

# RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund Grassroots Board Member Nominees

## Tadeo Melean Weiner

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### Biography

I first heard about RESULTS during my time as an Emerson Hunger Fellow in the Congressional Hunger Center. Meredith Dodson, in her presentation to my class, spoke about the thousands of people across the United States who, with the help and resources of RESULTS, were building the political will to bring an end to poverty. I was sold – I wanted to become an effective advocate and here was an organization that could teach me how. After completing the Emerson Hunger Fellowship, I applied for the REAL Change Fellowship in order to gain the skills, knowledge, and connections necessary to bring an end to poverty. As a REAL Changer, I committed to starting a RESULTS group in Kansas City, Missouri – my hometown. With the help, guidance, and training of Jos Linn and others, RESULTS KC continues to meet, grow, and advocate for SNAP and the EITC. We also work on city, county, and state issues, according to the will of group members.



### Statement of Intent

I have experience organizing around various issues: hunger, housing, immigration, and criminal justice reform. I am fascinated and energized by the process communities undergo in building people-power to address their concerns. In my work, thinking, and passion, I am not issue-

oriented. I find it difficult to remain issue-oriented because the cycle of poverty has such a complex sociology. Rather, I focus on process – the process by which marginalized individuals of various backgrounds become politicized, engage in policy advocacy, and gain power. This is what I plan to study and research when I begin the AM/PhD program in Social Work at The University of Chicago this upcoming academic year. This topic closely aligns with the work and mission of RESULTS. If elected to the board, I will bring my direct experience with community organizing and relevant academic research on poverty, social policy, and effective models of community transformation. More importantly, I will also bring the experience of someone who grew up in poverty and in a single-parent undocumented household.

## Maxine Thomas

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### Biography

My name is Maxine Thomas, I joined RESULTS in 2014 and attended my first International Conference as a volunteer advocate. Shortly after returning home to Indianapolis, Indiana I started a RESULTS Domestic Chapter. During the growth of my group we have attended a Midwest regional conference, wrote letters to our members of Congress and have had several face-to-face meetings. In 2015, I was invited to attend the International Conference as a speaker. At that conference, I was able to share my own personal story of living in poverty.



I was inducted to a new RESULTS group, the "Real Experts on Poverty." During the year of being a "Real Expert," many opportunities have been afforded me through my advocacy. Having an Op-Ed published November 2015, it was a remarkable, yet humbling experience to share my story, and to help bring awareness for our legislators to act on the Earned Income Tax Credit bill; which happened to pass in December 2015. RESULTS founder Mr. Sam Daley-Harris invited me to be a guest speaker on the Tony Trupiano Radio Talk Show blog, this was a phenomenal experience. Recently, I attended the FRAC Conference as a guest speaker and helped share the importance of telling your personal stories through an interactive session at the conference. Also, connecting with my member of Congress, Andre Carson who made me his highlight at a news press conference on a new food desert bill that is being proposed. Even more recent, being contacted by the Washington Post covering a story regarding food deserts here in America.

## Statement of Intent

If selected as a new grassroots board member there are many ideas, and visions I will bring to the organization to foster the purpose in our advocacy here at RESULTS. Although many have studied and gained various degrees of knowledge regarding poverty, what I believe is a key element in reaching the masses to help eradicate our mission is those who know firsthand. Collectively with the executive board, I will add to the value of RESULTS with keeping the importance of those we're serving a priority and ways to improve our networks of sponsors and allies. My purpose is to serve, my calling to fulfill.

## Charles Wallace

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### Biography

I have been a member of RESULTS for approximately seven years. I joined RESULTS while I was working for the Texas Department of State Health Services. My work position at the time was Director of the Tuberculosis Program. While working with RESULTS I have worked to try and connect RESULTS with local health department Tuberculosis Program Managers across the State of Texas and with the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association. In addition, I have worked to bring the Rotary Clubs and RESULTS together as working partners to deal with shared issues such as global immunization activities with a focus on the Texas-Mexico Border. In the past working in public health I have worked in communities developing minority health activities such as building interagency networks and coalitions and assessing community needs and resources for under-served populations. I served as vice president of the International Union Against TB and other Lung Diseases. While serving as Community Health Director of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Deshapelles, Haiti, West Indies, grassroots community organizations were developed to serve the needs of a very poor population in rural Haiti. Worked with the Pan American Health Organization and US Mexico Border Health Commission to develop local health clinics to serve the medical and outreach needs of TB patients.



## **Statement of Intent**

I'm recommending some new organizations that the Board may have considered in the past but had no link to engage them in RESULTS. For the last twenty years I have worked with tuberculosis (TB). This work has focused primarily on domestic TB in the United States. However, with Texas being so close to Mexico tuberculosis has been a binational disease. Meaning that the management of tuberculosis has been shared by both the United States and Mexico. The management of tuberculosis in a binational capacity is critical to the prevention and control of this disease in both countries. The greatest problem we are seeing in the United States is the influx of Drug Resistant TB, Multi-Drug Resistant TB and Extensively Drug Resistant TB that migrate from Mexico, Latin America and other parts of the world seeking treatment for their disease in the US. If the Board is interested in building an international link with Mexico I can serve as a Grassroots link for TB activity in this part of the world.

The strongest "voice" at the table is usually the voice of advocacy. The advocate is usually the individual who has experienced problems and events that have faced populations and can verify the accuracy of these events. I would like to serve as an advocate working with various volunteers, communities and grassroots organizations who maybe unable to get to the table to present their findings on actions they have taken for the good of communities.

Poverty is a massive concern for Grassroots organizations. RESULTS serves as the link between communities and organizations that can build strategies that can decrease poverty. Community gatekeepers must be identified to work with RESULTS volunteers to measure the impact poverty has on a community and what resources are available to help communities get out of poverty. I have a Masters Degree in Public Health with a focus on Maternal and Child Health. I would like to contribute to building strategies with Grassroots volunteers to always give children priority observation when visiting communities. Those babies/children who are malnourished and have low birth weight should be reported to local health departments immediately. RESULTS Grassroots volunteers are a part of the community surveillance team.