

# RESULTS Advocate

BUILDING CHAMPIONS TO END POVERTY

## Setting an Agenda for Change in 2008

RESULTS started 2008 with a bang, as our 2007 campaigns closed with some impressive successes, unfinished business, and clearly-defined next steps.

Our U.S. poverty-focused activists fought hard in 2007 to pass a strong Head Start reauthorization bill, expand the children's health care program to cover more of America's 9 million uninsured children, and strengthen the Food Stamp program. While Congress did pass an improved Head Start bill, both the children's health care bill and the Farm Bill (which covers food stamps) are still being debated, giving us further opportunity to have an impact.

We're proud of the massive support our activists generated for expanding children's health coverage in 2007, and we're building on that energy with our 2008 Health Care for All campaign. The goal: to build support for a health care system that works for all Americans by raising the profile of health care in this crucial election year. We're also taking strategic actions to create a final Farm Bill that puts hungry families and rural communities first. Our Make Taxes Fair campaign recognizes the power of a fair tax code to help lift people out of poverty through credits that benefit low-income families (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit) and policies that encourage savings (such as Individual Development Accounts).

RESULTS' internationally-focused campaigns are pushing for accountability as well as funding. We were successful in realizing significant funding increases for global health, education, and microfinance in 2007. In fact, the 2008 foreign aid budget includes the largest ever increase in a single year for global TB control — a boost from \$92 million to \$162 million — and an almost \$120 million increase for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The \$200 million increase for global education



RESULTS activists are standing up and speaking out for a vision of a world without poverty and for the solutions that will make that dream a reality.

that Congress passed could potentially eliminate school fees for 4 million children!

To ensure that these sorely needed funds are used most effectively, we're advocating for passage of key legislation, such as the Stop TB Now Act, and strengthening congressional oversight of education and microfinance funding. We're also pressing the World Bank to increase its support of proven programs that reach the very poor and the International Monetary Fund to drop policies that restrict sorely needed spending on health and education.

All of these campaigns rely on the powerful citizen activism of our volunteers, who proved in 2007 that they know how to make a real difference by generating 172 face-to-face meetings with members of Congress, over 350 pieces of media, and over 400 outreach events!

"We've come such a long way and 2008 promises to be even more exciting," said RESULTS' Global Grassroots Manager Ken Patterson. "We thank all our awesome activists for their relentless efforts to save lives and change the world."

Creating the public and political will to end hunger and poverty worldwide.

RESULTS/REF warmly welcomes our new donors at the Optimist Level (\$1,000) and above:

Ansary Family Foundation; Alexander Boyle; Katherine Brittain Bradley; Dorothy Darling; John and April Delaney; First Calgary; Rebecca George; The Harvey M. Meyerhoff Fund; Marc & Mary Deoreo Lackritz; Thomas McLarty; William Mundy; Muse Elementary; David Ninan; Robert P. Parker; Frank Preste Family Trust; Research Capital Innovation and Executives; Jean Rutherford; Alexandra Schoenberg; Lindsey Simmons; George K. Tsantes Lii; Unitus, Inc.; Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program; Jeffrey and Mary Zients



RESULTS has developed a unique support system that empowers ordinary people to make a difference. Volunteers in over 100 groups around the country take monthly actions — writing or meeting with members of Congress, generating media, and educating their 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).

**We envision a world where persistent hunger and the devastating impacts of poverty no longer cripple the ability of individuals and families to sustain themselves or to contribute their talents to the world in which they live — where all people have a fair chance at success.**

## Why RESULTS?

For over 25 years RESULTS has been shining a light on poverty wherever it exists and supporting citizens to become powerful voices for the poor. 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.

## SETTING AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE IN 2008

**Please Join Us!**  
**RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund's 2008 International Conference will be July 12-16, 2008, in Washington, DC.**

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RESULTS

## INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

### Stan Merrell: Activist and Donor for a World at Peace

For two decades, RESULTS volunteer Stan Merrell has introduced himself to members of Congress this way: "I don't think we can ever have a world at peace for our kids or grandkids as long as over 26,000 children are dying every day from preventable causes. I'm convinced that the death of a child in Kenya isn't any easier than the death of a child here. I'm searching for a world at peace."

In addition to his dedicated and passionate activism, Merrell has been giving a monthly gift to RESULTS since 1986 primarily because, each year, he can make one crucial change to his introduction. "From the time I started with RESULTS, the number of children dying needlessly each day has dropped from 44,000 a

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This election year is truly an exciting one for us. Watching the massive turnout of voters for the primaries, especially of young people, affirms our own core messages — of the power of citizen activism, the importance of bipartisanship, and the hope we all harbor for a safe and just world.

To ensure that we have the most impact during this critical year, our entire staff gathered in our Washington, DC, offices in December to map out our 2008 priorities. We targeted issues that will have the most benefit for the poorest and where we have the expertise to work strategically and forcefully, as well as resources that we've successfully mobilized in the past. With the president's 2009 budget cutting funding for such critical interventions as food stamps, Head Start, tuberculosis control, and child survival, our ability to push Congress to raise the bar is critical.

Our campaigns also reflect the priorities voiced by our grassroots volunteers. Over the past few years, they've made clear their desire to build a movement for health care for all Americans. As a result, health reform, including a focus on health disparities in minority and low-income communities, is now a key priority for us.

RESULTS' staff and activists are taking on an impressive set of ambitious campaigns. But when it comes to making what seems impossible possible, we're more than equal to the task. Too many Americans fail to recognize the power they have to make a positive change in the world. RESULTS recognizes that power and we're not afraid to use it. With the support of our top-notch staff, our volunteers are not only tremendously dedicated to fighting poverty, they are also incredibly well-informed. We don't just stand for these issues; we live and breathe them every day.

Together, RESULTS is a powerful force for reinvigorating America's passion for democracy and a world where all people live with dignity.

*Christine Taylor*



"For many years, I have been fortunate to have as partners in this work the far-sighted and dedicated members of RESULTS," says Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) pictured here with Stan Merrell. "I continue to admire and deeply respect the commitment of RESULTS and its members to a peaceful world marked by social and economic justice."

day to 26,500. That's real progress, especially considering that the population has doubled in that time. It's the results that convince me that this organization is highly worth my time and money."

Over the years, his monthly gifts have grown from \$10 to \$120, which, he confesses, is a bit steep for his family, but worth it. "If you divide up the number of people involved with RESULTS and the amount of money we leverage for programs like microcredit and health care, each of us raises tens of thousands of dollars a year. It's such a good business deal!"

RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund is holding a year-long campaign to bring in new members and monthly sponsors. Members are donors who invest \$35 or more per year (who then automatically receive a subscription to this newsletter). Monthly sponsors contribute a monthly gift of \$10 or more, either by electronic funds transfer from their checking account or credit card, or by sending a monthly check to RESULTS. Monthly sponsors, in particular, create the stable base we need to budget and carry out our campaigns, and to weather fluctuations in the economy.

"Individually, none of us could influence Congress to fund the proven solutions (immunizations, HIV/AIDS treatment, vitamin A supplementation, etc.) that have saved the lives of millions of children, but working collectively, persistently, and strategically we can do extraordinary things to correct the insanity of poverty in the world," says RESULTS' Grassroots Fundraising Manager Gwen Garcelon. She adds, "There is a cost for us to be able to do what we do. RESULTS' staff, trainings, materials, media events, and other support activities are key to the effectiveness of our volunteer network."

To help build and support our network of grassroots volunteers, our campaign goal is \$50,000. You can become a monthly sponsor or member now, or increase the size of your monthly gift, by filling out the enclosed giving envelope. As an added incentive, any contributions made in the months of March or April will be partially matched through a grant from the Feinstein Foundation.

Thank you!

## Creating ACTION from South Africa to Washington, DC

One would think that the greatest curable infectious killer of adults on the planet would garner front-page headlines and massive international funding, but until recently, few were paying attention. “TB is the biggest killer of people with AIDS, and an enormous cause and consequence of poverty, but for too long it has been ignored because most of those who are affected are poor people in poor countries. That’s changing in no small part thanks to the advocacy of RESULTS Educational Fund and partners of the ACTION project,” said RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund’s Associate Executive Director Joanne Carter.

ACTION (Advocacy to Control Tuberculosis Internationally) is an innovative initiative of RESULTS Educational Fund and partners in six other countries that aims to vastly increase political commitment, public will, and government resources for the global fight against TB. From 2005 to 2007, ACTION partners helped to mobilize nearly half a billion dollars for global TB efforts from Canada, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S., and achieved significant reforms that are expanding access to TB treatment in India, Indonesia, and Kenya.

One recent highlight: ACTION partners traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to participate in the largest annual TB meeting – the Union World Conference on Lung Health. ACTION partners brought a delegation of members of Parliament from the U.K. and Canada, hosted an exhibition booth, and led several advocacy workshops and clinics featuring ACTION’s best

*RESULTS’ activist Teresa Rugg (standing 3rd from left in 1st photo) traveled to Capetown, South Africa, with the TB Photovoice project, which helps people affected by TB tell their stories through photographs. There, Rugg and RESULTS’ ACTION staff participated in the Global March for TB. ACTION’s Donor Country Coordinator, Sue Perez (3rd photo), spoke with reporters about the World Bank’s underfunding of TB control in Africa.*



## RESULTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE JULY 12-16, 2008

### REAL ACTION. REAL CHANGE. THE END OF POVERTY.

Join us for the RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund International Conference in Washington, DC. Attending the conference is one of the best ways to experience RESULTS in action, develop relationships with volunteers from around the world, sharpen advocacy skills, and hear from some of the world’s leading experts on global and domestic poverty issues. Attendees report that the conference is one of the highlights of their participation in RESULTS.

Register today at [www.results.org](http://www.results.org) or by calling (202) 783-7100.

practices for TB advocacy. In true RESULTS style, they not only educated conference participants, but also organized a conference-wide action to send a powerful message from the international TB community to the leadership of the World Bank. Delegates from at least 30 countries sent over 1,400 postcards to the World Bank president and the two African representatives on the Bank’s executive board, urging the Bank to expand its efforts to confront the TB emergency in Africa. While TB claims over half a million African lives each year, accounting for more than a third of all annual TB deaths worldwide, the latest available data show the World Bank invests only \$0.83 per TB case in Africa, compared to approximately \$9.33 per case in the rest of the world.

“These postcards, sent in many cases by experts who know all too well the devastation caused by TB, send a clear message to the Bank’s leadership that they must do more to rid the world of this terrible and treatable disease,” said Carter.

As a testament to the effectiveness of this and other ACTION activities around the world and in the U.S., RESULTS Educational Fund and partners have been awarded a major five-year renewal grant from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the project. The grant will support the seven-country partnership in mobilizing major new resources for global TB control from Canada, France, Japan, the U.K, and the U.S., as well as India and Kenya.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### Microcredit Touches Nearly Half a Billion People

THE NUMBER OF MICROLOANS RECEIVED BY THE POOR SOARED to 133 million in 2006, up from 13 million just nine years ago, according to a report released in December by the Microcredit Summit Campaign, an initiative of RESULTS Educational Fund. The dramatic progress was also evident in the Campaign’s focus on loans to the very poor (those living on less than US\$1 a day), which reached 93 million families in 2006, just shy of the Campaign’s goal of reaching 100 million of poorest families. “We know that by the end of 2007 the 100 million poorest were reached,” Microcredit Summit Campaign Director Sam Daley-Harris said, “but we won’t be able to report those results until the 2007 data are collected, verified, and released at the end of 2008.”

While the loans may be small, their impact is enormous. With an estimated four family members for each client, it translates into almost 500 million people benefiting from microfinance!

The *State of the Microcredit Summit Campaign* report was covered in at least 36 newspaper pieces in 10 languages in 24 countries, and was showcased on more than a dozen radio and television stations in Africa, Europe, and Latin America. The report can be found at [www.microcreditsummit.org](http://www.microcreditsummit.org).

### Spreading the Word on the Internet

When the students at Minnesota State University (MSU) wanted to expand their RESULTS chapter, they chose a tool that was dynamic, user-friendly, popular, and free – they started a Facebook group. Facebook is an online social networking site that allows individuals to create their own page and connect with other users by sending messages, viewing each other’s pictures, and starting groups that people can join. The MSU RESULTS Facebook group turned out to be the fastest and most convenient way to reach out to others. It now has 53 members.

Recognizing the draw of online communities for young people, RESULTS is creating a presence on various social networking sites, including Myspace, Razoo, Care2, Change.org, and Facebook. These sites are powerful tools for young adult outreach and organizing, and for taking large-scale action. We’re also making use of other internet tools, such as video hosting sites, blogs, and forums, which are great for promoting discussion about issues related to our mission, as well as for outreach. Get links to all these sites at [www.results.org](http://www.results.org) under Activist Info.

## RESULTS PARTNERS IN ACTION

### RESULTS Grows on Campus

“THEY SAY OUR GENERATION CAN TIP THE SCALE POLITICALLY, BUT WE DON’T REALLY KNOW HOW,” says Bethany Weller, a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and member of one RESULTS’ new student chapters.

While American youth are volunteering at a higher rate than ever before and clearly want to better their world, their political involvement often lags for lack of basic know-how. “Advocacy is scary to think about – understanding how a bill is passed and made law, talking to members of Congress,” says Weller.



Jeff Steller and Binh Tran started a RESULTS chapter at the University of Kentucky. “It’s been a really good fit,” says Steller.

RESULTS has been actively engaging students and forming chapters on college campuses around the country this past year. Our Youth in Action campaign recognizes the need to train young people in how to become leaders in the movement to end poverty.

Weller was one of 11 students who formed a RESULTS chapter as part of a sociology class project. “I wanted to be able to solve one of the world’s problems. I’ve done soup kitchens, I’ve done food banks, but RESULTS is a great way to work at poverty from the top down.”

Given the right training and support, students have been finding advocacy not only easier than they anticipated, but downright empowering. “RESULTS training was great because it broke it all down into easy steps,” says Weller. “We learned we can do such simple things, like writing letters and calling editors and our members of Congress. It helps you realize that literally anyone can do this.”

In just two months, the MSU RESULTS group had three letters-to-the editor published in local newspapers and were featured in their campus paper. They also had a face-to-face meeting with their representative, Tim Walz, who Weller reports, “was really impressed with us.”

Our student chapters are breaking ground in inspiring activism through newer technologies. The University of Kentucky chapter is inviting passing students in the student center to call their representative’s office using a bank of cell phones. Many groups are promoting themselves on social networking Web sites like Facebook.

“It’s been a really exciting challenge to adapt our model to campuses,” says Meredith Dodson, RESULTS’ Director of Domestic Campaigns. “The students who are involved are idealistic, yet pragmatic, and full of great ideas. Over the long-term, having the resources to support this effort will be key.”

Clearly, RESULTS is meeting a need. Jeff Steller is a volunteer mentor at a center for at-risk youth and RESULTS’ group leader at the University of Kentucky. “I found I wanted to have an impact on a greater scale than just doing local volunteer work,” he says. “Other campus groups raise money or awareness, but not much else. The ability to take so much action is what makes RESULTS so awesome.”

### America’s Children Win – and – Lose in Congress

“The Head Start for School Readiness Act, which I will sign today and send to the President, is another bipartisan step toward our goal of ensuring that all of America’s children have the tools they need to succeed,” said the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, on December 5, 2007. Moments later, she and Head Start student Cynthia Martinez signed Congress’ Head Start bill. A host of members of Congress and Head Start advocates attended the ceremony, including RESULTS staff, who represented the hundreds of RESULTS activists who have worked so hard to protect and strengthen Head Start over the years.

Head Start is a comprehensive preschool program that provides affordable, quality, early childhood development services to low-income American families. There was overwhelming bipartisan support for the successful program and the bill was quickly signed into law by the president. RESULTS and our allies scored a number of victories: the act maintains federal-to-local oversight, eliminates the National Reporting System that required inappropriate testing of Head

Start children, and authorizes an increase in funding for Early Head Start, the program for infants and toddlers.

The celebration, however, was short-lived.

Congress and the president failed to follow up with the funding necessary for the new mandates. The fiscal 2008 budget actually cuts \$10.6 million from Head Start, equal to the cost of enrolling more than 26,500 children. For Head Start to be able to maintain its enrollment and include more eligible kids, RESULTS and our allies will push Congress to walk its talk when it negotiates the 2009 budget.



Luis Burguillos/NHSA

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