Live captioning by Ai-Media

SPEAKER:
We are freezing cold here right now.

KEN PATTERSON:
It looks right today.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Hi Randy!

RANDY ROSSO:
Hello everyone.

KEN PATTERSON:
Hello Randy.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Hello Tanha, thank you for your here today!

TANHA RAHMAN:
Joanna, really quick, do we all have a take two minutes or is it OK if we go to two minutes 30 seconds?

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Try to stick to two minutes if you can. Don't get reoccupied with the time. Just say what is on your mind.

JOS LINN:
We have a loud buzzer that will go off when you go over time.

Live captioning by Ai-Media

KEN PATTERSON:
We still have folks joining, we will still wait and up -- another couple second-tier.

(Recording in progress.)

JOS LINN:
Good afternoon everybody, you don't know me, my name is Jos Linn and I am the Assistant Director of Grassroots Impact at RESULTS and I want to thank you all for being here today. First, I would like to wish a happy pride month for our friends and friendly volunteers in the LGBTQ community. As you know, RESULTS is working towards a world free of oppression. The tax on the algae to be key -- LGBTQ community has accelerated.

That is the way that we will create committee that welcomes all. I encourage you to read more about our anti-oppression work and to take advantage of our upcoming anti-oppression training if you can. You can find more info about those on our website.

This idea of community is what today's webinar is all about. Being together each month is a big part of our result Mac has been around for over 40 years. Despite all of the trauma in the world, gathering as a community here each month gives us a shot of hope. All of us have a thousand things we could be doing right now but we chose to take 90 minutes out of our weekend to be together and make a difference.

For me, I know that a major factor in my success is the person sitting next to me in that lobby meeting or that webinar where that workshop or that Regional Conference. And our hope is a major factor in their success too. Supportive for one person to speak up but it is even better when we speak together.

Today, we will start off with some much-needed updates on our US poverty and global poverty campaigns and actions you can take this month. Then the rest of the webinar will be focused on us, the RESULTS community. This year, we want to restart what has been an integral part of the RESULTS model for decades, in person gatherings. After three years of Zoom meetings, we are hoping everyone will take an opportunity to step from behind the computer screen and get together with others this year.

Today, we will hear from RESULTS volunteers and hear how they are connecting their sense of purpose with their sense of community. We will provide you tools and resources to plan your own events and do some breakout sessions to brainstorm ideas for gathering together in 2023.

Be sure to stay on to the end of the webinar will you'll have a chance to meet our excellent candidates for the RESULTS Grassroots Board. With voting now underway, please give each one a good looksee and then vote. But first, let's get caught up on what's happening with our policy work.

Let's pull the slides up here.

So, as many of you know, Congress became perilously close to because the US to vault on its back... despite months of warnings, Congress again waited until the last minute to raise the debt ceiling to the Fiscal Responsibility Act or FRA. That was passed by the house of Senate this week. Now, let's be clear. This is not a good bill.

It prevented a crisis, yes, but at a cost. Our first concern for us are the changes to the simple mental nutrition distance program or SNAP which provides food assistance to over 40 million people each month. The FRA changes now require people without dependents, between the ages of 50 and 54, to prove that they are working at least 20 hours a week to receive their benefits. The previous age cutoff was 49.

It is estimated that 750,000 older Americans are now at risk of losing their food assistance. These changes are not about helping people find work. Studies show that work and reporting requirements don't increase informant. What they do is keep people off assistance by forcing them to jump through a my -- maze of bureaucratic hurdles to prove that they deserve their benefits. It is nothing more than one night red tape.

Now, the bill does exempt certain groups from these are karmic cultural hub but taking food away from one person to feed another is no victory.

Also concern is that the bill essentially freezes non-defence discretionary money for the next two years. This can impact our global appropriations. Remember, program costs go up each year because of inflation. Even if funding stays the same from year to year, services still get caught because they are more sensitive to administer. There are also some changes that could impact families receiving welfare benefits and cuts to IRS funding to make wealthy tax -- tax doctors pay with AL.

You see why they don't think it is a good bill. The only reason RESULTS doesn't strongly pose it because even the alternatives, were far worse. Both would have led to a recession, deep cuts to services, and potentially millions of people losing their jobs.

But you should know that it is your advocacy with members of Congress to prevent these worst-case scenarios. Your lobby meetings and your incredible work over the last couple of months send the message loud and clear that reducing poverty must be a priority for the Congress and the deep cuts to programs are in an acceptable condition for paying our nation's bills.

Your work literally helps us from disaster. There are some glimmers of hope. First, the debt ceiling is now suspended until the end of next year which means we don't have another one of these many factored crises at least for a while.

Plus, these new cuts now make it harder for the house to cut staffs. Finally, the appropriations process is not over. The bill limits the overall spending time but we can still fight for the largest (indiscernible) possible for our global priorities.

So now, let's get into action and use media to do so. Use the debt ceiling fail as a hope for letters to the editor telling Congress to never again force us into a false choice between the -- defaulting on our debt and increasing poverty. Or write them urging them to expect the Child Tax Credit, the new tax -- or decision that is coming up.

You'll hear more about those issues in just a second. Any and all media is welcome and as you know, we have a goal of 150 grassroots media pieces between April 1 and June 30. As of this morning, we have already gotten 135 pieces published and â€“ sorry, 37 on the debt ceiling alone.

We still have four weeks to go. Let's shatter that goal with our strongest media month yet and June.

In this light, you can find links to the various letter actions on our RESULTS website as well as links to reporting when you get media published and how to find media that other folks have gotten published. If you need any help, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'm happy to assist you.

Thank you all for your credible work, keep it up and now, let me turn it over to my colleagues, David Plasterer to talk more about the Child Tax Credit.

DAVE BENSON:
Great!

DAVID PLASTERER:
Thank you Joss, for the update on the legislation. While we know that we are all unhappy with the cuts being made, it makes our work securing additional support for families in the tax code even more vital. That is why I want to give you all a quick update on our current Child Tax Credit campaign and actions you can take to move us towards our goal.

First, for democratic house offices who are already supportive of the child tax credit expansion, encourage them to show that support by cosponsoring the American family act or AFA. As of the last update which we just received yesterday, there are 154 cosponsors and like Jos said, I know it says 129 because I didn't have a chance to change this light.

There are 154 cosponsors but our goal is under 75 so we still have work to do. There's not much time left to do so because I also just heard that the deadline to cosponsor is next week.

So if your member is already cosponsored, consider writing in LT to thank them for the support and if they haven't, contact them and ask them to sign on as soon as possible. The legislation is likely to be introduced and we want as many signers as possible for introduction.

Now, while the ask for supportive offices is fairly simple, talking to offices who are more sceptical of CDC expansion can be more of a challenge. The most common objection is that it is partisan and that it this incentivizes work.

That is why we created some new resources to help you respond to these arguments. It will also help you make the case that expanding the CDC can be a bipartisan priority.

The link to the full resources will be in the chat and are also linked in the slide deck.

The centrepiece of this. Resource I wanted her is a chart prepared by our partners at the Institute on taxation and economic policy. It shows how much annual income families of different sizes need to earn in order to receive the full child tax credit benefit. Which is currently $2000 per child.

The benefit, that is, 2000 per child. Understanding who receives the CDC and more importantly, who doesn't come is a common question for volunteers and congressional offices alike. There is a common misconception that if you don't receive the full 2000 per child, it is because you don't work which can be further from the truth.

In fact, what this graph shows is you need to earn quite a bit to receive your full benefit. As you need to see, you need to learn -- earn nearly $46,000 if you're married with kids.

While this graph is great to explain income requirements and how high they are, it is even more powerful to put that information in real context. This next graph can do that.

It shows that a single parent with two children with a salary of $15,000 per year gets less than 50% of the full CTC benefit, only receiving $1875 total. As for both children. Yet, a single parent with tutor making $200,000 gets 100% of the benefit, receiving 2000 per child for total of $4000.

Now, you can further contact lies this information by giving examples of specific types of jobs that are relevant to where you live. For instance, I live in Indianapolis and there are a lot of jobs and warehousing. Many of which pay $10 an hour. A single parent with two children working almost full-time in a warehouse and earning $15,000 a year will get less than 50% of their credit oil a wealthy lawyer making 200,000 gets the full benefit.

We see how effective the CTC is at reducing child poverty and firmly believe that all children deserve support like they did after the 2021 expansion. However, we know that with a divided Congress, we will not be able to get that back in 2021 but that does not mean â€“ I mean, excuse me. We know that with the divided Congress, we will not be able to get back to the 2021 levels in this Congress.

That doesn't mean that we can't make meaningful progress in that direction as a down payment for our ultimate goal of including all children. And lobby meetings this year, with sceptical offices, we found that when we talk about the disparity and credit amounts for working families, that one, they are surprised to hear how much families need to earn to get the full benefit and two, they would be willing to work on a bipartisan compromising to include more families working in low-wage jobs.

While we may not be able to get certain members of Congress to agree with us 100% on our preferred policy, if we can convince them that current law needs to be changed to include more families with low incomes, then we have still made great progress towards our goal of covering all children.

Let's do a little girl playing to see what are these conversations -- role-playing to see what these conversations might look like. I'm happy to welcome my colleague, Ken Partizan who will play the advocate will I will play the part of a tax aid for my office that is skipped will of expansion.

Hello Ken! Thank you for meeting with our office today. I understand that you would like to talk but expanding the Child Tax Credit. Before you even get started, I would like to know that we are highly sceptical of the 2010 one expansion fullwe feel like it is policy and it decreases implement the long-term. What would you like to share this today about the CTC?

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. Also thank you for your thoughts on the 20 to 1 Child Tax Credit.

And that it reduces child poverty in our country by 46%. That expired at the end of 2021, you know this as well. We agreed that we really do need a bipartisan solution going forward. I have to tell you, we are also really concerned about the current Child Tax Credit. It is not fulfilling its intended purpose which is to support families to have what they need to raise their children well and really raise good future citizens.

You may know this but as the CTC currently functions, people working low-wage jobs don't receive the full amount of the Child Tax Credit because they don't get paid enough. The policy doesn't have a work requirement full stop it has a record that you work in a job that makes a good wage or a high wage.

I want to give you an example, if you don't mind. Is that OK?

DAVID PLASTERER:
Yes, I would love to look at that.

KEN PATTERSON:
Let me see if I can find it. Shuffling through my folders...

You can see, in this example here, a single-parent household with two children making $15,000 a year as a nursing care home giver. They would get $1875 for the Child Tax Credit whereas someone making 2000 $200,000, they are going to get $4000.

In the next example, let me find that one here. In this next example here, you can see that of two-parent households with four children where one parent earns $25,000 per year, as a construction worker, and the other one works inside a home caring for children and managing the household, they will receive the hundred -- $3375 while the same family making $400,000 a year would get $8000.

As we see it, there's just a whole lot of full and part-time â€“ I'm going to take this down here. There is a lot of full and part-time jobs paying $10-$15 an hour, particularly in rural areas. Those children aren't really benefiting from the full Child Tax Credit.

We are really making? Missing the mark on the CTC and we would like Congress to help fix that. The CDC is particularly useful for lower income households to pay for food, rent, and child care, sub- mental education for their kids, etc.

What we are telling them is, it is great that you're working but your work doesn't pay quite enough to deserve the full benefit of CTC. You're not very -- really valuing work equally. I don't think that is the kind of message that we want to send hard-working families. What do you think about that?

DAVID PLASTERER:
That is really interesting, thank you for sharing that. I note that the representative is all for the tax code and providing support for working families. I don't think that we should be sending the message that their work is valued. I'm surprised by how much a families to earn to get the full CTC, especially when very high earners of getting the benefit even though they don't really need it. What exactly are you asking? Do you want there to be income you commence for the CTC also?

KEN PATTERSON:
RESULTS believes that there should be work or chemistry receive the full benefit but we should certainly ensure that working families get the full benefit. Right now, Esme's are that there are about 19 million children missing out on the full benefit of the Child Tax Credit duties income recurrence under the current CTC policy.

About 70 million of those children come from household or somebody is working. In the state of North Carolina, 6005th -- children are missing out on the full tax credit.

That is kind of what we are thinking here. What we would like to ask is that the think that Republicans and Democrats can really work together on this mixing the Child Tax Credit so it includes more families working at low-wage jobs? That will really help folks in the district and the state.

DAVID PLASTERER:
When you put it like that, that does seem like a place where Republicans and Democrats can work together to be. Like I said, I know my boss likes to see the tax code for working families. You know of any other Republicans that have expressed interest and if so, what can we do to work on this?

KEN PATTERSON:
That is a great question. I think more members of Congress need to understand that this is how the phasing works. If a cumbersome and would be willing to speak on his colleagues, that would be really helpful to understand that the CTC is not working as it should for low-wage workers. It would be really helpful to speak with Jason Smith and particularly. He is the chair of the committee and he has expressed his desire to fix this and it would be really helpful to hear from a congressman exactly.

DAVID PLASTERER:
OK. I'm happy to bring that request to the representative and think they would be happy to work on this topic. Thank you for expanding how the CTC phasing works and how it is missing the mark for many families. That was new information for me so, I appreciate you bringing that up.

KEN PATTERSON:
That is great. We are hearing the same thing for other members.

DAVID PLASTERER:
I was trying to end the scene. (Laughs) Thank you, Ken, I appreciate you helping me out with that.

I hope you all found that helpful and you might be able to use that kind of messaging sooner than you think. We are expecting a tax package to go out of the house this month which means raising our voices about the Child Tax Credit and the media and lawmakers now ever so important.

As Jos mentioned earlier, we arty have a CDC media alert on the website. Use that to submit a LTE to educate your committee that many families working in low-wage jobs are left out of CTC benefits. And you get published, share that with your sceptical lawmaker to correct misconceptions they likely have.

Now, I would like to pass it over to my colleague, Crickett Nicovich to talk about our global policy priorities.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thank you so much David. That was a great role-play. Great job to David and Ken. I learned some stuff and I thought it was really helpful.

Hi everybody, Crickett Nicovich here. I'm the Director of policy and government affairs at RESULTS. Today, I am going to give you a little bit about what we are working on and kind of our next steps on our global tubercles his campaign.

Jos, you can go had to go to the next slide.

You have seen this a lot. The number, template 6 million every year are falling sick to tubercles is. We know that that number of people that are dying of TB, one 26 million has increased. Both TB deaths and the number of people second with -- during COBIT.

TB is likely Tang that shameful top spot of the leading infectious disease killer again.

RESULTS has worked on tuberculosis for a couple of decades now and I don't want to paint a overly rosy picture of what things were before the pandemic but, for about 20 years, we were seeing incredible decreases every year and the number of people second and the number of people dying of the disease and we had stronger health systems, more people were getting treated than ever before, if you are sick.

During COVID, the number of people who were actually treated with tuberculosis, dropped. Before COVID, we had about 30% of that 10 points to 6 million people who were sickened of TB every year, about 30% of them pre-COVID were missing from treatment, whenever accessing health services and getting the treatment that they needed.

During COVID, that number jumped up by another million and now it is about 40% of TB patients are missing from the annual health systems and getting access to treatment. That means more people with active cases spreading the disease and not surviving.

We want to make sure that we are rebuilding our support for TB and a lot of the work that you all have done this you already have supported that. Next slide.

The estimated TB incidence rates and where that occurs. I'm looking at this slide and the darker the colour, the higher the TB incidence rate. Meaning there are more cases of TB in the area.

The TB bacteria, it is airborne. It doesn't this cremate but of course my people and policies do. The theory is, tuberculosis could affect anyone but for many of us in the US, there is a very high chance that TB will be prevented, period. It is a very high chance that if we do have TB, we will be treated and cured.

You can see some direct correlations with where some of the poorest areas in the world and where the highest rates of TB are happening. If you're living in poverty, you have fewer protections that are keeping you from getting sick. If you're living in poverty, you have more of the barriers that are keeping you from getting treated and cured of this disease.

We push and support to increase access to TB programs. It is really important! We have been doing so much work over the years around increasing funding for the programs and also now supporting legislation. Let's go to the next slide.

The thing is about TB, it is preventable. It is treatable, and it is curable. If found. So that 40% missing, we keep having to go back to that number. If we are able to find those folks, we are able to cure them.

Also, if we are able to find those folks, we are able to prevent new cases because it is the airborne bacteria that is spreading when we are not actually treating folks. A lot of work that we need to do is pushing forward these strong goals around finding and treating people with tuberculosis and making sure that folks have the right kind of treatment that is actually shorter regiments.

One of the things that we need investments in research and development to ensure that folks have â€“ once you are diagnosed â€“ actually can get a treatment that is shorter and not so lengthy that it makes you want to stop taking your medications. Next slide.

This is kind of been our plan. You have seen these out there in front of you over the past several months. We have been working since the beginning of the year to increase funding. You all did an incredible job in supporting â€“ working and members of Congress and also supporting those dear colleague letters that were circling -- circulating.

Of course, there is also a Senate letter. Both our house and Senate letters had more signatures than other before. Were doing an incredible job of raising awareness and building support for tuberculosis.

The second thing we were doing is using that funding to increase action and none of the things that we want to do is pass the End TB Now Act. Lastly, we want to ensure that US leadership is happening at this end of year â€“ September â€“ UN high-level meeting on tuberculosis. It will be the second UN high-level meeting on tuberculosis in September and will come back to that.

First, let's go back to the next slide. Let's go back to the End TB Now Act.

I am very excited. We had the house and the Senate bill. It was reintroduced and we are gaining cosponsors. You've had some incredible meetings and pushing forward. We have more Republicans on the host side legislation that we had last Congress already. The number of folks are increasing every week.

We are still pushing forward for co-sponsorships of the end to bring losses now act and the houses being led by (unknown name) and Congresswoman Maria (unknown name).

On the Senate side, Senator Mendez and Senator Young have re-introduced the bill. They have gotten a few new co-sponsors on that bill as well. The really incredible news there is that Senate side End TB Now Act Bill has actually moved through the committee. They did what is known as a "discharge". Any bill that they pass in the last Congress, they did a group discharge of those bills.

Right before, they had their memorial day recess. That meant that that bill is now set for the hotline process which, if you all remember, we have pushed for hot planning our bills previously. That can be a tricky process. It means that every Democrat and every Republican has to agree that this bill can move forward in a bipartisan fashion and that no single senator put a hold on the bill to posit from actually being passed in this process.

On the Senate side, the Democrats have already moved through their hotline. The Republican side, they have actually had a group hold right now with leadership on all of the bills that were discharged which were several. It was not just the TB bill. The End TB Now Act was discharged as was the Reed act that many -- have been following. Our secondary camping is pushing for the reactor authorization. Both the TB act and the Reed act were discharged from the committee.

We are waiting and it may be a few weeks, actually, that we will be waiting for the hotline on the Republic inside to run but it is in a process that is showing how strongly bipartisan it is and that it has no real descent against the bill. We are in a really good place. We will continue to keep you updated and if there are any actions needed, we will let you know.

You can still get your members of Congress, you to senators, to cosponsor the bills directly right now. You can keep taking action on the bill, supporting and saying that the bill is moving. Next slide.

So the ask, will you cosponsor the bills? Where can you find the fact sheets? They are on the website under set the agenda and lobby leave behind and or just under lobby leave behind. We are really excited that that is moving forward.

Now, let's get down to what is happening on the UN high-level meeting. We will go ahead into the next slide.

The UN high-level meeting, one of the things that is hard to figure out for grassroots actions to take place at the UN level. One thing that we can do is always meet with our members of Congress to push our administration to do its part in pushing forward strong goals at the United Nations. Let's go to the next slide.

World leaders will gather at United Nations to make new commitments against the fight against tuberculosis. This is where we want the US government to show up in a fairly -- very old-fashioned. It is going to be very -- bold fashion.

It is not as strong as we would like. It is and have measurable targets and it doesn't have a financial target included in the first draft that they have of the political declaration. We are pushing back and we are using Congress to do this. You have several ways that we have been pushing.

The new legislation and other leadership in other countries where we are really pushing this board. It is going to be key to have better targets and financial targets for us to make sure that we are getting the new resources that we need. That we are supporting countries in their new bold plans and that we are getting better treatment for our folks living with tuberculosis. Next slide.

The two things we need our the commitment, the actual political commitment and new resources. Many countries do have plans. India, Indonesia, Nigeria, are some to name a few. The US, and 2018, we showed up with a new commitment at the UN General assembly around tuberculosis.

What we are asking of the government this year is, one, show up with new commitments but to also push other countries to do so. So, the last slide.

Right now, we have a bipartisan house letter that is circulating. It is going to be president and is led, again, by Congressman Annie Berra of California and also Maria Seliger.

This letter is calling on the US to lead strongly at this meeting but also to push for stronger commitments in that political declaration. We also expect that there will be a bipartisan Senate letter they will be coming out soon. We are asking for folks to sign on to this letter.

In 2018, we had 106 or 107 house side folks. We had 43 senators sign onto newsletters. This is a letter that can be very bipartisan and your folks said to always give you the chicken is up, I am on appropriation because I can't sign on to an opprobrious letter because it is -- this isn't what it is! This is a letter to the President!

That is the ask, we will be pushing and hopefully have these letters. We don't have a deadline yet. They should be open for about three weeks or so. You're going to check on the deadline this week. Start asking now. Will you join Congressman Vera and Congressman woman Salazar.

Start asking for cosigners and to join the letters and actions to make sure that the US is showing up at this UN high-level meeting. Bringing our diplomatic mind and bringing other countries to the table to also have bold national action plans on fighting tuberculosis. Thank you so much. I think I had this back over to the grassroots cafÃ©.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thank you so much! Good afternoon everyone! It is great to be back here with you again on this beautiful day for the RESULTS National Webinar. I know -- my name is you wanted â€“ Stephen know and I am a Senior Associate.

I am joining you for my home. As Jos mentioned earlier, gathering together is powerful. The COVID 19 pandemic has many ways challenge our sense of togetherness.

We have our own stories for inspiring us to believe that we can make a difference and popped us to take a full -- first tried to end poverty. Our advocacy has never been only getting that sign onto working onto a yes vote. We know that we are working for something better? Bigger, confirmation.

Beyond the gathering of like-minded individuals, community, is how we show up for each other and hope, respect, and friendship throughout all of our biggest wins and our most painful losses and everything in between. Community isn't just something that we experience, it is something we work at and we work at earnestly.

It is reinforced by all the things that brought each of us here and what keeps us going along the way. Gathering together in community enhances our personal relationships and we deepen our understanding of our own path from powerlessness to action and sustains us.

For the next half hour, we will be taking time to explore our purposes as advocates, how we fulfil that together within our groups, and how in person events can be a vehicle for getting us there.

To kick off the session of the webinar, I am very pleased today to welcome to members of the grassroots volunteer network, as our guest speakers, Chaila Scott and Beth Wilson. Chaila is a fellow an expert on poverty with the RESULTS Louisiana group. She will be sharing her story of how RESULTS helped her receive herself in a new life, doing something that she never thought she could do.

CHAILA SCOTT:
Thank you so much! Thank you! I want to spend send a special things to you Lida Gordon for inviting me here to speak today as a result advocate, an expert on that property.

Rather than see myself as a new light, being part of results Mac has been affirmed to me, everything that I have always been. It is a fighter and a strong believer and believer in what is right.

Prior to joining results Mac, I contemplated leaving the country with my son in a search for a more equitable future and peaceful landscape that didn't include violence on Black bodies on any given day for any given reason. As I turned the corner towards social responsibility, I realized that it was uncharacteristic of me to walk away from a good fight.

Leaving the country was no longer on the table as I was faced with a new opportunity to be a part of the tireless fight to not only shape Louisiana -- into a better place for my son and other children alike, but to hold our elected officials accountable for their decisions that negatively affect everyday people just like me.

Upon joining RESULTS, what surprised me the most was the warmth of my interactions. I was so nervous during my fellowship interview. Yolanda Gordon is a living legend. Her presence quickly eased my anxiety and I felt like I had known her for years.

My competency to affect change was no longer a question. The question was now, what are the tools you need to get it done? Yolanda introduced me to (unknown name), a fearless leader and beautiful soul and this is where I met my amazing experts on poverty family where I have formed lifelong bonds and a deep respect for each and every one of them.

When it was time for me to publish my op-ed, Keisha and Lauren LeBar were with me every step of the way. I was my loan to find out that my article had reached 11 publications spanning the nation. I also want to thank Carolyn (unknown name) to -- for spending -- and for preparing me with everything I needed to lead my first and highly successful lobby meeting.

As well as Michael for being a wealth of knowledge and endless support and everyone known and unknown for contributing to this very moment. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank God for leading me here to RESULTS to step into my divine designation. I've never thought this little Black girl from booty Louisiana would grow up and have access to making such a huge impact but RESULTS has given me the tools and the people to do just that.

This is only the beginning. Thank you.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Only the beginning indeed, incredible. Thank you so much for that very powerful story. I will turn this over now to Beth Wilson! Regional coordinator for the Intermountain West and group leader of the South Kitsap Gig Harbor results group in Washington. Beth has been a result back volunteer 17 years. She will share her thoughts on the impact that religion shifts with other advocates have played in her persistence as an advocate.

BETH WILSON:
Hi Joanna, it is wonderful to be with you and with everyone. Well, to answer the question, I thought about what goes into creating persistence. First, you have to get started and then you have to learn what to do and then I need a warm group of friends to work with and find -- finally, you need a special source of inspiration.

To get started, Rich Renner recruited me. My dear friend Rich invited me to join RESULTS regularly for five years. I declined because I was too busy with important volunteer work with another organization, raising our children with my husband Paul, and working full-time.

Rich persisted. After five years, he pointed out that the kids were raised and my volunteer goals were achieved. I really had no more excuse not to give RESULTS a try. I had run out of excuses so I relented and joined RESULTS. It was the most important thing I have ever done, both for myself and our world. I will always be grateful for Rich's persistence.

Bob nurtured me. Bob Dickerson passed away eight years ago. No one was more professional, fearless, and loving than Bob. In his quest to end poverty, and to support RESULTS and our volunteers in Washington State, and throughout the world. Knowing him and receiving his directors -- support when I was just getting started in RESULTS was such a blessing.

He sent me books to read and cards of encouragement, even when he was terminally ill. Twice, he got mad at me when I screwed up during lobby meetings. Bob cared that I learned to be a strong advocate, careful, and inspired. He made me feel special and urged me to run for the RESULTS board which I did.

I will be forever be grateful to Bob, his spirit continues to inspire me and many of us.

My RESULTS group members became a trusted family of shared values, actions, challenge, and fun. Each month, since 2007, until the pandemic struck, our South Kitsap Gig Harbor results were gathered around a pot luck dinner and laughing and sharing our lives. After dinner, we picked up our meeting agenda and carefully reviewed where we were in meeting the goals that we have sent in our roadmap. Planning

How we would move forward to achieve them. I want took action, follow-through, and shared leadership. During the pandemic, we did the same on Zoom. Now, we are back in person! Our meetings feel my joy, my sense of purpose, and my belief in shared leadership.

Our RESULTS group is my family. We treasure each other and support each other in ways I never could have imagined.

Now, the Intermountain West RESULTS group leaders inspire me. Three Wednesdays a month, Michael regional coordinator, Sarah Isabel and I meet on Zoom with six wonderful RESULTS leaders. Chris Paulson, Ellen Brady, Bill Cosgrove, and Erdman, Andy Clark, and (unknown name).

I have been doing this with them for over seven years. They are my biggest inspiration. Most of them live in states that are pretty conservative and I could easily get discouraged and give up. They never give up! They know how important their voices are in those states and congressional districts.

Sometimes, it takes several years for them to get a meeting with a member of Congress and in some cases, they have been rebuffed completely. But they never give up. I love these people with their hearts of gold, persistence, and dedication. And who always show up our group leader meetings. They are my biggest inspiration to keep working, taking risks, and believing that what we do matters.

May all of us be the recruiters, teachers, knickers, and inspiration for each other. Thank you.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
That is great reminders for us all, Beth, thank you so much.

Now, it wouldn't be very facing -- fitting for us to focus on the power of community without giving folks the opportunity to spend a little time together. Now, we are going to transition into breakout rooms. We will have about 12 minutes to visit with some old friends and maybe make some new ones.

To discuss the following prompt: what activities would help to sustain your RESULTS community and renew your sense of inspiration? When the prompt appears on your screen to break -- during that breakout room, click on the link and you will be directed to the breakout room. I'm going to go ahead and place that question in the chat as well.

(Breakout rooms)

KEN PATTERSON:
After even working on the stuff together for years. Even opportunities to connect and to see each other in person, it is so funny. Even for my local group here, we had a chance to meet in person little while back. One person was like, "I didn't realize where that tall!" One of those things you didn't even know about people.

People have gotten pregnant and I'm close to having their close and before even know about it because you don't see any of that stuff. Just the opportunity to see people in person will inspire me and it seems like it will inspire others.

SPEAKER:
I love meeting in person as a group. Something we haven't done in quite a while because of the pandemic. It is quite a low turnout today but in the past, we had quite a few. Last month, after the meeting, we went to a local restaurant, just a few steps away and had our meeting there. It was lovely.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
One of the things that I think I'm looking forward to in West Virginia as far as in-person gatherings is training. I say that because there really aren't many opportunities for us or there haven't been many opportunities to meet with our legislators face-to-face. Many of them are up for reelection. We are anticipating some more in person opportunities, not just with each other but with them. I really want to do a bird dogging training because I can picture myself at one event coming up.

We will have both senator mansion who is up for reelection and our current congressman in West Virginia second District is running for his seat. He will be primary by the Governor. There is just going to be a lot of activity. I am looking for to seeing some folks in our West Virginia. There are a lot of other folks in the southern part of the state that we don't get to see on any kind of regularity.

Having a plan together and getting really excited about seeing our members of Congress again, that is going to be really exciting. Is there anybody else in the room who would like to share?

SPEAKER:
(Indiscernible)

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
If you guys did get together as one statewide group, have you looked at locations of where you might meet up?

KEN PATTERSON:
We just started talking about that. It was in terms of where we would do that. Not yet but we will work on figuring that out. I don't know if we got to the triangle because there is a group out in the triangle area and there is a group of here in the... So we would probably meet in the media -- middle summer. -- Somewhere.

SPEAKER:
It is always fun to visit Asheville!

KEN PATTERSON:
It is. It is a good place to be.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
If this keeps up, they might all want to escape to the mountains before too long. (Laughs) With so many folks in Texas, having known each other and having met in person before the pandemic, is there anything that you guys are looking forward to reestablishing? There are a lot of people that are going to be meeting a person that have never met each other. They have have never had a chance to form some of the processes that some well-known folks have.

Is there anything that you are looking for to with the Guardian -- gathering in August?

SPEAKER:
I just think it will be energizing to get together. I think that is a positive thing. I feel really good about our plan and our schedule and our agenda. It is moving along.

Personally, for the group, I would like to see the attendants come back to what it was before the pandemic. We had actually four or five of us at our meetings. It is a little down right now. I would like to see that resume.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Looks like folks are starting to rejoin the main room. Hello, hello! Did you all have some good conversations in your breakout rooms?

Thumbs up on Lindsay, hi Lindsay!

SPEAKER:
Hi Joanna!

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
REO back?

(Recording in progress)

KEN PATTERSON:
I think most folks have made their way back.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Welcome back to the main room again! I hope that your conversations were lively and uplifting and give you some ideas for in-person events to take back to your group.

Before we close out this section of the grassroots cafÃ©, we will check in with another advocate to hear about their plans to meet in person next month. Tamra Raman is a regional coordinator and interim group leader in North Florida. She will be checking and to share event plans of the North Florida results group in Jacksonville!

TANHA RAHMAN:
I hope you all can hear me and it is so nice to share the alright now. As Joanna mentioned, the North Florida group, we are planning on organizing a retreat for all of our members on July 1. It is on a Saturday from 12: 32 five: 30 p.m. It is like a half-day event.

What we are basely planning on doing is, we have never really gotten the opportunity to get to know each other. We have some med students who moved away two different states. We have some new leads that became members from the expansion team and I live in Fort Lauderdale so I am not even in North Florida. I am serving as their interim group leader until some of the volunteers take on -- new leadership.

I am there to support them. One of our volunteers was really mentioning, "I don't really know you! I would love to know you guys." And I complete the understand the value of that. There is in getting to know each of our members.

What I realized from a previous experience of being a leader for my university chapter, when we get to build that one-on-one communication with each of your members, it helps you build a sense of community, trust, accountability, and it keeps you motivated to really come back and continue to advocate together.

The first part of our retreat is a relaxed lunch event at Joel's house who graciously offered her home. We are going to come up with a plan for future outreach events because we have so many leads from the RESULTS expansion group efforts.

We are going to invite more people in from the Jacksonville area to come join us right now, our focus is establishing the core group. After we plan out the outreach event, we are going to end off the day with doing a (indiscernible) which Karen is going to help support us with. It is basically an elevator pitch that helps us to speak powerfully. Each of us is going to share why we joined RESULTS and we are going to tie that into the RESULTS issues of -- global poverty and US poverty.

The next time that we speak to members of Congress, we are really to speak powerfully. You're going to give each other feedback. All in all, we are going to get to know each other, we are building the committee, but also we are productive at the same time. That is pretty much it for what we have and in terms of upcoming plans.

I will pass it back to you, Joanna.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
That is great! Thank you for sharing at best wishes for everyone in the North Florida group for a great group retreat.

TANHA RAHMAN:
Thank you so much.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Another group that has not had the opportunity to meet in person, the RESULTS triangle group in North Carolina recently gathered for advocacy one-on-one. Their experience is the focus of this month's grassroots spotlight which details how the event itself and the planning process helped members grow in community. The link to that blog post has been shared. It is in the chat for you guys.

I hope that's today, he found some inspiration for gathering with advocate in your local, statewide, or regional groups. Be sure to reference the 2023 resource guide for planning in-person events throughout your planning process. This guide can be found on the RESULTS website by visiting the letters help. Simply go to working with your group and he will go find the guide under the make your group plans tab.

You can also access the guide to the direct link on this slide and in the chat.

Beyond that, I hope that you will check in. Let us know what you got in mind. Grant funding is available to support your in person event and I want to help support you in applying for those funds. I am also available to meet with any group to answer questions, brainstorm ideas, and if there are any hurdles you have in -- planning process. Let me know when the next meeting is!

You can also check in with your regional coordinators talk to your ideas as well as attend event planning and outreach office hours and in Thursday at 12 PM Eastern time this month. You will be joined by my colleague, Karen, and we can answer any questions that you might have relating to event planning and outreach.

Additionally, we are hosting a special webinar this week, returning to community: tips and resources for person gatherings that is taking place on Wednesday, June 7 at 8 PM Eastern time. You do need to register for this one so please find the link on the slide and in the chat.

Thank you for everyone for spending this time together today. I am now going to pass the microphone over to Ken.

KEN PATTERSON:
That was fantastic. I hope everybody got inspired about getting together in person and we will make some plans with your group to do that.

I would like to do a quick attendance pull so you could let us know, including yourself, how many have gathered in the room with today's webinar with you? If you could do that for me, that would be great and give me a sense of how we are doing.

Hopefully, we will start to see the number of people getting together in person take up over the coming months as COVID allows and people feel comfortable doing.

Then, after the poll, we are going to hear from some of our board candidates, our new Grassroots Board candidates. We are going to introduce folks at walk us do that in a second. Go ahead and continue to fill out the poll. We will get -- Lily on here.

Anybody also on the poll? Going once, twice? Gone! We are ending the poll.

Lily, I am going to hand this on over to you spotless you here and we will -- Spotlight folks as they are speaking.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Hi everyone, my name is Lily. I apologize, my dad has been marking this entire time. I one grassroots directors and I'm calling from Boston, Massachusetts. I am here today because we have two open positions for the RESULTS grassroots directors for the results Mac board.

This time of the year is when we do elections and so, we are going to ask all of you at the end of this presentation to cast your vote for two of these open positions. Normally on the board, we have for people who are present all of you in the grassroots volunteers at this is for two of those four positions.

These next three people, who I will introduce you to in a minute is going to serve for the next three years. Make your selections carefully. I am very excited for all of you to meet these candidates. They are excellent, dedicated volunteers. You probably know at least one pretty well.

I am going to handed over to Randy. Can you introduce yourself?

RANDY ROSSO:
Thank you Lily. My name is Randy Rosso and I am running for one of the two results Grassroots Board positions because I believe that I can make meaningful contributions to RESULTS and its mission of ending poverty. I joined RESULTS over a year ago as part of a larger movement to end poverty here and abroad. I've learned so much over the last year and I hope you and your foes because I have so much more to learn and also to contribute.

Congress acted this week, as we saw earlier, to spend the debt ceiling as well as acting worker comments for older Americans to get food and cash aid. This is a vivid chemistry in the US poverty is multidimensional and while we work to expand the Child Tax Credit to cut poverty, Congress can make decisions in other areas that deepen it.

It is important that we continue to broaden our domestic policy agenda beyond the CTC. So that we can meet this challenge with a multi-dimensions. Aaron and Allison come as you will soon see, our terrific candidates for this position. The above each offer something different it is up to you to decide which set of strengths is what the RESULTS board meets needs right now.

Here's what I offer. I worked on policy issues and social safety net over the last four years. My experience has given me in-depth knowledge of anti-poverty programs especially SNAP and food insecurity. I also have data skills and ideas for sharing data across the results network to bolster our lobbying efforts. Our connections to researchers and local policy experts throughout my work for the urban Institute for research and action Centre and elsewhere.

I enjoy connecting people with different strengths to share with each other and I hope to leverage these connections to benefit RESULTS. Finally, I have a unshakable commitment to ending hunger in the US and abroad. I hope to earn your vote for the Grassroots Board, thank you.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Thank you so much Randy. Up next, we have Allison.

ALLISON GALLAHER:
Thank you Lily. I am Allison and I live outside Cleveland, Ohio and I am a member of the Cleveland RESULTS group. I've been advocating with RESULTS since the mid-90s. I will be honest with you, I don't really feel like I am running a campaign because as Randy pointed out, and I think Erin will probably agree, you can't go wrong on who you vote for.

We will all serve you well. We have provided written and video materials that I know Lily will provide again in the chat. I'm going to provide a different approach to this piece which is to just to tell you what I think is special about RESULTS and what I would continue to work for as a board member.

We work together. Even when we are taking individual action, we note that there are hundreds, maybe thousands of people around the world who have our back, whose work we stole in order to write our letter to the editor, who buck us up when we are disappointed, who tell us about RESULTS successes, when we are discouraged, and who inspire us when we are discouraged.

We have heard about that for this webinar today about how working together is one of the special things about RESULTS. The volunteers are the centrepiece of RESULTS and I think that that is at least unusual if not unique. This is not a DC organization that has people over the country doing click activism. This is an organization where the with ALTA volunteers are doing the activism and the staff, and DC come and spread it throughout the country are there to support us.

I will make sure that that continues to be what is important about RESULTS. The last thing that I think is special about RESULTS, the last thing I'm going to mention, is that we keep changing.

While we keep a laser focus on affecting the policies and the funding levels that will make sure that people experiencing poverty have an opportunity to escape poverty and thrive, we are always learning. We are learning about the oppressive thinking and programs and systems that keep poverty entrenched in spite of our efforts over the last 40 years.

We are changing the ways that we structure our campaigns and the way that we support our volunteers in order to make sure that we are taking the best knowledge into account.

If those are the things that you want to make sure get her presented on the board, and I welcome your support. Thank you.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Thank you Allison. Last but certainly not least, Aaron. Aaron Mack good afternoon everyone east of me and good morning to everyone west of Ife. My name is Aaron and I am here in El Paso Texas where I am already from.

I have been a part of results Mack since 2018. Since then, what really inspired me to join RESULTS it was the idea that I didn't know how to utilize my voids to help those I care about the most. Which were my family and friends.

My whole family has always been below the family -- poverty line and that has just been a given when it comes to free lunches, applying two scholarships, and my personal narrative. I've never really looked at myself as an expert outside of my lived experience but RESULTS has really showed me how to utilize my voice to help build those who have situations similar to mine were growing to help those who are in situations like mine grow and hear their own ways.

Since 2018, I have had the honour of being in the real change fellowship which showed me the difference between a senator and a congressman. I've been able to be a part of the experts on poverty and really utilize my voice to show people how confident you can be in both your lived experience and those around you who have lived experience and how to bolster those voices because when it comes down to it, result Mac really shows you how everyday people change everything from the world to the emotions and motivations that we have to even be in the room together today.

The other two candidates have Artie said this but you really can't go wrong with who you vote for and my biggest push for is to put the most votes in for who you really see utilizing those expenses and those narratives and strengths for the best of the organization. You cannot go wrong with with either three of us.

To enter this, I want to say thank you to this organization that has helped lead my voice and has allowed me to see that I deserve a seat at the table. Now, I am tackling and administered of residency and looking forward to the Director of strategy for the hospital I was born at. It is a full-circle moment to be in this call and just say thank you.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Thank you and you are right, you cannot go wrong with any of these candidates. We have about 1 to 2 minutes left so I want to use this moment. Lindsay, thank you for posting this link. If you could all take the next minute, I am going to leave it blank. Think I'll go in, click on the link that Lindsay just posted in the chat, and vote right now?

We are going to give you about â€“ is one minute there? 1 1/2 minutes?

KEN PATTERSON:
Yep!

LILY CHOWDHRY:
We are going to do one and 1/2 minutes, everybody go vote right now.

(Voting)

KEN PATTERSON:
Go click on the link and you will find the ballot there in that space.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Yes, and you will be voting for two people. If you have any questions, please put in the chat and let's get this result right here and now.

(Voting period)

LILY CHOWDHRY:
If you are finished voting, please feel free to try -- type in the chat that you're done. I want to see as many people write "done" As many as possible. Beautiful! (Laughs)

KEN PATTERSON:
December the want to post billing or momentum in the chat?

LILY:
I will post in the chat, hold on.

KEN PATTERSON:
Just click on the link in the chat and you can go online there to vote and it will take you to a place where you can vote. You will find something in the weekly update as well. Check your mailboxes this week. You have until the end of the month but the sooner the better. Make sure you do it now. That link takes you to where you need to go.

LILY:
it is OK if you want to read it, just make sure you get it done.

KEN PATTERSON:
Do it while it is fresh.

LILY:
does anybody have any questions and problems we can resolve right now?

KEN PATTERSON:
If you are some things that you can't resolve, just come in contact with her own of our board members and we will make sure that we will get what we need.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Great question, why aren't there three vacancies? Wherefore this is open in either one or two vacancies each open up each year. Each term is three years and there will be another one open next year.

KEN PATTERSON:
Great question.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
How can we vote otherwise? Here is the link. You just click into this link right here and then, if you scroll to... We need your vote. Vote by, what is happening?

KEN PATTERSON:
Paul, the other thing you can vote for, if you have trouble voting, get in touch with a staff person or board member. We can go online for you and you can communicate your vote throughout or anything else as well. You have questions there. Thank you for that.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
If you have two people, he would need to go on that separate computer and vote under your own name. We do verify that if you are voting, you are in active volunteer.

KEN PATTERSON:
Summary could do it on their phone or whatever else.

LILY CHOWDHRY:
Or your phone. You need to register under your email I believe. You have to put in your specific name. All of these dones!

KEN PATTERSON:
Good question. Sent to the action network? I would assume yes. In terms of verifications.

LILY:
I think so, I would have to double check.

KEN PATTERSON:
If they are in action taker, they should be able to vote. Good question.

Lily, do you have anything else?

LILY CHOWDHRY:
No, I came here to do what I need to do. Thank you!

KEN PATTERSON:
You did a great job. Thank you for that and thank you for our candidates. It is just inspiring listening to you all talk and sing what you see in results. We are a great organization and it is great that you are interested in running for this leadership role. Thank you for our other Grassroots Board members for your leadership as well and in getting people involved but also the leadership from these past couple of years that you have provided for us.

Last thing here, I'm going to turn this over to Sarah Leone. There is going to do some announcements for us to kind of close out the webinar today.

SARAH LEONE:
Thank you so much Ken! Like Ken said, my name is Sarah Leone. I am a Senior Associate on the Grassroots Impact team. I'm happy to be here with you all this afternoon. I wanted to

Run through some very exciting upcoming events. First and foremost, this upcoming Wednesday, we had the returning to Kennedy: tips and resources for in-person gatherings. It will be at 8 PM.

Next, we have our various anti-oppression trainings coming up towards the end of the month. Next slide. We also, of course, have our monthly policy forms on June 15 at 8 PM and at 9 PM commerce actively. Next slide, please.

We also have our partner organization webinars. We have our global Allies program and our together woman rise programs. Check that out if you haven't yet. Next slide, please.

We also have our media office hours on Wednesday, June 21 and our action our network managers webinar on Wednesday, June 21.

We have our free agents webinars. We have US and global meetings.

Lastly, please join us next month for our July 8 webinar. We hope to see you there! With that, I believe Jos and Ken are going to open up the lines for everyone to say goodbye to one another!

KEN PATTERSON:
Just a reminder to folks that the July webinar is a week later than normal because the first falls on the July 4 weekend.

SPEAKER:
By everybody!

(People say their goodbyes)

Live captioning by Ai-Media

(Multiple speakers)

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