

National Webinar Summary

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http://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/

Welcome

Joanne Carter, Executive Director, RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund
(Washington, DC)

Welcome everyone to this month's RESULTS Domestic Poverty webinar.

A reminder: If easier, you can download the slides from the Take Action Box on the RESULTS Homepage

I want to start by giving you an exciting update on the RESULTS International Conference. In just the last week we've confirmed a very exciting line up of speakers:

- Barbara Ehrenreich—author of *Nickel and Dimed* and many other books.
- Tavis Smiley --Broadcaster, author and advocate—whose Foundation is leading a national initiative to examine barriers and identify solutions to poverty in the U.S.
- Also former Congressman Tony Hall--Long time RESULTS ally and anti-hunger champion who leads the Alliance to End Hunger.
- And also Dr. Paul Farmer, physician, anthropologist and co-founder of Partners In Health. He was featured in the book—*Mountains Beyond Mountains* and is also a passionate advocate on health equity and he is very excited to be with us.

You'll also hear more later in the call about our powerful Experts on Poverty who will also be at the conference in panels and workshops, and the opportunity for Young Leaders to join us as part of our REAL Change Young Leaders annual Fellowship.

This is such a critical year for setting the stage for 2017. We need you in DC to help create the momentum for a new agenda to end hunger and poverty in this country and enact policies that reduce wealth inequality. The issues and policy changes we push for in June in DC when we're together will shape the trajectory of the next four years and the next decade.

Our focus this month is generating media to both to build support for further expansion of effective anti-poverty programs—including extending the EITC for childless workers (building on bipartisan support for this proposal) AND ALSO protecting critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs from damaging cuts or structural changes that could be proposed. Our media work is particularly important and high impact in an election year—when it can influence congressional and presidential candidates and help set the agenda in a new Congress and administration.

You have been doing great media work and our call today is designed to help give you information, ideas and tools to overcome challenges and be even more successful

- In a moment we'll have a chance to talk with a very special guest, Houston Chronicle editor Veronica Flores-Paniagua

- Then Meredith Dodson will provide an update on our U.S. Poverty Campaigns and overview of April Action
- Then our Director of Communication, Colin Smith, will do a role play on pitching an editorial to an editorial writer.
- You'll hear some great shares on the work that a number of you are doing
- And then some important announcements on the international conference, grassroots board seats and more.

Guest Speaker – Veronica Flores-Paniagua, Outlook Editor at the *Houston Chronicle*

Facilitated by Joanne Carter (Washington, DC)

Bio of Veronica Flores-Paniagua

Veronica Flores-Paniagua has been the Outlook Editor at the *Houston Chronicle* since March 2013. The Outlook pages are a forum for conversation, debate and new ideas about issues that are important in the Houston community. Prior to that, she was the Vice President of Communications at Accion Texas, a non-profit small business lending company, where she managed events, internal and external communications and all marketing needs for Accion Texas' "corporate" interests as well as those in 18 markets in eight states. However, since receiving her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Houston in 1988, Veronica has worked primarily as a journalist, including as a reporter, editor, and columnist, at papers in Houston, San Antonio, Brownsville, and Chicago.

Welcome, Veronica.

When I asked the Houston folks about their experience working with you, they described how generous and patient you've been, what a great editor you are and how you've helped make their op-eds stronger. So thank you!

Veronica, you know our deeply committed RESULTS partners in Houston but I want you know that there are grassroots volunteers from over 25 cities on today's call. These are folks in communities all over the US who through persistence and dedication generated almost 150 pieces of media over the last two years that helped achieve the permanent extension of key provisions of the earned income tax credit and child tax credit. Folks who generated nearly 200 pieces of media last year alone on these critical tax provisions for low-income working families, along with SNAP and more.

1. What is the role of the Outlook Editor at the *Chronicle*?

- a. For those who don't speak Spanish, my last name means flowers, bread and water
- b. In my role: develop and solicit reader submission
- c. *Houston Chronicle* developing "town square", start conversations, questions prompt community inquiries
- d. Look for diverse group of voices each week

- e. Most challenging: develop grassroots voices
 - f. We get a lot from PR agencies working on behalf of organization (industry, politicians) – not the best, but polished
2. **And can you pull back the curtain a bit for us on how decisions are made for the opinion section of a newspaper. What makes you decide to print an op-ed or letter to the editor from a community member? What impacts you when someone pitches an op-ed or when you read an op-ed or a letter? Can you say a bit about the power of stories? That lesson was brought home again to me when I joined with the Houston RESULTS folks to meet with the HC editorial board last November about the important decision pending on making the extensions of the EITC and CTC permanent. I provided information on the policy issues during the meeting, but the whole editorial staff perked up and the whole meeting became more electric when Cacie Waters talked about the impact of the EITC on her family when she was growing up and reiterated the political moment. And the HC not only wrote an editorial but you also published an op-ed by Cacie.**
- a. If you can get our attention in the first 1-2 paragraphs, we'll keep reading
 - b. Need a good pitch
 - c. Sometimes pitch is better (describes better) than content
 - d. Sometimes passion
 - e. Joanne: the meeting with editorial board members of Houston Chronicle last November was a reminder about the importance of stories – Cacie sharing how poverty and EITC has impacted her made difference
 - f. Veronica: Cacie's latest op-ed on TB also had a lot of passion
 - i. I still remember Cacie's piece, don't remember last week's
 - g. Anyone can hire a PR agency, dime a dozen
 - h. Grassroots authentic voices – can't beat it, resonates with leaders
 - i. Need a strongly articulated call to action
3. **How can community members mostly effectively work with their local media to promote discussions of poverty in their community and with electoral candidates?**
- a. Veronica's tips related to generating election coverage
 - i. Know what the editorial board has already written
 - ii. Also know what opinion pieces they've run, including call to action
 - iii. Research your delegation and their positions, and how editorial board has commented on it
 - iv. Hone based on your political homework

- v. When worked for ACCION (now Lift Fund), called editorial writer in AR I knew. Asked for editorial board meeting, his response: so short staffed that couldn't do an editorial board meeting
 - a. This is the perfect hook, and be ready, to offer to submit an op-ed
 - b. That's half the battle
 - c. Joanne: helpful to hear someone with your skill set had difficulty getting an editorial board meeting
4. **This being an election year, we know newspapers and editorial pages are caught up with a lot of election coverage. What can our volunteers to break through this constant coverage and get media pieces published about issues of poverty and economic mobility?**
- a. Best time to get foot in the door – already develop a relationship with a member of the editorial board, or make it part of your agenda with direct ask with editorial board
 - b. There are groups that have done this and then we've brought up questions based on conversations they've had with groups, have asked candidates
 - c. Joanne: reminder about building the longer term relationships
 - d. 6-8 weeks before election is when editorial boards do endorsement interviews – we did dozens before the primaries from county to Congress
 - e. Your issues are quite relevant, we absolutely welcome

Questions from the Grassroots

5. **Susan Burket (RESULTS AK): any advice for those of us who are well-meaning (but privileged) volunteers without an applicable story?**
- a. Passion is key, articulate that.
6. **Bill Schickler (RESULTS DC): Houston Chronicle has a Facebook page, how do you address issues there?**
- a. It is an engagement tool that newsroom uses, principally for marketing to push out our content, get people clicking and subscribe. Have two -- one that points to free site, one to subscriber based site with extra content
 - b. Other papers use differently, but most are focused as marketing
 - c. Some (and maybe *Chronicle* in future) will use as engagement tool, not sure how many
7. **Meredith (RESULTS Staff): How often do you all editorialize without a meeting?**
- a. Bring people's stories, but difference between knowing a story versus telling it – not just a statistic. Always great to put a face to a story but if someone cannot be there in person, it can work
8. **Jim Franklin (RESULTS Bremerton): Do you write op-ed differently based on different media markers (big city v. small town)?**

- a. We sometimes come across small-town op-ed via Twitter
- b. Good op-eds run in any size paper, some places will just run anything (so maybe less impact – be aware of the standing of the publication, whether it moves the mark)

U.S. Poverty Campaigns Update and April Action Overview

Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

Why are we talking about media now? Earlier this year, House Speaker Paul Ryan created a [Taskforce on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility](#) and this comes at a time when some policymakers and candidates have a renewed interest in addressing poverty in America. Congress is not expected to take up the House Poverty Task Force's recommendations until next year, this month is an important time to shape the overall debate by speaking out about proven policies that will make a big difference in addressing poverty in America.

Speaker Ryan and President Obama have both proposed to expand the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC), a top priority for RESULTS, but unfortunately, in the past Speaker Ryan and others have also proposed drastic changes to other anti-poverty programs, notably [SNAP \(formerly Food Stamps\)](#).

In April, we're going to use the media shape the debate and, hopefully, impact the Poverty Task Force's recommendations. Because we need to paint a fuller picture of both the opportunities (like expanding the EITC) and challenges (dismantling SNAP and other anti-poverty programs – which could be cloaked in veiled language like “merged funding streams”) we are focused on generating op-eds and editorials.

This also impacts the campaigns: with many members of Congress up for re-election this year (all House members and 1/3 of all Senators), their attention to the media will be at a fever pitch. Get their attention by generating media this month, urging them to make ending poverty a priority this year, next year, and every year until it's done.

TAKE ACTION: Use the talking points in our [April Action](#) to pitch an editorial or draft an op-ed urging policymakers to make ending poverty a priority, highlighting the EITC and SNAP:

1. **Acknowledge the bipartisan interest in addressing poverty** and creating opportunity in America, letting readers know about the House Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility. *If you can, share your own experience of poverty and why you care about this issue.*
2. Because of low wages and the ongoing impact of the Great Recession, **millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet or put food on the table**. In 2014, almost 1 in 5 children in the U.S. were at risk of going to bed hungry at night ([19.2 percent of households, via USDA](#)).
3. Remind them that **anti-poverty programs are making an impact**; the [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\) and Child Tax Credit \(CTC\) support workers in low-wage jobs and lifted 9.8 million Americans out of poverty in 2014](#), and [SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2014](#).

4. Share your concern that **8 million low-wage workers without children workers are taxed into or deeper into poverty and addressing this should be a priority of the [House Poverty Task Force](#)**. Mention that **House Speaker Ryan and President Obama have proposed to expand the EITC for workers without children**.
5. Mention that this is encouraging, but the news is not all good. **House leaders could again propose deep cuts and structural changes to SNAP and other anti-poverty programs**, as they have in recent budget proposals.
6. Educate readers about the **importance of SNAP**, our nation's primary defense against hunger. Nearly 90 percent of SNAP participants are in households that contain a child under age 18, an elderly person 60 years or older, or a disabled individual.
7. Specifically mention that **SNAP is a powerful and effective response to hunger in times of emergencies or economic downturn**, and restructuring it as is being proposed would undermine this effectiveness and could result in millions of people being forced off the program.
8. **Call on the House Poverty Task Force to support expanding the EITC for childless workers, and oppose changes to SNAP that would harm vulnerable children and families**, increase hunger, and reduce SNAP's effectiveness.

Note: To find contact information for media outlets in your area visit our Media Guide at <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/media/>. In addition, see our Activist Toolkit pieces on [generating an op-ed](#), and be ready to work with your RESULTS group to reach out to local editorial writers. If you need help with your draft or someone to proofread your work, or if you'd like help requesting an editorial on these issues from your local paper, please contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) for assistance.

In addition, we'll be sending out an alert you can forward to others urging them to reinforce your media outreach by tailoring our [online letter-to-the-editor](#) to speak out and protect SNAP!

REMINDER: Be sure to send your published piece to Jos (jlinn@results.org) and your members of Congress!

April Action Resources

- RESULTS April U.S. Poverty Action: http://www.results.org/take_action/april_2016_u.s._poverty_action/
- RESULTS April Laser Talk: http://www.results.org/take_action/u.s._poverty_laser_talk_generating_an_editorial_on_protecting_anti_poverty/
- CBPP paper on EITC for childless workers: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/childless-adults-are-lone-group-taxed-into-poverty>
- CBPP EITC State Fact Sheets: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/state-fact-sheets-the-earned-income-and-child-tax-credits>
- CBPP SNAP State Fact Sheets: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets>

- RESULTS Activist Toolkit (find resources to help with generating media):
http://www.results.org/skills_center/activist_toolkit/

Grassroots Shares

Colin Smith, RESULTS Director of Communications, and Meredith Dodson

Generating media is a powerful tool to influence public policy. In April 2016, we are working to generate editorials and op-eds to protect and strengthen key anti-poverty programs. This EPIC Laser Talk can be used for calls to editorial writers about writing editorials on this issue. Before making the call, do three quick things:

1. Email the editorial packet to the editor at least two days in advance.
2. Scan the editorial pages to see if they've taken on any poverty issues in recent months (or published one of your letters or op-eds!). If they have, lead your pitch with a thank you.
3. Look up your local data about the impact of expanding the EITC and the number of people who depend on SNAP. Find EITC data [here](#) and SNAP data [here](#). The more local you can make your pitch, the more appealing it will be.

Engage: Hi, This is [your name], a local volunteer with RESULTS. I'm calling to follow up on my email about House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan on poverty and its effect on [your state]. Do you have two minutes to chat?

Problem: Earlier this year, Speaker Ryan formed a [new Congressional Task Force on Poverty](#). [It actually includes local Rep. XXXXXXX]. This Task Force offers opportunities to focus attention on poverty, but also could be devastating for low-income Americans – depending on what they decide to do together.

Inform: Two really key issues are in play right now. The first is ensuring that no American is taxed into poverty – and there important reforms to the tax code that to address this actually both Speaker Ryan and President Obama support. If Congress takes this on, it would boost the EITC for [\[XXX,XXX\]](#) low-income workers in [your state] —an important first step. The second is protecting [SNAP \(formerly the Food Stamp program\)](#) from what could be devastating cuts under veiled policies that could undermine the effectiveness of the program. As you probably know, SNAP is the reason [\[XXX,XXX\]](#) people in [your state] are able to put food on the table at night.

Call to Action: Right now is a critical time to influence the Poverty Task Force before they make their recommendations. I know an editorial here could be hugely influential in what they decide in Washington. Would you consider taking this on?

If you'd like to see an example of what this conversation might sound like, see the conversation below which was role-played on the [April 2016 U.S. Poverty National Webinar](#):

WRITER: Star Tribune, this is Meredith.

VOLUNTEER: Hi, This is Colin Smith, a local volunteer with RESULTS. I'm calling to follow up on my email about House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan on poverty and its effect on Minnesota. Do you have two minutes to chat?

WRITER: Not sure I saw that – but, sure, I have a second.

VOLUNTEER: Earlier this year, Speaker Ryan formed a new Congressional Task Force on poverty. It actually includes local Rep. John Kline. They haven't yet come out with any recommendations – and when they do, it could be really good news or bad news for low-income Minnesotans – depending on what they decide. I saw your great editorial last month on child care for low-income workers in Minnesota – and I thought a follow-on piece about what this Task Force could do for that same group would be hugely influential.

WRITER: So there's no plan yet, right? Do we have a sense of what they'll do?

VOLUNTEER: Well, I wanted to point out two really key issues in play right now. Two really key issues are in play right now. The first is ensuring that no American is taxed into poverty – and there important reforms to the tax code that to address this actually both Speaker Ryan and President Obama support. If Congress takes this on, it would boost the EITC for [200,000](#) low-income workers in Minnesota —an important first step. The second is protecting [SNAP \(formerly the Food Stamp program\)](#) from what could be devastating cuts under veiled policies that could undermine the effectiveness of the program. As you probably know, SNAP is the reason a half a million Minnesotans are able to put food on the table at night.

WRITER: Got it. What's the timing on this?

VOLUNTEER: The task force was just formed earlier this year, and now is when they're considering their recommendations. We expect to hear in the next 2-3 months – but this is the moment when they're actually making decisions – so media pressure will play a key role. Do you think you might be able to find space on the editorial page for this?

WRITER: Why don't you send me some more background?

VOLUNTEER: Absolutely – I'll send you background on both issues, and if helpful to connect you with an expert or any other data, very happy to do it. How should I follow up with you?

WRITER: Great thanks. Have a good day.

Get Face-to-Face Meetings with Members of Congress

Meredith Dodson

As we transition out of the media section, I just want to remind everyone that your media outreach will matter, including this important outreach to editorial writers. While you might not get a piece published BEFORE the Poverty Task Force puts out its recommendations, your work will help educate the media so they can understand what's at stake for low-income families.

In addition, your outreach directly to policymakers is incredibly important!

TAKE ACTION: Reach out to Congressional schedulers to request a meeting during an upcoming recess. The House and Senate will both be on recess May 2 – 6 and May 30 – June

3. And, your lobby meetings during the RESULTS International Conference (www.resultsconference.org) will be key – when RESULTS volunteers meet with hundreds of Congressional offices on Capitol Hill on June 28, it may be right before or immediately after the Task Force puts out its recommendations. We need you here to make poverty issues real to them, a priority for them, and make sure they understand the actual impact of policy proposals.

You can find scheduler names, contact info, and website addresses on our [Elected Officials page](#). Once you find an event you plan to attend (or schedule a sit-down meeting), please contact Meredith Dodson (dodson@results.org) to set up a lobby prep call to help you get ready. And please don't forget to fill out the [RESULTS Lobby Report Form](#) after your meeting.

Grassroots Shares

Nick Wood, U.S. Poverty Intern

Nick Wood is a RESULTS intern with us from Kansas where he worked for several years with Medicaid funded programs as an advocate for people with disabilities. He has experience with state level policy and also worked with the Kansas legislature on an array of issues like voting rights, healthcare integration, and access to services. Before that he provided community based wraparound services to families of children 'at risk' of out of home placement. He's here to work with our US Poverty Team on issues related to SNAP. So far he's helped with our REAL Change volunteers' Day On The Hill, writing bill summaries and blogs, and has been reviewing website content. Nick received his Master's degree from the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas.

Now I am happy to facilitate our shares section this month. First, let's go to Debbie Baskin of RESULTS Salt Lake City who will share about a recent town hall she attended with her senator.

- **Debbie Baskin, RESULTS Salt Lake City, appearing by phone: (801) 657-2568**

Last Monday, I got an email about a town hall with Senator Hatch. I emailed our group inviting others to come. I heard back from just one volunteer saying she would definitely be there. I didn't want to go. It was a busy day taking my girls to the doctor and my husband was working late but I felt like my friend could use some support.

That evening my kids were melting down and I was rushing to feed them dinner. I was only planning on attending the first 20 minutes because I would need to rush home to put my kids to bed. Exhausted I called my husband and he kindly offered to let me drop the kids off with him at work.

I walked into the meeting ten minutes late and found a seat on the fourth row. It was a smaller room with only about 40 people. The other volunteer couldn't make it last minute. The discussion got heated about filling the supreme court vacancy. I kept raising my hand and finally got called on. I thanked Senator Hatch for passing the budget deal in December that included getting rid of a marriage penalty for the Earned Income Tax Credit. He immediately replied that there are high fraud rates with the EITC. I wasn't sure of the details but Meredith Dodson had recently told me there were provisions in the tax deal that aimed to reduce the "fraud". So I replied, "Weren't you able to include some important measures to reduce fraud?" I can't remember his answer but then I asked if he would consider expanding the EITC to

childless workers since this is the one demographic we are currently taxing into poverty". And he replied he does support expanding the EITC!

When a member of the audience was called on for a second question I raised my hand again. I got called on and explained the Reach Every Mother and Child Act, RESULTS current global ask and was surprised when he responded that he would always support something like that.

When the meeting was over others were getting pictures with him and I patiently waited for my turn. We posed for a picture and afterwards he pulled me toward him and squeezed me. I of course asked who I could follow-up with and got the card of the aid that was there with him at the meeting.

The next day, my daughter and I saw him and his security staff at Costco and mentioning it to my 8 year-old she insisted that we go say, "hi". So I introduced my daughter to him at Costco.

Some days went by and I wondered if my requests would be remembered. Yesterday, I heard back from the Foreign policy aid and got news that Senator Hatch will be a cosponsor of the Reach Act!

Thank you, Debbie. Now let's go to Nancy Taylor of RESULTS Kitsap/Bremerton (WA) to share about a unique strategy around town halls that her group and her representative used to educate their district about poverty.

- **Nancy Taylor, RESULTS Kitsap/Bremerton (WA), appearing by phone: (206) 451-4791**

Members from both our domestic and global RESULTS groups met with our Congressman, Derek Kilmer on January 30th. At the end of the meeting, Congressman Kilmer personally asked if we could attend some of his upcoming town hall meetings. He asked if we would speak in favor of the issues that RESULTS works on and ask him to support one or more of those issues. He said he wanted his other constituents who come to his town hall meeting to know that he has constituents who care about these issues, which he supports.

We immediately jumped on that opportunity as we ask Derek to take actions for our RESULTS issues all the time and felt that it was our turn to do something for him. Seven meetings were scheduled in February throughout his district which is enormous, as it covers the entire Olympic Peninsula area in Washington State. Various members from both our groups attended all seven of his meetings and some even had a round trip drive of over 200 miles.

During the Q&A part of his meetings our domestic group members were able to thank him for his support on extending the EITC/CTC credits and then ask him to talk on expanding the EITC credit for low income childless workers. It was rewarding to hear him use the information we had discussed in his office in January. By listening to audience questions, we also gained better insight to the dedication Congressman Kilmer has to the concerns and needs of the many constituents he serves. Also after one meeting, several people asked about RESULTS.

After the end of each meeting, Congressman Kilmer always came over and thanked us for attending and talked with us for a while. Then, several weeks later I received a hand written card, thanking me and RESULTS for my advocacy. He said that "understanding your priorities helps me do my job better. Thank you for that!"

Thank you, Nancy. What a great story and innovative way to work with your member of Congress to educate your community about these issues. Congratulations. Finally, let's go to Carl Schneider of RESULTS Memphis, who will tell us about his recent trip to DC as part of the REAL Change Fellowship.

- **Carl Schneider, RESULTS Memphis; appearing by computer**
 - *Got to go to DC with REAL Change*
 - *Very energizing to be around passionate, caring people*
 - *Millennials get reputation for being apathetic, good to be around those who defy that expectation*
 - *Retreat focused a lot on global issues. I'm a teacher in high-poverty, predominantly African-American neighborhood, was interested to see how global child and maternal health issues relate to issues in my community*
 - *Met with Senators at constituent breakfast talked about global issues and EITC*
 - *Met with my representative face-to-face, who is a Champion on our issues*
 - *Met with a Republican offices and talked about Paul Ryan's work on poverty and expanding EITC for childless workers*
 - *Talk about how we need to expand it responsibly and not cut SNAP to pay for it*
 - *Also, got to hear from Ellen (Nissenbaum) from Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, who was awesome*

Thank you all for sharing your stories with us this month. And thank you to everyone else taking action to educate and influence lawmakers and our communities about the importance of ending poverty in America. Keep up the good work!

Now let me turn it over to my colleague Keithlee Spangler.

RESULTS International Conference

Keithlee Spangler, RESULTS 2016 Emerson Hunger Fellow

Hello, my name is Keithlee Spangler and I'm the new Emerson Hunger Fellow here at RESULTS. *Keithlee tells a little about her background and what she will be doing at RESULTS and for how long.*

I'd like to talk to you today about the RESULTS International Conference. As Joanne mentioned at the beginning of the webinar, we have some fabulous speakers coming to this year's conference, including Barbara Ehrenreich, Tavis Smiley, Ambassador Tony Hall, and Dr. Paul Farmer.

But there are some other speakers I'm looking forward to hearing as well. These people may not have national name recognition, but they are just as moving and powerful as anyone speaking at the Conference. These are our Experts on Poverty. As many of you know, we had our first "Experts on Poverty" panel a few years ago, where volunteers who have experienced poverty first-hand tell their stories. As a result, this session has become the hit of each

Conference. And it's also the genesis of our new Experts on Poverty Project, which is allowing us to share these speakers and their stories in communities around the country.

One of my duties at RESULTS is to make sure that this year's Experts panel is just as excellent as the ones in year's past. And it will be, with your help. One of the reasons the Experts panel has been so effective is because of you, the volunteers who attend. Your support of these amazing speakers, and the stories you share from the audience, are an integral part of the experience. So I hope you will join us in DC and help us make the Experts panel another great success.

Another thing I am looking forward to is the new class of REAL Change Fellows coming to the Conference. The REAL Change Fellowship has allowed us to bring young leaders to the Conference, help them get trained and lobby on Capitol Hill, and then go back to continue their advocacy in their communities. For example, our new Kansas City, Memphis, and Chicago groups were all started by REAL Change Fellows. Another part of my duties at RESULTS is to actively recruit new REAL Changers. I am working on reaching out in various states to encourage young people to apply. And I could again use your help. If you know someone 18-30 years old who wants to make a difference in the world, please encourage them to apply. They simply need to go to <http://www.results.org/realchange> to learn more and fill out the application.

I'm also looking forward to meeting you – our volunteers. I'm excited to experience the energy, passion, and enthusiasm that I know you'll bring to the Conference. I've heard stories about how amazing it is to be with you in DC and I can't wait to see it for myself.

So if you have not registered for the Conference yet, I hope you will. The conference is June 25-28 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. Remember, registration for active volunteers is only \$125, which is a great deal. But it only lasts until the end of this month; after that, fee goes up. Don't miss out. Go to www.resultsconference.org and register today!

Lastly, we do have a small pot of money available to help those who need financial assistance in getting to the conference. If you need help offsetting some of the expenses to attend, apply at www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS. We'll do our best to help as many of our volunteers as we can.

Thank you all. I look forward to meeting you in DC in June! Now let me turn it over to Jos for our final announcements.

Announcements

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns

- **Call for RESULTS Grassroots Board Nominations.** We are pleased to announce that the RESULTS & RESULTS Educational Fund Grassroots Board Member election will be held this summer. We'll fill one seat in July. Grassroots Board Members play a vital role in the RESULTS family, representing our volunteer network on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Boards of RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund. We encourage participation from any active RESULTS volunteer including those from diverse populations including young adults and people of color. Eligible candidates to be a Grassroots Board Member must have at least one year active experience as a RESULTS

volunteer in the U.S. Candidates can nominate themselves or be nominated by any active RESULTS grassroots member, and they must be received by May 2. Please e-mail your nomination to jmclaughlin@results.org.

- If you live or know people who live in the Milwaukee area, I will be helping host a RESULTS Group Start presentation there on **Tuesday, April 19 at 6:00pm**. We'll be meeting at the Tippecanoe Branch Library, 3912 S Howell Ave in Milwaukee. [RSVP on Facebook](#) or contact me for more details (jlinn@results.org).
- If you know someone who'd be interested in creating a world free of poverty, invite him or her to our next **RESULTS Introductory Call** this Wednesday, April 13 at 9:00 pm ET. People can register upcoming Intro Call on the [RESULTS website](#).
- Our next **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls** will be Thursday, April 21 at 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET. If you live in an area with no active RESULTS group, join these monthly calls to get training and support to take action. Join at <http://fuze.me/32256018> or (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 32256018#.
- Don't forget to **set up face-to-face meetings with members of Congress in May**. Remember, House members are scheduled to be on recess on Advocacy Day (June 28) at the RESULTS Conference, so in addition to meeting with Senators and House staff at the Conference, it's important to get face-to-face meetings with House members back home. Once you do get a lobby meeting, please contact Meredith (dodson@results.org) to set up a lobby prep call and please fill out our Lobby Report Form (www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF) after any meeting to let us know how it went.
- Our fellow RESULTS Global volunteers are engaged in a fundraising push this spring using the 2016 Olympic in Rio de Janeiro as a theme. The Road to Rio campaign will urge volunteers to walk, run, bike, swim, etc. 5,000 miles (distance between DC and Rio) to demonstrate commitment to ending child malnutrition. It begins April 25. U.S. Poverty volunteers will be asked to fundraise later this year but if you'd like to participate in this effort too, stay tuned for more details.
- You can find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).

Stella Linn closes the call

Hi, this is Stella Linn. I'm Jos' daughter and I'm ten years old. Thank you for being on the Webinar today. The next U.S. Poverty National Webinar is Saturday, May 14 at 12:30pm Eastern – four days after my birthday.

Also, don't forget to register for the [RESULTS International Conference](#). I'm going to my first RESULTS Conference this year and I'm looking forward to meeting all of you, seeing what Advocacy Day is like on Capitol Hill, and watching my dad embarrass me during Karaoke. Remember, it's only \$125 to register between now and the end of this month. I'm excited to see you in Washington, DC!

Now please unmute your lines and let's wish each other good luck on all the media you'll get published this month!