

Dear New Partner, Group Leader or Regional Coordinator:

Thank you and welcome to the RESULTS community! We are grateful for your participation in RESULTS and realize without you none of the great work we do would be possible. The RESULTS community is one based on the principles of a world that recognizes the rights and dignity of all people. It is through RESULTS that many of us lost our cynicism about government and came to realize that without using our voices as a powerful force for social change things would indeed remain the same.

We encourage all of you, whether seasoned RESULTS veterans or brand new RESULTS partners to push yourselves to continue to grow into the community leaders that you are. We encourage you to learn deeply about the issues surrounding hunger and poverty and to practice speaking those issues so that we become fountains of knowledge and credibility within our communities. As advocates for the end of hunger and poverty both here and abroad, we refuse to stand silently by while others suffer, particularly when we have the tools at our feet to make a difference.

Each of you are activists in the greatest sense of the word: you are expressing your deepest values, your deepest hopes and desires by bringing a voice to the voiceless. Each day you are breaking through the myths that hold our political leaders, our friends and those in the media hostage to a world that doesn't work, a world filled with hopelessness and despair. Each day you are showing them that the poor are neither hopeless nor helpless. You are educating them that what the poor want and need is opportunity and access not pity and handouts. The task seems monumental, but we will build a brighter future for all of the world's children one citizen, one politician, one cynic at a time.

At its core RESULTS is about democracy, about citizen reclaiming their democracy. We are citizen coming together and raising our voices for a society based on social justice and equal opportunity. We can live in a world that matches our wildest dreams and our deepest desires. We can live in a world that is free of hunger and the most devastating aspects of poverty,

It is truly a privilege to work with you and for you. Thank you for your vision, your leadership and your passion.

RESULTS Grassroots Staff

RESULTS 101: How it Works

First off let me say that RESULTS and its structure isn't for everybody. If you are looking for a postcard to sign or an email to send, you may want to look for another group. But if you are passionate about making a difference, if you are committed to ensuring the poor have dignified pathways out of poverty, if you're willing to go out on a limb, to stand up for what you believe in, then RESULTS is the place for you.

RESULTS' mission statement, our mantra, is that we are empowering citizens across the country and around the world to generate the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty. Before you can do that you have to identify what stands in the way of achieving that goal and then how best to serve the communities that are at the greatest risk. When we talk about generating political will, what we have to do first is dispel the myth that the poor are directly responsible for their plight. We have to dispel the myth that the underlying causes of poverty are laziness, apathy and ignorance. Our job is to replace that myth with the truth, which is that the underlying causes of poverty are social, economic and political. Taking people out of the box of laziness and ignorance and seeing them as productive members of their society held back by social, economic or political problems not only allows us to take action, it demands that we take action.

So your next question might be how do we do that and how do we identify the programs that will address these issues?

What RESULTS' Legislative Staff does really well is team up with the heavy hitters in hunger and poverty circles and we learn from each other, and from the people working and living in impoverished communities about what is working and what's not. We look for sustainable solutions with a history of success. Organizations like The World Health Organization, The Grameen Bank, The Children's Defense Fund, UNICEF, The Earth Institute and The Kaiser Family Foundation have all lent their expertise in guiding us to develop long term sustainable solutions to the end of hunger and poverty. But what RESULTS doesn't do is fund any of these organizations directly. We ask Congress to do that. In this way, we are able to leverage millions of dollars from the federal budget for programs directed at global health and infectious disease, child survival, microcredit programs, access to Head Start and accessible health care for all Americans.

Armed with this knowledge the legislative staff of RESULTS identifies the most effective programs with the most significant history of results in reaching the poorest of the poor, and then through a series of calls and meetings disperses this information to a grassroots network of about 500 volunteers across the country. From there, our volunteers start chipping away at the myths that hold us back from doing all that we could to end hunger and poverty. They write letters to the editor, they generate editorials, they write, call and meet with their Members of Congress, they hold press conferences, outreach meetings, and host fundraising events, essentially creating a movement by winning the hearts and minds of our political leaders. RESULTS Volunteers educate our members of Congress, the media and members of our community stressing that ending hunger and poverty is not only the right thing to do, but that it is in our own social, economic and political best interest to do so.

Our **volunteers** are the meat and potatoes of the organization. RESULTS has an extraordinarily small number of paid staffers, but an unbelievably strong and loyal cadre of grassroots volunteers. Each global or domestic RESULTS group (four or more committed volunteers) is responsible for building and maintaining a relationship with their members of Congress and the media. Each group has a designated **Group Leader** that agrees to be in direct communication with a RESULTS staff member or a RESULTS **Regional Coordinator** once a week to receive legislative updates on our issues and strategize how to move our issues forward in Congress,

the media and our communities. The Group Leader then takes this information back to their group of volunteers where they strategize on the most effective way to influence their member of Congress.

Global and Domestic RESULTS volunteers also meet once a month for a **national conference call** with staff and volunteers across the country for one gigantic strategy meeting with an average of 200 people on the calls. Volunteers also make their way to Washington, D.C. in June for our **International Conference** to hear critically acclaimed speakers, get training and hone their lobbying skills and then lobby their members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Given all of that it is no wonder that RESULTS works.

So it is truly our volunteers that are the heart and soul of this organization. They are the ones responsible for breaking through the myths that hold our leaders back from making hunger and poverty a political priority. They are the ones who stand up in a crowd to speak out on behalf of those with no voice, even though every fiber of their body says “sit down,” “don’t stand out.” They are the ones constantly pushing, constantly questioning, constantly demanding better from a country and government that could do so much, with so little, for so many. RESULTS is not for everyone, but if you have been searching for a way to make a real difference in the lives of million of people around the world, I think you’ve found it.

Staff & Volunteer Support Structure

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RESULTS Core Values Statement

Individual Transformation leads to Collective Transformation

RESULTS transforms society by transforming individuals - from a RESULTS partner, to a Member of Congress, to a Head Start student, to a microcredit borrower. When an individual experiences a positive breakthrough in their personal power and vision of what is possible, they exert a positive transformational influence on society. This transformation creates a world where hunger and poverty are unthinkable.

Learning

We approach challenges with curiosity and humility, realizing that each of us has much to learn in order to bring about a more humane world. We create a safe environment in which to make mistakes, learn from failures, and evaluate our efforts for future effectiveness. We commit to learning from one another, our allies and opponents - always striving for excellence

Action

We recognize that bold and courageous action is sometimes met with caution and resistance. Thus, we take strategic, focused, and persistent action to create measurable results. Our initiatives are based on credible research to promote greater understanding and openness to them.

Powerful Relationships and Community

As partners on the planet, we acknowledge each person as an extension of ourselves, and show dignity and respect to all people. We recognize the collective power in our diversity and inclusivity and work to build coalition among all the stakeholders in a prosperous world for all. We encourage each other's leadership and make ourselves accountable to one another, creating powerful and rewarding teams and communities. Our organization reflects these principles, with an open and transparent policy and decision-making process.

Empowered Citizenship

RESULTS is founded on the principle that each human being makes a difference. We lead by example, becoming more skilled advocates for a harmonious and just world, and by empowering the skills of others toward this goal. We provide access to accurate information and action strategies, and form a coordinated support structure of staff, grassroots activists and allies. We seek to expand this network, empowering more and more citizens in vibrant democratic process.

Building Relationships: The Ties that Bind Us

Building relationships with our members of Congress, the media, other organizations and our community members are the cornerstones on which the foundation of RESULTS is built. Our successes are based on the ability of our volunteers and staff to build and maintain long-term relationships with a large network of players; members of Congress, the media, other organizations, community allies and heavy hitters within our communities to build the political clout necessary to bring about the end of hunger and poverty. RESULTS' integrity is built upon a structure of credible, timely, and accurate information presented in a non-partisan, consistent and compelling way. Members of Congress and their aides who work with RESULTS volunteers on a consistent basis have come to rely on our information as being extremely credible whether they are democrats or republicans.

Aides

Building a relationship with your Senators or Representatives aide is one of the most important relationships you can develop as a volunteer. Often times it is difficult if not impossible to see your member of Congress in person, and completely impossible to speak to them directly on the phone, but the aide who handles the specific topic you are interested in will often have daily briefings with your member and will be able to put your issue in front of him or her if they are compelled to do so. So developing this relationship can be vital in turning your member of Congress into a spokesperson for the end of hunger and poverty. Get the ear of the aide and you've got the ear of the Congressperson.

Members of Congress

RESULTS volunteers across the country have had various degrees of success at developing relationships with their members of Congress. There are many variables that come into play when you begin to develop your relationship. How long your member has been in Congress and his or her level of seniority can affect the access you will have to your member regardless of their party affiliation. Your job is to educate, inform and inspire them about successful programs with a proven history of results. Because of the tireless efforts of many of our volunteers over long periods of time many democrats and republicans have come to believe that a vital part of their legacy will be the work they do to ensure that the most vulnerable among us have opportunity and access to dignified pathways out of poverty.

The Media

One of the ways your congressperson gets information is through their local papers back home. A major metropolitan paper may have a circulation of 150,000 or more, so when an editor decides to run an editorial on AIDS or Head Start funding he is saying we support this position and we think many of our readers will too. Often editorial writers will try and sway their elected officials by calling them to action around a specific issue. RESULTS uses this platform as an effective tool for informing members of Congress about important issues around hunger and poverty. Members of Congress use their hometown papers as an effective way to measure the pulse of their constituency. Building a solid relationship with a paper can help educate, inform and inspire your member of Congress as well members of your communities about effective tools to fight hunger and poverty. Never doubt that the media has the power to make our issues a political priority, it is up to us to educate and inspire them about the positive role they play in ending hunger and poverty.

Collaboration with Other Organizations

Collaboration is a key ingredient in any social justice movement. Many organizations came together to fight for workers rights, women's right to vote and the civil rights movement; without this binding of a shared vision would have never been able to accomplish their goals. Historically this democracy has not embraced social justice movements and in fact, has brutally fought to keep the status quo in place. What separates democracies from dictatorships is that there is a certain breaking point for democracy where holding on to the old ideals or interests that profit only a few, will ultimately be given over to the fear politicians have at losing their seat in Congress. It sounds cynical but it's true. The ship of state will stay its course until a big enough wave pushes it in a different direction. One organization alone won't necessarily shift the tide, but many coming together has and will.

Environmental organizations, peace groups, homeless shelters, food banks, anti-nuke organizations, public health specialists, TB controllers, child welfare advocates we all have a shared vision of leaving our backyard, as well as the planet, in better shape than when we found it. Networking with a wide array of people and organizations will push us all closer to seeing a world worthy of every child, not just a privileged few.

The Grass-tops

The former mayor of your city may not want to become a full time RESULTS Activist, but may be very willing, even energetic about lobbying your member of Congress on a specific issue that is close to their heart. Developing a network of "grass-tops" or people who have political clout in your community is another way to mobilize a larger network to end hunger and poverty. Local business leaders, spouses of public officials, former public officials, University department heads, sports figures, and superintendents of schools are just a few of the folks who can raise the stakes when meeting with your member of Congress or the media. These are also important people to cultivate for one time actions around pieces of legislation that may be affected one way or another by your member. Never doubt what a few strategically placed phone calls from someone with political clout to your member can do to affect the way your member of Congress votes. Having a network of committed citizens, organizations and grass-tops can go a long way in leveraging the political clout it will ultimately take to make hunger and poverty a political priority.

RESULTS Groups

With all of this looking outward it is always important to remember that the backbone of this organization is its group structure. Strong relationships are maintained with other organizations, members of Congress, their aides and the media by strong, healthy groups across the country. RESULTS has developed and is continually working to expand and create new models for training, mentoring, networking and organizing its volunteers and allies. Within this structure of groups is a core group of committed individuals who find not only political action within its walls, but also fellowship and a community of spirit as well.

RESULTS groups have a minimum of four active volunteers, one of those being the Group Leader. The Group Leader commits to being in contact with a staff member or a Regional Coordinator on a weekly basis. The Group Leader then sets up a channel of communication with their group members to delegate responsibilities for that week's actions.

In RESULTS there is a history of activism that is hard to rival. RESULTS volunteers are truly some of the best and the brightest activists in the country. They are ordinary individuals accomplishing the extraordinary. Ordinary individuals committed to pushing themselves to grow and expand the limits of what they thought possible. Ours is not a caravan of despair, but a loud and lively, joyous adventure that we find when one person raises their voice to bring dignity to another.