



RESULTS

the power to end poverty

SEPTEMBER 2015

OUR BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EVER!

At the opening of the 2015 RESULTS International Conference on July 18, there was not a spare seat to be found. Some people stood lining the walls, while others sat cross-legged on the floor. If space was at a premium, it was for a good reason: the conference was the largest in RESULTS history, with 535 attendees from across the U.S. and from 23 countries around the world.

As Executive Director Joanne Carter surveyed the huge, jubilant crowd before her, she noted the remarkable power of RESULTS grassroots volunteers.

“The power in this room ultimately stems from your courage. It takes courage for all of us to use our voices. It takes courage to decide to be hopeful in a deeply cynical world, it takes courage to believe we can change the world, and it takes courage to act,” she said.

And act they did. Over the next three days — thanks to your support — volunteers shuttled between dozens of skill-building and media training intensives, in-depth

2015 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

535

International Conference Attendees

Over 350

Advocacy Meetings on Capitol Hill

90

Face-to-Face Meetings with Members of Congress

217

Supporters at the 35th Anniversary Gala



RESULTS advocates Bruce Kessler and Tianna Gaines-Turner.

briefings on our current U.S. and global campaigns, and discussions with anti-poverty luminaries like Sister Simone Campbell and economist Jeffrey Sachs.

“Thank you to all the wonderful friends in RESULTS, which is just the greatest organization imaginable,” Sachs said at the outset of his remarks. “I love what you do, and I want to help.”

Inspired by his words – and by the many other speakers and panelists at the International Conference, including those who have experienced poverty themselves – RESULTS volunteers took Capitol Hill by storm on July 21, holding more than 350 meetings with their elected representatives.

U.S. poverty-focused volunteers urged lawmakers to protect the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, which lift millions of low-income working families out of poverty each year, as confirmed just this month by the latest U.S. Census data.

Our global poverty volunteers made the case to members of Congress that we can **end** preventable

child and maternal deaths by 2035, and encouraged them to actively support the Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015, which aims to ensure that the U.S. does its part to achieve this goal. Because of our volunteers’ incredible advocacy efforts, 105 lawmakers also signed on to a bipartisan letter asking President Obama to maintain a strong commitment to maternal and child survival programs in his 2017 budget.

And that’s not all. Members of the ACTION global health partnership, international grassroots volunteers and allies, and those working for the Microcredit Summit Campaign took their message to leaders at the World Bank.

After a full day of advocacy, volunteers and staff came together for our annual congressional reception. Over a dozen members of Congress and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim took to the podium. Each and every one of them praised RESULTS volunteers for their unrelenting dedication in the fight to end poverty.

On Wednesday, July 22, RESULTS hosted a 35th anniversary benefit gala with microfinance pioneer and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus as keynote speaker. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and

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– Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University



RESULTS advocate Phyllis Alroy and Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ).

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Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) were honored with Congressional Champion awards, and two longtime RESULTS volunteers – Ginnie Vogts and Phyllis Alroy – were recipients of the first annual Bob Dickerson Grassroots Leadership Award.

While paying tribute to RESULTS' incredible network of volunteers that night, many of whom have been with the organization since the very beginning, Joanne reminded the room of what's always been so true about RESULTS:

“Volunteers like Ginnie and Phyllis are not a just a piece of our advocacy approach: they are the heart of it. They are what sets us apart.”

Thank you for making this year's International Conference and 35th Anniversary Gala such an astounding success. We couldn't have done it without your support!

TAKING A CHANCE AND FINDING RESULTS

Tamara Bates will be the first of 88 grandchildren in her family to graduate from college.

“I always wanted something different,” said the 22-year-old rising senior at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. “I just want to motivate my peers, because they need it the most. We were put on this earth to serve a purpose. You just have to put yourself out there, be willing to take risks, and have an open mind.”

It was this gutsy attitude that led Tamara to RESULTS three years ago, when she took a chance and applied to the REAL Change Organizing and Advocacy Fellowship after learning about it during an event at her school.

“I didn't really know what the program was about, I just signed up for it,” Tamara said. She soon discovered that besides receiving training in community organizing, media skills, and advocacy, she would be able to

directly engage with members of Congress about the issues she cared about most, including SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp program.

“For me, the situation with SNAP benefits hits close to home because my mother and I are both recipients,” Tamara explained. “RESULTS gives you a platform and pushes you to be a better person and a better advocate. It helps you tell your story. You have millions and millions of people who actually don't get a chance to tell their story because they feel powerless or scared to share.”

Through her work as a REAL Change Fellow, and now as a participant in RESULTS' new Experts on Poverty program, Tamara is determined to fight the stigma associated with vital programs like SNAP. She also wants to empower others to share their own stories and become skilled advocates for change.

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RESULTS advocate Tamara Bates.

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“This is my third International Conference. A lot of like-minded people come together to change lives, change their environment, and change the world. That’s what is so exciting to me. Some people say they want to do this or that, but they never take the action to do it. But at the RESULTS conference, you get that

motivation to go back home and do what you said you’re going to do.”

Tamara said her work as an advocate is only beginning. As one of 15 participants in the Experts on Poverty program — comprised of those with firsthand knowledge of U.S. federal nutrition programs — she will continue to receive training and mentoring from RESULTS staff on effective storytelling techniques. Perhaps most importantly, she’ll have the opportunity to keep sharing her perspective and experiences with her elected representatives, her community, and the media.

In addition, the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities recently recognized Tamara as a 2015 All-Star Student for her accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

She was thrilled to visit the White House in September and said she is already looking forward to the next International Conference, slated for June 25-28, 2016.

“I’ll be here next year. You have to continue your journey.”

Because of your generosity, we’re able to support young advocates like Tamara and start innovative new programs like Experts on Poverty.

JOINING VOICES WITH MALALA ON CAPITOL HILL

Books, not bullets. That’s the message that 18-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate and global education activist Malala Yousafzai brought to lawmakers during her very first visit to Capitol Hill in June — and RESULTS was there with her.

Allison Grossman, RESULTS’ Senior Legislative Associate, helped to organize Malala’s visit, and they spent the day together going door-to-door on Capitol Hill.

“Malala’s passion, eloquence, and sense of urgency

drove all of our meetings on Capitol Hill,” Allison said. “I was thrilled to work with her, and I’m thrilled to continue working with RESULTS volunteers to ensure that Malala’s vision becomes a reality.”

Malala was in D.C. to push for a bold commitment from international leaders to provide 12 years of free, quality education for all children, in every country, by 2030.

And she reminded Congress of the critical role the U.S.

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Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai and RESULTS Senior Legislative Associate Allison Grossman. Photo credit: Joshua Roberts/Malala Fund.

“

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CONTINUE TO RAISE OUR
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”

– Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace
Prize laureate

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must play in the Global Partnership for Education, the world’s only international partnership dedicated to achieving education for all children, and a top priority for RESULTS’ advocacy.

Malala’s meetings on Capitol Hill reached across the political spectrum, discussing how the U.S. can support quality education for every child. During one particularly moving exchange, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

asked Malala how she became so brave.

“My dad always says, ‘Don’t ask me what I did; ask me what I didn’t do. And what I didn’t do was clip her wings,’” Malala replied.

Even as she graciously stopped to take photos throughout the day, she kept repeating that every human being has the power to spread their wings and take action. She was thankful for the efforts of citizen advocates like RESULTS volunteers and their tireless work to enact their shared vision of a world where every girl receives the education she deserves.

“It’s up to every person to get involved to achieve real change,” Malala said. “I was meeting with U.S. politicians, but there are so many powerful activists that raise their voices every single day. We are part of a global community of advocates that are fighting for education to change the world. Together we can continue to raise our voices for the right of every child, especially girls, to get quality education for free.”

You’ve made it possible for RESULTS to work with inspiring global visionaries like Malala.



RESULTS advocates and 2015 International Conference speakers Ayanna Mathis, Andy Trujillo, and Maxine Thomas.

WHAT WE'RE UP TO THIS FALL AT RESULTS

- Pushing Congress to save expiring tax credit provisions that are a lifeline to millions of low-income American families. And we are excited to work towards our goal of initiating at least eight new U.S. Poverty groups in 2015!
- Mobilizing behind the Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015, which aims to ensure the U.S. government enacts reforms and an ambitious strategy toward ending preventable maternal and child death by 2035. Pushing Congress, our communities, and the media, we're working toward a time when every child has a chance at a healthy future.
- Educating the full field of presidential candidates on critical global poverty issues. Our team of election fellows in New Hampshire, Iowa, and South Carolina are making sure the next U.S. President is a champion for health and education.
- Joining with Bread for the World, Feeding America, and others in "Vote to End Hunger" – a campaign to raise the issue of ending hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world as a priority in the 2016 election, with a launch event in Des Moines in October.
- Piloting our new global Right to Education Index (RTEI), we are working with partners in Tanzania, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and Chile to push for the right to education for all children. We anticipate launching a 15-country round of RTEI next year.
- Preparing to host the 18th Microcredit Summit on March 15-17, 2016, in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Delegates will explore the role that microfinance and financial inclusion play in the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030.
- Advancing the fight against tuberculosis, pushing for an ambitious new action plan from the Obama Administration and helping drive a new global strategy to combat the disease.