESULTS' training and support to form a RESULTS chapter. Jos Linn, RESULTS/REF domestic outreach organizer, traveled to Idaho twice to lead outreach meetings and trainings and has supported the group regularly ever since. The group now has 11 committed members who meet twice a month.

In their first meeting, the Boise group decided to focus their energies on tackling poverty in the United States. "Every one of us has a relationship with kids in poverty in the state," explained Janet McClenahan, who worked with people on limited incomes during her 15 years at the YMCA. "We know there are huge needs in Idaho. We're seeing things go in the opposite direction with our legislature than we'd like, and we're hoping we can make an impact through RESULTS."

One way they're doing that is by establishing a relationship with their representative, Raul Labrador. They started by getting a meeting with his local aide.

"I find RESULTS to be an excellent training ground for self-expression."

"It was the first time any of us had gone to the office of a member of Congress," said Craig. "People were a bit nervous going into it, but we all had a very

positive sense about how it went. It was a remarkable growth experience, learning ways to directly address people who may see the world differently than we do."

The group members took turns sharing about RESULTS and, more specifically, about RESULTS' campaign to support Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care assistance for low-income working families. McClenahan talked about the importance of the 2009 temporary increase in funding for early childhood



In Boise, Idaho, RESULTS activists get energized to meet with their members of Congress. From left to right: Lance Muckelroy, Victoria Craig, Jane Pierie, Robin Peterson, Lila Cabrera, Lori Graber, and Janet McClenahan. (Not pictured: Kathleen Moyer, Juana Nolasco, and Mary Stunz.)

development programs: Over 1 million children have received services ranging from school readiness to immunizations. She also shared how many children will lose access to these services if the 2011 budget proposal passed by the House in February becomes law: 218,000 low-income children would be cut from the program; 16,000 Head Start classrooms would close; 55,000 teachers and staff would lose their jobs; and an additional 150,000 low-income children and their families would lose child care assistance.

The group's next step is to meet face-to-face with Rep. Labrador and with Rep. Mike Simpson to make specific requests.

So is RESULTS feeding Craig's desire to speak up? Absolutely.

"I find RESULTS to be an excellent training ground for self-expression," she said. "The training and support are excellent, I trust the information I get through RESULTS, and there's a strong commitment to the purpose. There's a sense of being uplifted and excited about what we're doing. We know that in order to sustain our efforts to make change, we need each other."

"After every meeting we're always energized," McClenahan added. "It's a good feeling to know I'm not just stressing out about what upsets me. I'm doing something about it."

If you'd like to help start a RESULTS chapter that works on reducing poverty in the U.S., contact Jos Linn at jlinn@results.org.

INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

RESULTS is Growing with Help from Activists and a Generous Investment



“My sole purpose for being is to grow RESULTS,” said Mary Peterson, our new global grassroots associate for expansion. Her position was funded through the generosity of an Investor for Social Change

who understands the critical importance of building RESULTS’ presence in areas of the country where we don’t yet have chapters.

Peterson is charged with starting 12 to 15 new RESULTS groups with a focus on global poverty, particularly in congressional districts where the member of Congress is on the appropriations committee. These districts are key, because appropriators decide how the many pieces of the federal budget are divided up.

“We need to be in their districts to speak to those in power and advance the agenda of saving lives,” Peterson said.

Peterson has done outreach work since 2003, when she joined the field staff of a presidential campaign. Later she was the grassroots coordinator for the Global AIDS Alliance.

“Building coalitions is second nature to me,” she said, “but I can’t do this job on my own. If we get these groups started, it will be thanks to RESULTS activists who help me network. Think about when you joined RESULTS. It was likely at the invitation of someone else. Can you return that favor? Take a moment and e-mail someone about how you’re changing the world through RESULTS. E-mail me at mpeterson@results.org to find out how you can help us grow this year.”

Contact Peterson if you can help her make connections in our current target areas: Idaho; Central Louisiana; Maine; Montana; Northampton, MA; New Hampshire; Research Triangle area, NC; Columbus, OH; Ashland/Medford, OR; Lehigh Valley, PA; Vermont; Black River Falls, WI; and Wyoming.

Investors for Social Change are people who make major donations to the work of RESULTS or RESULTS Educational Fund (REF). We are profoundly grateful for their faith in our work. All donations of any size are valuable to us and support our mission to create a world where all people have access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Please consider making a donation to RESULTS or REF today. You can use the enclosed giving envelope or donate online at www.results.org.

Why RESULTS?

Since 1980, RESULTS has been shining a light on poverty wherever it exists and supporting citizens to become powerful voices for the end of poverty. RESULTS is comprised of sister organizations RESULTS Educational Fund (REF) and RESULTS, Inc.

RESULTS, Inc. is an international, grassroots citizens’ advocacy organization whose purpose is to create the political will to end hunger and poverty. RESULTS Educational Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, focuses on creating the public and political will to end poverty through training, research, and education. Together, they are shaping a more equitable world by bringing

health, education, and economic opportunity to those who need it most.

RESULTS has developed a unique support system that empowers ordinary people to make a difference. Volunteers in over 100 chapters around the country take monthly actions — writing or meeting with members of Congress, generating media, and educating communities. Our volunteers are just like you, people searching for concrete ways to make a difference in their communities and around the world.

Find a group in your community or start one today! Visit www.results.org.

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JOIN US IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS JUNE!

If you haven't registered for the 2011 RESULTS/REF International Conference, it's time! Come to D.C. to get educated about effective solutions to poverty, meet activists from around the world, and speak up on Capitol Hill. Make a real difference and have fun, too.

Highlights of the 2011 conference include:

- Keynote speaker Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund.
- Presentations from some of the world's foremost experts on international and U.S. poverty.
- Small-group sessions with congressional staff to learn how to increase your impact in meetings with members of Congress.
- Lobby Day meetings with your senators, representatives, and/or their staff on Capitol Hill.
- Supplementary skills sessions: Become a more powerful advocate, use social media for outreach, learn how to network in your community, and much more.
- Reception on Capitol Hill with members of Congress.

Register today at www.results.org!



Why is coming to the conference important? Here's what Representative Adam Smith had to say:

"You bring people to D.C. who are from the very communities of the representatives you're meeting with and have them say to their members of Congress, 'This issue matters to me. I'm your constituent and whatever you've heard about people saying they don't care about foreign aid, I do.'... That makes a huge difference for those of us working on the issue, to build greater and greater support."

SEEING IS BELIEVING IN BANGLADESH, LINING UP FOR LIFE, AND MORE

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