

# RESULTS Advocate

BUILDING CHAMPIONS TO END POVERTY

## Changing What We Cannot Accept

**H**ow do you get results? By holding 274 meetings with House and Senate offices in two days!

Despite tough economic times, almost 250 RESULTS activists showed their commitment to our work and to ending poverty by paying their way to Washington, D.C., this past June for the annual RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund (REF) International Conference. Those who couldn't attend pitched in from back home — making financial donations to ensure others could attend (11 people received scholarships through the Karen McQuillan Fund), writing letters to their members of Congress to be hand delivered, and even joining meetings on Capitol Hill via phone.

"The collective presence of our activists in the halls of Congress is profound," said RESULTS/REF Executive Director Joanne Carter. "Congressional offices are awakened and re-energized on our issues, and members get new ideas, make new commitments, and take bold new actions."

Before the meetings, our activists were informed and inspired by expert speakers who discussed issues ranging from the U.S. health care crisis to the challenges for achieving universal basic education, as well as the role our leaders can play to address these problems if they're inspired to act.

We also had broad international representation, with partners and speakers attending from Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Congo, India, Kenya, Mexico, Tanzania, and the UK. They shared their knowledge, met with World Bank and IMF representatives, and even joined Capitol Hill meetings.

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Vivek Dharmaraj, project leader for ACTION India, shared emotional stories about the devastating effect of multidrug-resistant TB, adding a human dimension to the requests our activists made to their legislators for TB funding. Dr. Peter



Rebecca Sullivan

*Leo Sitruk, right, with fellow University of Michigan RESULTS activists Demian Lee and Josh Lee, made such an impression in a meeting on Capitol Hill that he was invited to testify before a Judiciary Committee hearing on U.S. health care reform.*

Bujari, executive director of Tanzania's Human Development Trust, joined Ohio volunteers on Capitol Hill. "Dr. Bujari illustrated why the three principles that we're advocating be included in foreign aid reform are important from his view in-country," said activist Allison Gallaher. "Hearing it from someone who knows the situation firsthand was very effective."

The meetings with members of Congress were particularly powerful for first-time attendees. Just a month back from a stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Africa, Ronda Ansted of Greenbelt, MD, planned to observe the meetings, but was soon speaking up. "I realized some of my experiences in South Africa were directly related to our requests for health and microcredit. Being able to use my story within a month of coming home was amazing. I could not be more fortunate."

### From College to Congress

Nineteen students from 15 different colleges also came to the conference, with partial financial support, as part of a new RESULTS/REF initiative called Campus for Change. The students were given

*Continued on next page*

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

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a day and a half of student-specific trainings ranging from the role of students in advocacy to community building to generating media about solutions to poverty.

"This year was my first time at the conference," said Leo Sitruk, a Campus for Change student and member of the University of Michigan RESULTS chapter. "I was really overwhelmed and overjoyed by the intelligence of the people, the plenaries, and the presentations."

Sitruk also made an impression. In a meeting with Rep. John Conyers' senior aide, Sitruk compared his experience of the health care system in France to that in the U.S. "Having lived in France most of my life, it was a big shock when I moved to the United States four years ago. Here, I feel I am treated as a customer by doctors, whereas in France, I am treated more as a patient. I realize that the health system in the U.S. makes it hard for good doctors to think about their patients because their attention is drawn to thinking about paying bills and dealing with insurance companies."

Conyers' aide ended up inviting Sitruk to speak at a Judiciary Committee hearing the next day. "I felt greatly honored to be part of it," said Sitruk. "To be able to speak in front of the hearing was empowering."



Nineteen college students (above) took part in the Campus for Change program. At right, Alaskan activist Mary Martin speaks to Rep. Don Young about a letter he coauthored, which led to a \$50 million increase in TB funding.



## Results: \$50 Million for TB Control and More

*So what were our results?* Activists got 41 members of Congress to sign a letter written by Representatives Donald Payne (D-NJ) and Don Young (R-AK) calling for full funding for global TB. As a result, the House Appropriations Committee added \$50 million for global TB appropriations, for a total of just over \$250 million. This is a historic high water mark and especially remarkable in a year when many accounts were flat funded.

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) offered to send a letter to President Obama calling for the G8 to issue a statement of support for a Global Fund for Education. In short order, our activists got 26 rep-

resentatives to sign the letter. (Read more about our campaign for a Global Fund for Education on page 4).

Combined with follow-up actions taken throughout the summer and early fall, the meetings also helped ensure that increased funding for community health centers and Medicaid were included in all health care reform bills in the House and Senate. (Read about our Health Care for All campaign on page 3).

On the conference's final evening, Judy Wasylycia-Leis, a member of the Canadian Parliament, fired up conference participants. "You have an obligation to keep doing what you're doing and bugging all of us elected representatives every day. You must not ever hesitate!"

She added, "I was in danger, after 20 years in political life, of believing that prayer, 'God help me to accept the things I cannot change.' Through RESULTS I've learned that, in fact, our prayer should always be, 'God, help me to change the things that I cannot accept!'"

RESULTS activists continue to prove that they have the courage to change the things that are not acceptable — a world in which children are forced into hard labor for lack of access to free education or where sick Americans go bankrupt paying for health care — and to inspire their leaders to do the same.



Valerie Harper — actress, hunger activist, RESULTS/REF board member, and banquet emcee — with Microcredit Summit Campaign Director Sam Daley-Harris.



Partners and speakers, like Kenyans Evelyn Kibuchi and Rosemary Mburu (left), came from all over the world. Senator Sherrod Brown (above) and RESULTS/REF Executive Director Joanne Carter spoke with RESULTS activist Vicki Gottlieb.

Photos this page by Rebecca Sullivan.

# Having a Say in Health Care Reform

**F**orty-five minutes before the Health Care Reform Forum was set to begin, all 188 seats in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation were taken. The fire marshal insisted the doors be shut, though over 200 people were waiting outside.

It was a phenomenal, if overwhelming, response to an event cosponsored by the Santa Fe RESULTS chapter. “We were all very nervous,” said Kitty Sherlock, the chapter’s co-leader. “We were worried there might be angry exchanges.”



*RESULTS activists from New Mexico spoke out at a health care rally in Albuquerque.*

It was August 17, during the height of rancorous town hall meetings. But this forum, with a panel of speakers that included RESULTS activist Lydia Pendley, Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), and primary care physician Dr. Tyler Taylor, was not going to turn people away, nor allow the discussion to spiral into acrimony.

So, an hour and a half after the forum began, the first group was ushered out, and the waiting crowd was let in for a second session. “It turned out to be civil and started a lot of letter writing to members of Congress and letters to newspapers in support of health care reform,” said Sherlock. The forum also garnered major media coverage on TV and radio and in numerous newspapers.

Remarkably, the Santa Fe chapter cosponsored *three* health care forums. They also held meetings with congressional offices, did phone banking to encourage others to contact their members of Congress, and wrote over 100 letters to Congress and newspapers in just two months!

*While the larger health battle has raged, RESULTS has been doing critical work to push for health coverage for the most vulnerable people in our society — and succeeding.*

“From Pennsylvania to Texas, Ohio to Iowa, Virginia to Kansas, RESULTS volunteer activists have been attending town hall meetings, holding over 200 meetings with congressional offices, and generating 50 pieces of media in support of key elements of health care reform,” said Meredith Dodson, RESULTS director of domestic campaigns. “In the midst of rumors, fears, and accusations, they’ve made use of the information, training, and skills RESULTS provides them with to put forward accurate information and a humane vision of what reform should be.”

RESULTS is committed to reform that paves the way to a national health care program — Medicare for All. We believe that everyone deserves the same stability, security, and peace of mind when it comes to their health and, ultimately, their lives. Simultaneously, we’re working to make the current health reform legislation the best it can be by raising awareness of health care for the poor as a critical part of reform. Our focus in recent months has been to ensure that those most likely to be without health insurance — low-income Americans — are not lost in the debate. It is these people who are most likely to be amongst the *45,000 Americans who lose their lives for lack of insurance each year.*

Two excellent strategies to reach this population already exist — Medicaid and community health centers. Medicaid not only provides coverage for low-income Americans, but the benefits it offers are specifically designed to meet their particular needs. In the absence of a universal health plan, expanding Medicaid is the most effective and efficient means to increase the number of uninsured and keep health care costs down.

Because we have advocates in states where members of Congress have key votes in health care reform (such as New Mexico, Iowa, and Washington), we’ve been able to build pressure. Our activists’ efforts across the country have been crucial in making the expansion of community health centers and Medicaid key elements of health reform, despite stiff resistance:



*Dr. Margaret Flowers, from Physicians for a National Health Program, spoke at the International Conference about solutions to our health crisis, along with Donna Smith (left) whose story of bankruptcy due to medical bills was featured in the movie Sicko.*

- All House and Senate health care bills expand Medicaid to cover people living below 133 percent of the federal poverty line (\$24,352 for a family of three).
- All bills also include substantial increases in funding for community health centers.

As we go to press, however, critical elements of Medicaid expansion — and health reform itself — hang in the balance. We know the cost of failure is too great. As congressional leaders negotiate, the work that RESULTS volunteers are doing is vital. **We hope you’ll join us.**

# From Child Laborer to Columbia University

Lieu Tran was 12 years old when she walked into a classroom for the very first time. When she was asked to sign her name, she wrote an X. Until then, she'd spent her days working in a fireworks factory in Vietnam. Her parents were so poor, they couldn't afford to care for her and leased her out as a child laborer.

"For kids like us in Vietnam, we never thought of what we'd be when we grew up, but how we were going to be fed. School was like a dream for us," she said.

But once Tran immigrated to the U.S. and finally began to learn, nothing could stop her. It was the United States' guarantee of universal, free education that opened the door for her. Now, 13 years later, she has a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and a master's degree in human rights from Columbia University.

**President Obama's pledge represents the biggest opportunity in a decade to ensure that all children have the chance to go to school and learn.**

On August 27, Tran, who is now a RESULTS volunteer, shared her story at a press conference organized by RESULTS' Salt Lake City chapter and covered by the local NBC affiliate.

Surrounding Tran were immigrant children who, through their drawings, shared what education meant to them.

Throughout this past year, RESULTS, REF, and our activists have been building support for one of President Obama's campaign promises — a \$2 billion global education fund. His pledge represents the biggest opportunity in a decade to ensure that all children have the chance to go to school and learn. Today, over 75 million primary school-age children are not in school, many of them caught in the kind of extreme poverty Tran experienced.

Said Tran, "Education lifted me out of poverty and made me believe that I could achieve my dream."

As she shows, education is the single most effective way to break inter-generational cycles of poverty. Yet barriers to education, such as school fees, a lack of classrooms, books, and latrines, and chronic teacher shortages, mean that children are denied access to basic literacy, numeracy, and life skills — skills that are essential to building stable governments, providing hope to impoverished and disenfranchised youth, empowering women, stimulating community development, and providing paths out of poverty.

Obama's bold campaign pledge will not be achieved without first building awareness and support for a multilateral Global Fund for Education among the public and Congress. To that end, REF has been generating media coverage through grassroots and "grass-tops" efforts. Over 30 chapters have generated media about the Global Fund for Education, ranging from editorials to letters-to-

the-editor to blogs. Our grass-tops efforts have included a press conference with Queen Rania of Jordan and a media call with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, both in conjunction with the Global Campaign for Education.

We were also instrumental in bringing together Archbishop Tutu and Muhammad Yunus, both Nobel Peace Prize laureates, and Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to author a letter calling on President Obama and other G8 leaders to create a Global Fund for Education by the end of 2009. When all three were chosen to receive the Presidential Medal of Honor in August, more media coverage ensued.



*"Education lifted me out of poverty and made me believe that I could achieve my dream," says Lieu Tran, who didn't go to school until she was 12.*

In an op-ed in the *Washington Times* (Aug. 16, 2009), Archbishop Tutu wrote, "We all agree in the importance of universal basic education because it can have a profound impact on global poverty and is critical to the development of human potential."

By publicly supporting President Obama's call, engaging with members of Congress to build support for basic education, and ensuring that people across

the U.S. are advocating for children's right to learn and thrive, RESULTS and REF are working towards a breakthrough.

## REF Hosts Global Campaign for Education

We are excited to announce RESULTS Educational Fund's new role in the U.S. Global Campaign for Education (GCE) coalition. We are now host of the GCE U.S. Secretariat. As host, we're working closely with the staff, coalition members, and leadership of GCE U.S. to support a strong Education for All advocacy strategy in 2009 and 2010. By linking our grassroots activities more closely with global opportunities, such as GCE's annual Global Action Week and the 1goal World Cup campaign, we can magnify our ability to get results for the 75 million children who are still missing out on primary education.

# Seattle to Rwanda: Every Child in School

In many ways, Jessica Markowitz is a typical 14-year-old. She plays sports and likes to hang out with her friends in Seattle. But for the past two years, Markowitz has also helped bring about extraordinary change for some young girls half a world away. She is even being honored with the 2009 World of Children Award, hailed as the “Nobel Prize for Children,” on Nov. 5 at UNICEF in New York city.

Markowitz is the founder of Richard’s Rwanda, an organization that provides education materials, uniforms, and school fees for girls in Rwanda, many of whose parents were killed in the 1994 genocide. She hatched the idea when her family hosted Richard Kananga, a Rwandan human rights advocate who helps children traumatized by the genocide. From Kananga, Markowitz learned how vital education was to the children’s recovery.

So she asked her friends in Seattle to help her form Richard’s Rwanda. The group, whose motto is “Bonding girl to girl, building peace, and looking into the window of Rwanda to empower the future leaders of the world,” has raised thousands of dollars to sponsor 22 Rwandan schoolgirls.

“One of my goals and dreams is just to get every child in school,” Markowitz said. “I really think it can help kids get somewhere, especially if they’re in poverty. Education can really help their future.”

Markowitz has received support from a number of sources, but, said her mother, Lori Markowitz, “if anyone has been guiding Jessica, it’s RESULTS.”

This past April, RESULTS Educational Fund brought Markowitz to Washington, D.C., to tell her story at a press conference on Capitol Hill along with Queen Rania of Jordan and Devli Kumari, a former child laborer from India. The event, sponsored by the Global Campaign for Education, helped draw attention to the millions of children who don’t have access to education, but desperately want it.

Markowitz also met with her representative, Jim McDermott, to talk about the importance of funding global education and to call on President Obama to create a \$2 billion, multilateral global education fund, as he promised during his campaign.

Over three visits to Rwanda, Markowitz has seen the girls transformed from her efforts. “The first year, some of the girls had torn-up uniforms, and they seemed a little bit sad and their heads hung low,” she said. “But the second year, they

were more energetic and happy, and they had new uniforms because we had paid for them. So you could really see the difference.” By the third year, she could also see a clear improvement in their academic skills.

Markowitz also witnessed how important school was for children who had lost loved ones. “We saw this big circle of girls standing together and I asked what was going on. They said they were all a family to each other, because they all lost at least one family member or their entire family. When I heard that, I thought it was just so amazing that they were giving each other love, because one of the big things that the girls need and want is love.”

More information on Richard’s Rwanda can be found at [www.richardsrwnda.org](http://www.richardsrwnda.org).



Jessica Markowitz (left) joined Queen Rania of Jordan and Devli Kumari from India to sign *The Big Read*, a compilation of stories about education, which was read in over 100 countries during the Global Campaign for Education’s Global Action Week.



RESULTS activists delivered the Global Campaign for Education’s 45,000 signature petition to the White House, calling on Obama to create a \$2 billion Global Fund for Education.



“One of the big things that the girls want and need is love,” says Jessica Markowitz, surrounded by Rwandan school girls supported by her organization.

## RESULTS Executive Director Selected for Global Fund Board

Joanne Carter, RESULTS/REF executive director, has been appointed to the position of board member for the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It's an exciting opportunity for RESULTS Educational Fund (REF) and the Advocacy to Control TB Internationally (ACTION) project, which REF hosts, to have a larger impact in the fight against AIDS, TB, and malaria.

Conceived just eight years ago, the Global Fund has already proven itself extremely effective in the fight against these epidemics. Thanks to the Global Fund, 2 million people living with HIV have received life-saving antiretroviral treatment, 4.6 million people stricken by TB have been put on effective drugs, and 70 million insecticide-treated bed nets have been delivered to families at risk of contracting malaria.

"In its short lifespan, the Global Fund has served as a critically important model of country-led, demand-driven, outcome-based health investment that has already saved millions of lives," said Carter.

Under Carter's leadership, RESULTS' network of volunteer advocates in over 100 U.S. communities and our international affiliates in Australia, Canada, Japan, and the UK have built support for the Global Fund at all levels of government. This work has resulted in billions of dollars in funding from the U.S. and other donor countries.

While no other institution has done so much to invest in the three diseases or saved so many lives, our work to advocate for the Global Fund is far from over. The Fund continues to see increased demand for its resources from countries burdened by AIDS, TB, and malaria. In 2007, the Global Fund board and leaders of the Group of Eight nations agreed that the Fund should grow to a yearly size of \$6-8 billion by 2010. Donor countries, however, have failed to keep pace and the Global Fund now faces a significant shortfall.

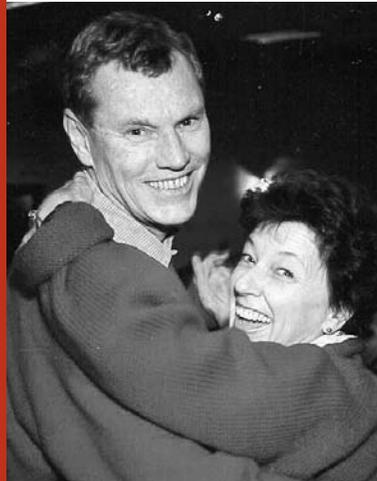
Filling the Global Fund's multi-billion dollar resource gap will require a bold, coordinated strategy. Carter brings to the task over 17 years of experience directing advocacy campaigns that have mobilized billions of dollars for health and development programs.

## PARTNERS IN ACTION

### Marshall Saunders Receives Humanitarian Award

Long-time RESULTS activist, donor, and San Diego group leader Marshall Saunders received the Grameen Foundation Humanitarian Award this past spring for his two decades of advocacy and support for microfinance. The award recognizes global leaders who have dedicated their talent, spirit, resources, and resolve to fighting poverty. Certainly, Saunders has done all that.

He first encountered the miracle of microfinance two decades ago when he visited Banco Abundancia (Bank of Abundance) in Tijuana. "I was amazed at what I saw," he said in his acceptance speech. "When those poor women see the possibility of a new and better future for themselves and especially for their children, it changes everything for them right then. The wheels turn, the lights come on.



*"We found that giving brings aliveness," said RESULTS activist Marshall Saunders, with his wife, Pamela.*

"I simply could not get enough of that, so my wife, Pamela, and I began to give money and raise money for microcredit projects. We found that giving brings aliveness, especially if you're giving enough that it's risky and gets your attention."

Over the past 20 years, Saunders has raised money for microfinance institutions in India and eight countries in Latin America. In 2001, he and his friend Ed Law launched their own microfinance bank, Grameen de la Frontera. Located in Sonora and Ciudad Obregon in Mexico, Grameen de la Frontera serves more than 5,000 women.

Saunders encountered the miracle of RESULTS in 1993. "I was invited to be on public radio with RESULTS' founder Sam Daley-Harris. On the call I heard Sam say that RESULTS volunteers had raised \$150 million for microfinance over the preceding three years by lobbying the government. In those same three years, I had raised less than \$1 million. The next year I became a RESULTS partner."

Since then, he has been a tireless advocate and donor for RESULTS. He also recently founded the organization Citizens Climate Lobby, which is modeled on RESULTS.

"Marshall Saunders has chosen to devote his life's resources — his time and energy, his commitment, creativity, and love for the world, and his financial resources — to transform the planet and the lives of the world's poorest people," said RESULTS/REF Executive Director Joanne Carter. "We are fortunate to have Marshall and Pamela Saunders as incredibly generous investors in our collective work to end poverty, and as partners and leaders in this effort. Their generosity and humanity are a model for us all."

## INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

# John and Polly Ely Leave a Gift to Change the World

WHEN JOHN AND POLLY ELY WERE ASKED WHY they became active volunteers for RESULTS, John answered emphatically, "Because it's a good idea, period."

They were 87 and 85 years old at the time and had been writing, calling, and meeting with their legislators for almost a decade. John and Polly were dedicated civil rights activists and active in politics (John served in the Iowa legislature for eight years), and were impressed by what John called the "gigantic leaps that RESULTS creates."

The Elys themselves played an important role in making those leaps happen. They led the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, group for many years and developed relationships with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, including Senator Tom Harkin (D) and Rep. James Leach (R). Both of the Iowa legislators signed on to bills supporting microfinance, education, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria at John and Polly's urging.

The Elys recognized that their years of activism couldn't go on forever, so they decided to support RESULTS' work in the future by leaving the organization a legacy gift in their will. When asked what inspired them to bequest such a significant amount, John exclaimed,



*"Look at the leverage! The money will go farther with RESULTS than with any other organization I know."*

John passed away on March 20, 2007, and Polly on May 15, 2008. We received their generous gift this past March. "We're so grateful for John and Polly's years of work to end poverty and for the gift they left RESULTS Educational Fund to carry on that work," said Stacy Carkonen, RESULTS/REF's development officer.

*There are several kinds of bequests that can be left to RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund. More information can be found at [www.results.org/support\\_results/leave\\_a\\_legacy](http://www.results.org/support_results/leave_a_legacy). Or, to learn more about how you can include RESULTS or REF in your planned giving, contact Nick Arena at (202) 783-4800 or Stacy Carkonen at (206) 715-4986, or email [scarkonen@results.org](mailto:scarkonen@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, 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 will to end poverty through training and education.

The two nonprofits work together to accomplish these goals through research, education, training, public events, media coverage, and advocacy. Our research analyzes U.S. investments towards eradicating poverty at home and abroad and

seeks out sustainable, effective solutions. Our campaigns focus attention on these solutions and support legislators in making them national priorities.

RESULTS has developed a unique support system that empowers ordinary people to make a difference. Volunteers in over 110 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](http://www.results.org).*

### RESULTS and RESULTS EDUCATIONAL FUND

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#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lesley Reed

# Have You Seen our New Website?



**Want to ...**

**Take action fast?**

**Get educated?**

**Find a RESULTS group in your area?**

**Read stories about our everyday heroes?**

**Change lives?**

**Check out RESULTS' new website!**



As I saved my life through education, I thought that one thing I can do is to build a school and give the opportunity to the younger generation to be the leaders. Education has become to me not only the way of reading and writing, it's become the way of solving the problem.

— Franco Majok  
Executive Director  
Village Help for South Sudan  
speaking at the RESULTS/REF  
International Conference.

Visit [www.results.org](http://www.results.org)  
and find out how you can be an everyday hero!

Look inside for stories about our  
Education for All campaign.

**HAVING A SAY IN HEALTH CARE REFORM**

**INSIDE**

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