

RESULTS

the power to end poverty

**Welcome to the RESULTS November 2013
U.S. Poverty National Conference Call**

Making the Final Push to Protect SNAP

Saturday, November 9, 12:30 pm ET

(888) 409-6709

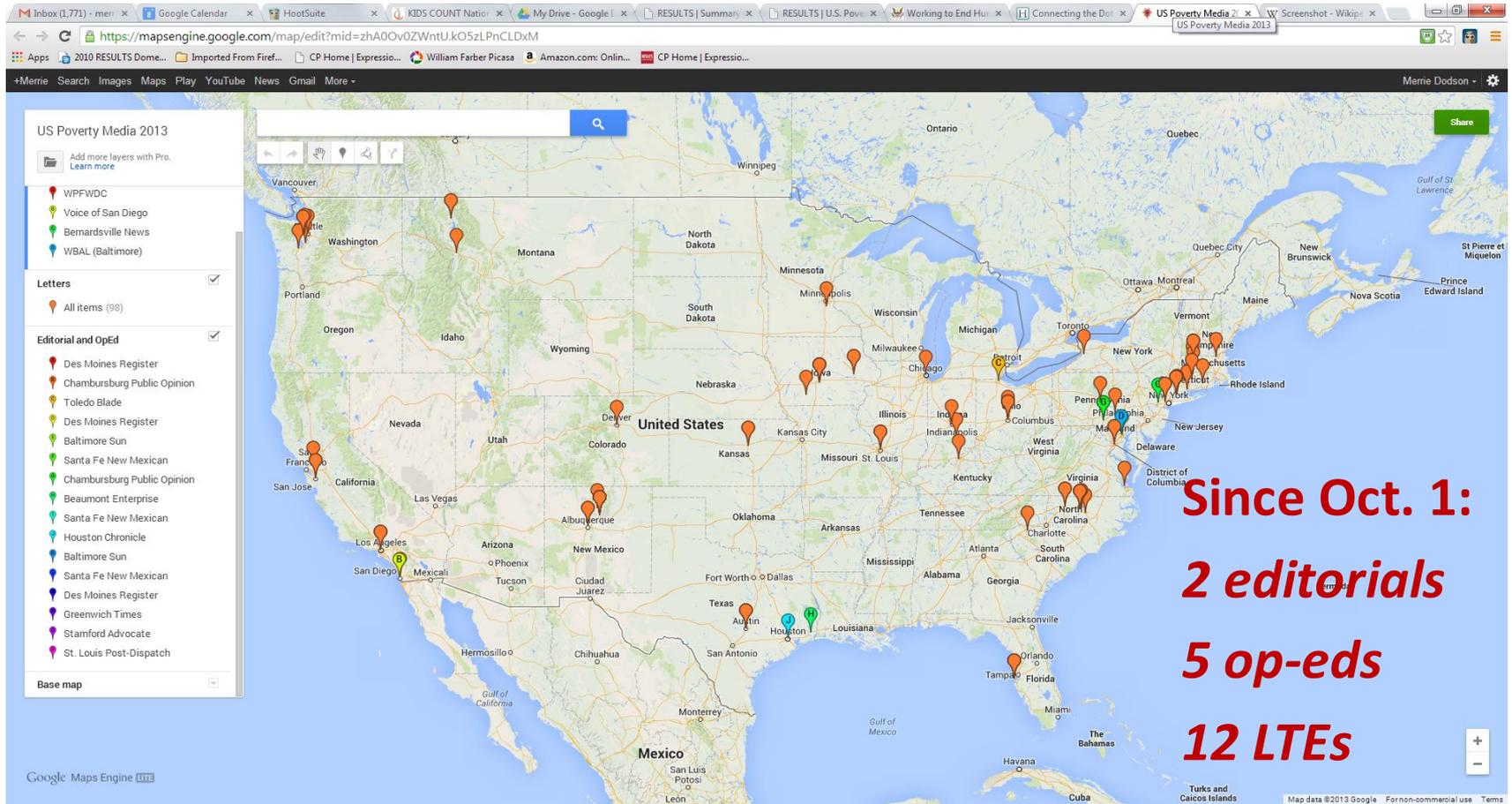
Welcome from Jos Linn

Grassroots Manager, U.S. Poverty Campaigns





Congratulations on Your Media Success!



Guest Speaker: Angela Sutton, Witnesses to Hunger

- Member of [Witnesses to Hunger Project](#) at the [Center for Hunger-Free Communities](#) at Drexel University
- Mother of two boys (6 & 12) from Philadelphia, PA
- Has faced enormous challenges in her life, including being shot, sexually assaulted, and being homeless
- Has received SSI-disability, cash assistance, and SNAP to help make ends meet; she works to make extra cash
- Had been on a waitlist for a housing voucher for ten years before finally receiving housing assistance
- Has an associate's degree in health education and is working on a bachelor's degree in health behavior
- Has appeared on [ABC News](#), [Ebru Television](#), and written for [Media Voices for Children](#)



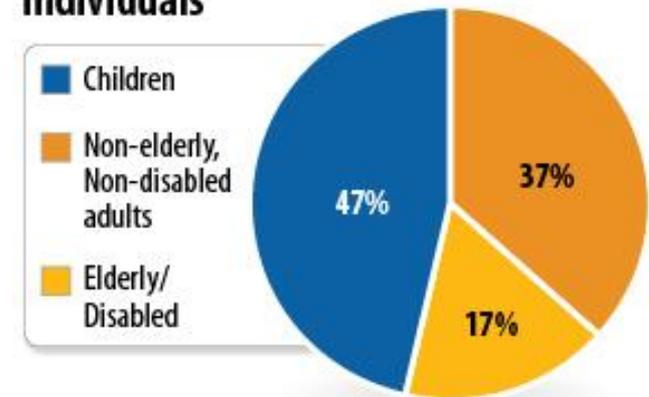
SNAP Facts

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps) is an our nation's first line of defense against hunger
- According to new Census Bureau data, SNAP kept [5 million Americans out of poverty](#) in 2012
- SNAP also has a significant impact on health and educational outcomes, and contributes to long-term economic stability



Meredith Dodson,
Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns
(with Prof. Muhammad Yunus)

More than Half of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, and Disabled Individuals



Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2010

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

SNAP Facts

SNAP (and other programs) are working

Protecting SNAP in the Final Farm Bill

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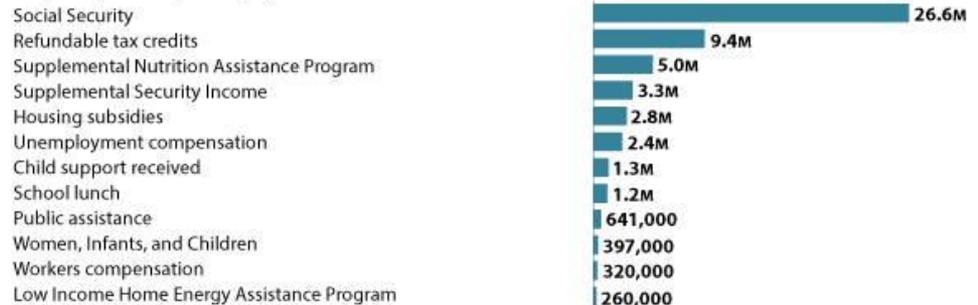
A Different Way of Measuring Poverty

Supplemental Poverty Measure

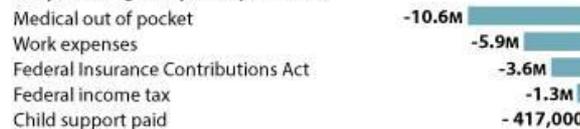
The official poverty rate is based on pretax money income. The supplemental poverty measure also factors in costs for critical goods and services and government benefits to determine the number of people living in poverty.



People kept out of poverty by ...



People falling into poverty due to ...



A person may receive more than one of the above benefits and may have more than one of the above expenses.

SNAP – Senate Farm Bill

- Passed on June 10 by vote of [66-27](#)
- \$4.1 billion SNAP cut over 10 years
- Cuts benefits in so-called “Heat and Eat” programs in 15 states (CA, CT, ME, MA, MINH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA, WI)
- Nearly 500,000 households would see benefits drop by an average of \$90/month
- Heat and Eat programs allow states to boost SNAP benefits for households that also qualify for a minimal benefit from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); this allows low-income families to avoid the harsh choice of buying food or paying the electric bill

SNAP – House SNAP Bill

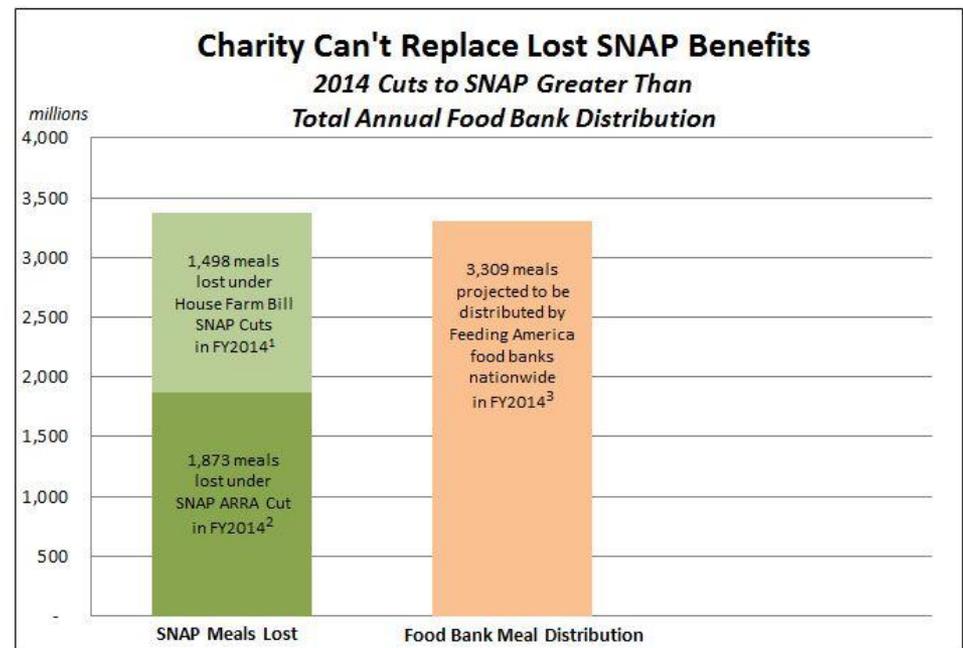
Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act, [H.R. 3102](#)

- Cuts the SNAP by \$40 billion over ten years
- Forces 2.1 million people off SNAP and deny 210,000 low-income children free meals at school by eliminating state flexibility in administering SNAP (Categorical Eligibility or “Cat EI”)
- Cuts off SNAP to 1.7 million 18-50 year olds with no children (so called “ABAWDs” – Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) who live in high unemployment areas and want to work; these folks earn an average \$2,500 *per year*
- Makes larger Heat and Eat cut than Senate bill -- would cut SNAP benefits by average of \$90/month for 850,000 households
- Lets states keep half the money saved by removing people from SNAP, including parents with children as young as one who cannot find work or are unable to find safe and affordable child care for their young children
 - Only one out of six low-income families eligible for child care assistance are able to receive it now

SNAP Households Already Facing a Tough Time

- SNAP benefits were cut automatically starting November 1 when the increases in SNAP benefits from 2009's *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) was prematurely ended
- Average cut of \$36/month (family of 4) or 5.5 percent
- Amounts to \$5 billion cut in 2014, \$11 billion overall

According to Feeding America, food banks would have to **double the number of meals served in 2014** to make up for the meals lost from the ARRA cut plus the House's proposed cuts



Farm Bill Conference Committee Members

Senate Conferees:

Debbie Stabenow (D-MI),
 Chair, Ag Cmte
 Thad Cochran (R-MS),
 Ranking Member, Ag Cmte
 John Boozman (R-AR)
 Michael Bennet (D-CO)
 Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
 Tom Harkin (D-IA)
 Pat Roberts (R-KS)
 Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
 Max Baucus (D-MT)
 John Hoeven (R-ND)
 Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
 Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

House Conferees:

Reps. Frank D. Lucas (R-OK-3)
 Chair, Ag Cmte
 Collin Peterson (D-MN-7)
 Ranking Member, Ag Cmte
 Martha Roby (R-AL-2)
 Mike D. Rogers (R-AL-3)
 Rick Crawford (R-AR-1)
 Jeff Denham (R-CA-10)
 Jim Costa (D-CA-16)
 Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-CA-35)
 Ed Royce (R-CA-39)
 Steve Southerland (R-FL-2)
 Austin Scott (R-GA-8)
 Rodney Davis (R-IL-13)
 Steve King (R-IA-4)
 Jim McGovern (D-MA-2)
 Dave Camp (R-MI-4)

Sandy Levin (D-MI-9)
 Tim Walz (D-MN-1)
 Eliot Engel (D-NY-16)
 Mike McIntyre (D-NC-7)
 Marcia Fudge (D-OH-11)
 Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5)
 Glenn Thompson (R-PA-5)
 Tom Marino (R-PA-10)
 Kristi Noem (R-SD-AL)
 Sam Johnson (R-TX-3), K.
 Michael Conaway (R-TX-11)
 Randy Neugebauer (R-TX-19)
 Filemon Vela (D-TX-34)
 Suzan DelBene (D-WA-1)

November Action

Contact Congressional Office about Protecting SNAP

- **Call Senate and House agriculture aides**; your group's point persons for each office should make the call
- Talk to aide about importance of SNAP and urge them to ask their bosses to **tell Farm Bill conference committee members to protect SNAP**
- **Ask when you can follow up** to see what their boss said
- Other group members should **bolster this message by calling or e-mails all your congressional offices**:

My name is _____ and I'm a constituent from _____. I am very concerned that Congress is making decisions that would increase hunger. SNAP or food stamps is our best line of defense against hunger in the U.S. yet some lawmakers want to throw millions of people, including many children, off the program. We cannot let this happen. Please tell Sen./Rep. _____ to tell Senate/House leaders to protect SNAP in the Farm Bill.

November Action

Talking Points for Calls to Agriculture Aide

1. In 2012, more than [1 in 5 children](#) in the U.S. were at risk of going to bed hungry (21.6 percent).
2. Studies show that children who are regularly hungry suffer from **weakened immune systems, slowed and abnormal growth, and anemia.**
3. In 2012, **SNAP lifted 5 million people out of poverty** ([U.S. Census](#))
4. Dismayed that House would want to **force 3.8 million Americans off SNAP and deny 210,000 children free meals at school.**
5. House bill is cruel and counterintuitive in that it would **force 1.7 million unemployed Americans off SNAP** who live in high unemployment areas and want to work

November Action

Talking Points for Calls to Ag Aide (cont'd)

6. House bill also **throws parents with children as young as one**, who cannot find work or are unable to find safe and affordable child care for their young children, **off SNAP**.
7. Urge your representative/senator to talk to:
 - **House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas and Ranking Member Collin Peterson, OR**
 - **Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Debbie Stabenow and Ranking Member Thad Cochran**
8. And tell them to **protect SNAP in any new Farm Bill or other legislation**.

For more information to prepare for your calls, see the November Action at:
http://www.results.org/take_action/november_2013_u.s._poverty_action/

November Advocacy Training – Call your Senate and House Agriculture Aide about Protecting SNAP

Find this sample conversation at:

http://www.results.org/take_action/november_2013_us_poverty_laser_talk

SNAP Objection: Too Much Fraud and Abuse

- SNAP has one of the **strictest and most rigorous quality control systems** of any public benefit program
- **Fewer than 2 percent of SNAP benefits** are issued to households that do not meet all of the program's eligibility requirements, a record-low rate
- Overall, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found SNAP has an **accuracy rate above 96 percent and fraud rate of only 1.3 percent**
- SNAP achieved its **lowest error rates on record in fiscal year 2011**, even as caseloads were rising as more people found themselves in poverty and administrative resources were strained
- The program is working – just this month the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) reported that **SNAP lifted 5 million people out of poverty in 2012**

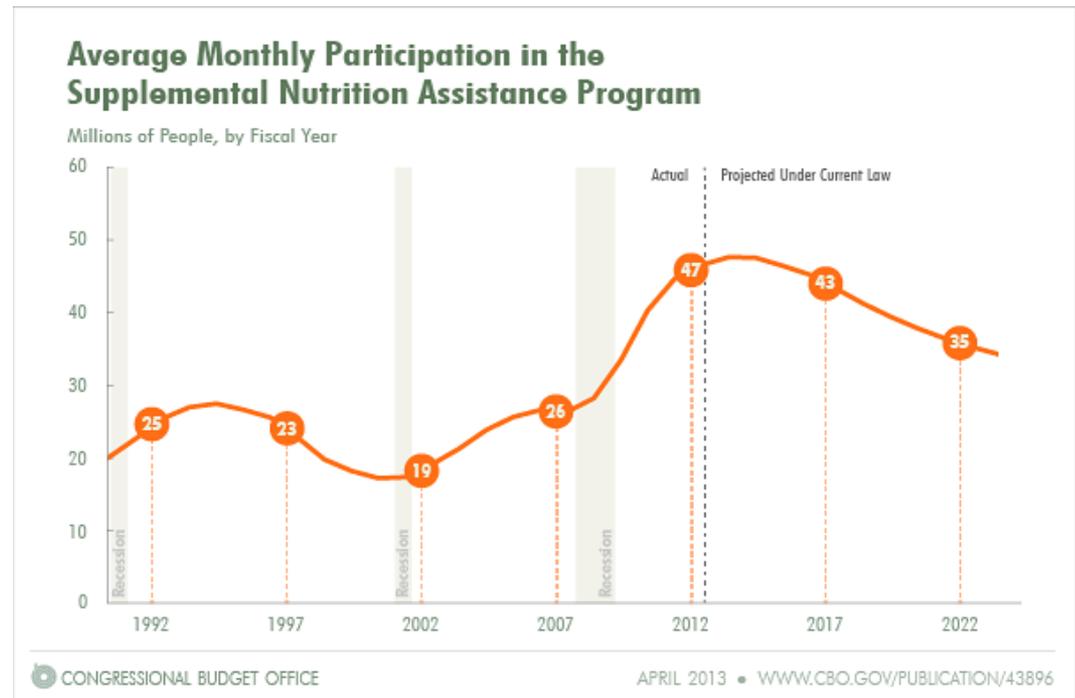
SNAP Objection:

We Need to Require SNAP Participants to Work

- **SNAP has strict work requirements for adults without children** -- they can only get SNAP for 3 months out of every 5 years unless working 20+ hours.
- **Governors can ask for waivers** in areas of high unemployment
- Right now there are **3 unemployed workers for every 1 job opening**
- House proposal would impact **parents with children as young as one who cannot find work or are unable to find safe and affordable child care** for their young children – and already only one out of six low-income families eligible for child care assistance are able to receive it now
- **Need a stronger economy so that there are well-paying jobs in order to reduce SNAP participation** -- and SNAP spending helps boost economic growth.

SNAP Objection: The Program is Growing out of Control

- **The issue isn't SNAP** – it's America's struggling economy
- SNAP works because it **responds to economic downturns**
- **Costs shrink as the economy improves** and people can put food on their own table again
- [CBO predicts that SNAP spending as percentage of GDP will fall to 1995 levels by 2019](#)



SNAP Objection:

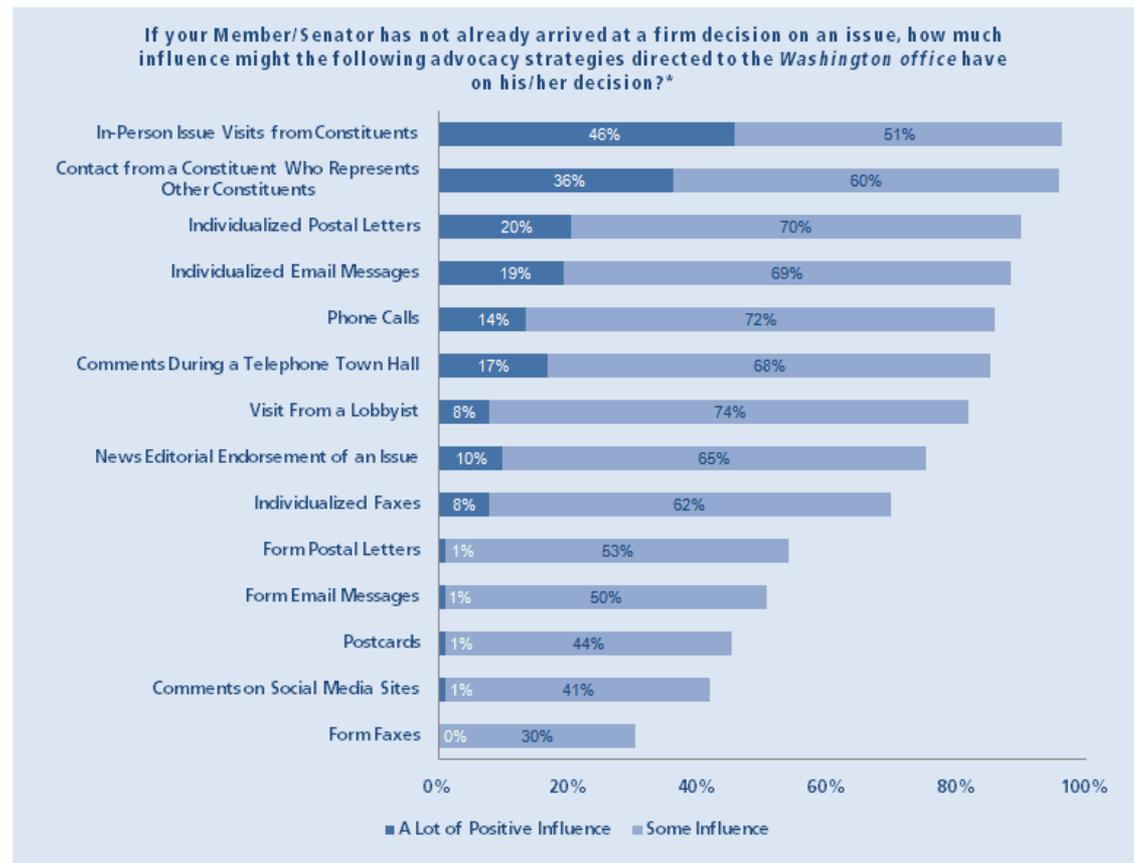
We Have to Address the Federal Budget Deficit

- **Previous bipartisan deficit-reduction packages have exempted SNAP** from cuts in recognition of this critical safety net program to the millions of struggling Americans it serves
- By fighting hunger, we are investing in our future economy by **making sure children are healthy and not hungry at school**
- **A stronger economy leads to reduced deficits**
 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) finds that each dollar of federal SNAP benefits generates \$1.79 in economic activity
 - In addition, the Center for American Progress estimates that nearly 14,000 jobs are lost with every \$1 billion cut from SNAP

Keep Pushing for Face-to-Face Meetings Too!

97 percent of Congressional staff say that in-person issues visits from Constituents influence policymakers, with 46 percent reporting it has a lot of influence. (Source: poll of more than 250 congressional staff by the [Congressional Management Foundation](#))

Follow up on your face-to-face meeting requests and upcoming town halls



Shares from the Grassroots



Jen Maurer
Development Manager
RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund



Bill Baker
Stamford, CT

Got SNAP op-eds published in
[Greenwich, CT](#), [Stamford, CT](#), and
[New Haven, CT](#)



Ginnie Vogts
Columbus, OH

Supported RESULTS with a
recent fundraiser

Fundraising Update

Thank you to our event fundraisers!

- Well over \$100K raised this month
- Austin, Houston, Kitsap/Bremerton, Bernardsville, Ann Arbor/Detroit, Inland Empire, and Columbus
- Upcoming: Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Olympia

Virtual Thanksgiving Feast

- Highlights hunger work. Friends donate online to help those suffering from hunger during a time of plenty.
- Ideal for free agents or groups too busy with outreach events to do fundraising events
- Visit www.tinyurl.com/2013RESULTSThanks

Board Election Results and Roll Call



Scott Leckman

Chair, RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund Board of Directors

- 1. How many people are in the room?**
- 2. How many contacts will group make with your congressional offices about protecting SNAP?**

This includes all the direct communications each House and Senate point person makes with aides as well as other communications your group makes to reinforce that message.

**Remembering
Al Sheahen
of RESULTS
San Fernando
Valley (CA)**

*Meredith Dodson,
Director of U.S. Poverty
Campaigns*



Announcements

We continue to do outreach in many areas around the country, enlisting new volunteers in RESULTS' anti-poverty work. In 2013 we've started new groups in:

- **Creston, IA**
- **Whitefish, MT**
- **Arlington, VA**
- **Orange County, CA**, and
- Re-started our **Chicago, IL** group.

In addition, we have groups in **Boston, MA; West Los Angeles, CA, Kansas City, MO; Waterloo, IA; Albuquerque, NM;** and **Baltimore, MD** that are in new group training. Finally, we are working to start seven additional new groups in works in **Burlington VT; Portsmouth/Durham, NH; Maine, Lexington, KY; Louisville, KY; Cincinnati, OH;** and **Indianapolis, IN.**

If you know people in these or other areas of the country who would be interested in getting involved, invite them to a [RESULTS Intro Call](#) or contact Meredith Dodson at (dodson@results.org, (202) 783-7100, x.116)



Announcements

RESULTS Media Training Call: This Tuesday, November 12, at 8:00 pm ET. (218) 862-1300, passcode 682494.

RESULTS Introductory Call: Wednesday, November 13, 9:00 pm ET. Register for the call at www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMeeetandGreet/.

RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls: Monday, November 18 at 1:00pm ET or Tuesday, November 19, 9:00 pm ET. (267) 507-0370, passcode RESULTS (7378587, plus #).

Mark your calendars! **The 2014 RESULTS International Conference will be June 21-24, 2014 in Washington, DC.** We'll have more details in the coming weeks but we hope you'll plan to join us in DC next June.

You can find a full list of upcoming events, along with call-in numbers on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).

26

Thank you for being on today's call!

**Next RESULTS National Conference Call
Saturday, December 14, at 2:00 pm ET**

*This will be a joint call with both RESULTS U.S. Poverty
and Global Poverty volunteers*

RESULTS
the power to end poverty

*Let's work hard this month to ensure that all
Americans can have a*

*Happy
Thanksgiving
this year and every year!*