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JOANNE CARTER:
Welcome, everyone. I am Joanne Carter, executive director of RESULTS. I'm excited to be with you today for a special webinar to 2023. Especially for you all to be welcoming new folks and welcoming back folks we haven't seen for a while.

It seems timely that we are coming together today, which is only three days before International Volunteer Day. It really is a moment to honor the dedication, the persistence, the tireless efforts of these amazing volunteer advocacy network this year.

I want to start by saying it can be really easy to dismiss the impact of our individual actions. You know, the status quo wants that because it helps hold poverty and structural inequality in place. But your actions and cumulative impact of this network has driven progress against poverty, and cratered bipartisan action in an environment where that can seem almost impossible. You have met with your members of Congress, almost 360 times in this year. And I know we are still counting, but that's equivalent of meeting with a member of office every year of this -- every day of this year.

A month ago on this webinar, I talked about how your advocacy had billed support for the READ Act, and to drive support for global education, and how it was primed and ready to move. And however frustrating it was that the bill was stuck near the finish line, that we had seen this before and eventually we would break the lock down.

That is exactly what you did this time too. Less than 48 hours after the webinar, the November webinar, the bill passed the Senate in a unanimous bipartisan way. A little later today would you will hear more about what it will take next to get that bill through the house and final passage, and also legislation on tuberculosis.

You have also published close to 500 media pieces this year. Just since September, you published 116 pieces demanding economic justice in the tax code for families and children.

We note the Child Tax Credit is a powerful tool that empowers families to meet their needs and thrive. Through your immediate you shared your values and your stories which are the most effective evidence there is a for the impact of the Child Tax Credit.

We want to particularly acknowledge the key leadership of our experts on poverty and other advocates with lived experience who have written extensively and spoken with such power and clarity about the importance of using the tax code to advance equity.

In our intensive advocacy has started to pay off. This time last year, and expansion of the Child Tax Credit to the lowest income working families was such a long shot. Now, there is a real chance in an ambitious bipartisan deal. You and we are still central to driving that.

I want to congratulate you all on this year's advocacy at work that helps spurn action on tuberculosis. You brought this issue front and center for Congress and the White House, demanding bold action and steps to combat this disease that feeds the brutal cycles of poverty and continues to exist even though it is completely treatable and curable. And they listened. The UN brought world leaders together in September, the Biden administration brought a list of new commitments. Big price reductions for testing and prevention. Funding to support country ambition and more. With the deep bipartisan support and leadership of Congress. In a minute, we will hear from a special guest who has been at that meeting in New York and has been alongside all of you for pushing for meaningful action on TB.

For this crowd, celebrated author and self-proclaimed TBA hater, John Green, almost needs no introduction. But I will give him one anyways, a short one. I'm quite sure that many of you are fans of his work. His New York Times best-selling novels, The Fault in Our Stars, The Anthropocene, Review and Many More. He is played an essential role in putting tuberculosis in the spotlight and driving action. An open letter he received on YouTube went viral on a critical price for multidrug-resistant TB. He rallied his 4.5 million social media followers to pressure the manufacturer to share his (indiscernible), getting their way to the advocacy TB survivors advocates all over the world. We have now seen massive price reduction that could finally allow hundreds of thousands more people to access the safer lifesaving treatment for MDR TB. That's one of the many ways he has inspired action on TB.

John, I will say personally that I got you -- got the chance to hear you speak on TB in September. After hearing you, I really wanted to introduce you to this network. Give you a sense of who was on the call today, this group, all volunteers worked the summer to get over 100 members of the house and 1/3 of the Senate to write to the US government: for exactly the kind of commitments we saw in September. As volunteers, they are also working in the weeds on annual funding and help get the funding that allowed for these breakthrough announcements. Some of the folks are brand-new and have been doing this folks -- work for decades. (Indiscernible) for less than a million dollars a year, when we started to 400 million dollars a year right now.

There's a huge amount that needs to desperately be done on TB, and we are grateful to be your partners on that. Welcome, John, and thanks for joining us today.

JOHN GREEN:
It's great to be with you and great to see the tireless advocacy on people -- on behalf of people who live with TB.

JOANNE CARTER:
May be the most basic question which I'm sure you've gotten before, we have folks that have gathered from all across the country who come to TB advocacy for many different angles. I'm really interested what drove you to become a TB advocate activist yourself will stop

JOHN GREEN:
Yes, I mean I'm a young adult novel is. I'm not a physician or an expert on global poverty or health inequity or anything like that. I guess in the broadest sense, it started about 15 years ago. My brother and I were starting to make YouTube videos, and we had an international audience will be felt like whatever work we did together should be global work. In sort of the glaring inequities and structural injustices within our community, within the United States, were very obvious to us, but so were the global inequities.

It started there, and we ask folks who we should work with, and got good recommendations and advice over the next few years. Slowly began to be more interested in global health and global health equity. The global health equity movement.

It wasn't until 2019 that we really got interested in tuberculosis, or I did. Because I visited -- I was in Sierra Leone working on maternal and child -- child health stuff trying to raise money and awareness trying to reduce maternal mortality in Sierra Leone. A couple of the doctors said, "Do you mind if we go to this tuberculosis hospital?" And I was like, "Is that still the big deal here?" I did not know that tuberculosis was the deadliest infectious disease in the world. I didn't know that it was a leading cause of disability worldwide.

I was astonished by what I saw at (Unknown name) government hospital in Sierra Leone. It was like a sanitarium 100 years ago, where the sanitarium in North Carolina where my uncle died. â€“ My great uncle died. I guess for me, this work was born out of ignorance, and ignorance of the burden of TB. I started to ask myself, "Why is it like somebody who is myself with think is reasonably well informed had no idea this was such a crisis?"

JOANNE CARTER:
Yes. What you just described is often what we have heard from policymakers as well who just have no idea. That it is still that kind of issue globally and the biggest infectious colorful stop

JOHN GREEN:
Yes, no. I think it's really important when we emphasize that when we talk to people. Everywhere I go, people said the same thing that I said in 2019. "That still a thing? Is that a big deal? Is that a huge problem?" Yes.

JOANNE CARTER:
I was so moved that you talked the TB high level meeting in September. You talked about how it is the TB bacteria that makes people sick, but it's only deadly because of the decisions we made or the systems we built, or frankly failed to build and much of the world. Someone championing this issue as you have been working to take this forward and bring it to the forward and public, what did you find the response to be when you pointed that out? Do you have a sense from your side of what has moved people to action?

JOHN GREEN:
I do think people are moved to action by a feeling that they can make a difference. When you look at TB, it is pretty obvious we can make a difference because we are the cause of it, as you said. As I have tried to talk about. We are not the reason that people get infected with TB, but humans and human built systems of the reason why people die of TB in 2023. Almost nobody who doesn't live in poverty dies of tuberculosis in the United States. You know, that's the case everywhere. Tuberculosis has always been a disease of poverty. In the 18th century, it was a disease of industrialization and crowded cities and tenements. It has always been a disease that flows through the rivers of injustice that we create for it.

I think what I found moves people to action is the knowledge that we are the cause of tuberculosis death in 2023, and that's pretty horrifying. But we are also the cure. We can be the cure, it's because humans work together to discover the cure in the first place that we have these amazing treatments, but the treatments are getting so much better. That there are tools to diagnose and treat TB are vastly better than they were 20 years ago. We just need to do a better job of implementing using those tools. Implement in those strategies. Helping resolve the critical funding gaps that are really driving death from TB in the 21st century.

JOANNE CARTER:
Yeah. That is great. Again, I think we have seen that to where people have a sense that there is something they can also do about it. Like you said, this is so doable stop we are in a really exciting moment in some ways. But it's only going to work if we can sort of sustain -- driving ambition of all other countries to do what they are willing to do... To find the money.

JOHN GREEN:
And find the money. But I think that you have shown the way in a lot of ways for how to do that. Had to get an organization for USAID to understand that this is a great investment on a basic level. Ending change of transmission of a deadly disease is good news. It's good news for the world.

The truth is that because of drug resistance and the way tuberculosis has shown a persistent ability to evolve over the last 250,000 years, nobody is safe from TB until everybody is safe from TB.

I'm willing to make whatever argument I need to make for my lawmakers, whether a global bio security argument, or an antipoverty argument, that this is the best money that you can spend. Some of the best money you can spend.

JOANNE CARTER:
Right. John, you have also been... You are clearly part of the movement of advocates and advocacy's helping bring down the price of (Unknown name) and multidrug-resistant TB drugs. You have helped back the work of Indian activists combating drug shortages. You have worked with our longtime allies and friends and partners in health on testing and treatment. Just say a little bit about what else inspires you about the global TB advocacy movement, particularly the advocacy in communities that are directly impacted. Anything more you want to say about how you see your role in this work?

JOHN GREEN:
Yes. In our community, we have a model around fighting tuberculosis, which is that we follow. We don't lead. We follow the guidance of global health experts, but first and foremost, we follow the lead of people living with tuberculosis. Tuberculosis survivors and the activists who have been involved in this movement for decades.

The reason we do that is because we have found when groups like us that are largely composed of people who don't live in high burden TB communities, and we lead, we can also have a lot of unintended consequences. We want to be listening at first, and acting on what we hear when we listen. Not acting on our own, you know, potentially flawed ways of looking at that stuff.

And so, we have really been led to that work rather than leading in it. Partners in health, MSS, and treatment action group, and wrote -- RESULTS have been organizations that reach out to us saying that we have to lower the price of this drug. It's ridiculous was up we have to lower the price of the test, it's infuriating. This is the biggest struggle we have right now. We want to be able to respond to that rather than trying to be able to implement our own ideas, I guess.

That is the basic structure. I think philanthropy and activism are most effective when they begin from a point of listening and making oneself as proximal to suffering and marginality as possible.

JOANNE CARTER:
Yes. Thanks so much for that. For that clarity on that. We know that the people that are to be survivors and activists have not only been the most powerful voices to call for action, but actually to know what is needed. Who made the case also for why we had to replace the kind of toxic, awful drugs that people were forced to, you know, go through two years of treatment for drug-resistant TB, and why we need access to all the newest tools, like people have a right to that. Or we are going to fail and what we do. And why people need nutritional supplements and all of the (indiscernible) partners in health and others have worked to put in place.

JOHN GREEN:
It's important to have comprehensive support for people living with TB. It's not just bacterial illness. It's a social in-laws. The stigma associated with TB is astonishing. I have talked to so many people who were cast out by their families. I've talked to so many nurses who said the hardest part of the job is having to bury people who there is nobody to come for their bodies because the family is too afraid to claim their loved one.

You know, providing that kind of copperheads of psychosocial support, whether it is nutritional support, access to counseling, direct financial support so they can afford transportation to get their medicine, whatever it is, makes a huge difference in people's abilities to complete treatment. These toxic drug drug regimens that take two years that cause permanent hearing loss in 30 to 40% of people who take it is unacceptable. We now know we don't have to do that. Not only do we have so sure -- shorter treatments -- the End TB trials that just got announced at the UN conference, we have five or six regimens that are not just shorter and less toxic, not just less effective, but also less expensive. -- As effective. There is no more excuses for not implementing the strategies immediately.

We need to pressure our institutions within the United States, also global health institutions to implement these regimens.

JOANNE CARTER:
I want to open up the conversation a little bit. I would say, folks, if you have questions or issues want to raise with John, feel free to put that in the chat. I will go to a couple of our grassroots leaders to ask a couple of questions. First I will go to Tana Raman, who is also a regional coordinator. Tanha, are you there?

TANHA RAHMAN:
Can you hear me? Hello everyone, and Mr. Greene, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us today. It's incredible to have you. I'm very excited. As Joanne mentioned, my name is Tanha, and I am one of that regional RESULTS coordinators for South Florida. I had the (indiscernible) where I got to work with our UNICEF partners in Indonesia to raise awareness on childhood TB. And encourage people to get tested. I was also helping in the development and launch of the new global plan to MTB 2023 to 2030. I know much of the focus right now time is around we need to get a new TB vaccine.

The BC Q vaccine is so outdated. Now that I am in a medical school and no longer with (indiscernible) of I wanted to get your thoughts on the latest innovations in the fight against TB. I know you mentioned there is new drugs out there that are less toxic. Have you heard anything about vaccines or new testing? Also in light of that, whether specific concerns surrounding TB that need immediate attention that you feel like you should be advocating for right now?

JOHN GREEN:
Those are great questions, thank you for your great work.

Vaccine is long overdue, the only vaccine we have for TBS 102 years old, it is not especially effective. We know there are good vaccine candidates out there. Realistically we would already have a very good vaccine for tuberculosis if (Unknown Term) had chosen to use the technology to make a vaccine for shingles.

Shingles sucks, I am all for the shingles vaccine to be clear, but it is frustrating to know we could already have a vaccine for tuberculosis that is probably quite effective.

There is a vaccine in the stage III trial now, certainly the initial data from the stage II trial looked good. There is no reason why we cannot have better TB vaccines.

I think as your work at the Stop TB Partnership indicated, this is a fruitful place for us to be putting our resources. We also have so many good tools we are not doing a good job of getting into the places where we need them to be. That is something where we can move the needle as attic -- activists and advocates. We could say to the WHO, to health authorities in the US, "We need to get rid of these injectable to your regiments and replace them with cheaper better nine-month or six-month regiments, in the case of one of them. Call Scott we can care more people with multidrug resistant to brick else, we can make multidrug resistant tuberculosis less of a crisis.

We also have a three month cure for the vast majority of people with TB, because most people who have TB don't have drug-resistant TB. We have a three month care for them. Most people don't get it. That is another place where activism and advocacy makes a huge difference because at some point the WHO has to... I don't want to single out the WHO. A lot of other institutions have to accept that people deserve access to these treatments. National health authorities have to accept that. That is what I see as the next front.

TANHA RAHMAN:
Makes sense, they keep assuring that insight.

JOANNE CARTER:
Tanha, thanks to you. Not only are you a grassroots activist but regional coordinator while still in medical school. I'm not sure how she is doing that, but she is and we are really grateful. Grateful for your leadership and activism.

Next question from Anne Child who was a long time RESULTS leader and advocate as well. Anne in Tennessee, over to you.

ANNE CHILD:
So we have been asking for two decades now to get funding for TB, we have seen great increases in our funding. Not so dramatic of decreases in deaths, but we are finally going in the right direction I think.

Obviously... Well I will say it's been 20 years, there has been a lot of turnover in Congress. And every session we have to inspire new congresspeople to be excited about tuberculosis. You have a deep curiosity, I wonder how we can instill that curiosity into our members of Congress?

JOHN GREEN:
Great question.

I think the impulses right to first focus on your information, because this is something most people don't know anything about. Most people don't know they can move the needle to the extent that they can.

I think it helps to get people excited about their legacy, and to get people excited about the change they can make. The power they can use and how they can use that power for good.

You all are experts in advocacy with governments, I'm not. I wish I were. I am trying to become better at it. I think that is for me, it starts with making the case for people we don't have to accept this world. The United States can be a leader in shifting the world that we end up sharing.

Look at what we have accomplished with HIV and AIDS in the United States. To me, TB is the next great front in that battle. There are lots of crises, I think sometimes we end up fighting about which piece of the pie should go to which disease instead of talking about how tiny the pie is compared to how big it needs to be.

It is obvious with 1.6 million people dying of TB every year at this needs to be a priority, especially because we have the tools to cure it.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you and, Anne has been a smoker in the seconds in building the political support in Congress of these issues.

Folks, I welcome you to put stuff into the chat. I'm checking, I don't know if you are John. I see a couple of questions. One was a good one to start upfront, coming off the UN High-Level Meeting.

What more can we do to get all of the UN agencies to come together, get the global leaders to come together and make to be a priority?

And there are a whole bunch of questions on ways you have figured out to communicate on the second work for us must mac

JOHN GREEN:
Yes, it is so frustrating. It is worth celebrating, the US ID funds so much Regulus is research and treatment access now, increasingly finding cover healthcare strategies. That is a huge testament to what you will have accomplished and what TB advocates and activists in the US have accomplished.

It's frustrating there is not a bigger global push. I share that frustration. If I had an easy solution I would be implementing it. I want to know what your solutions are as well.

I think we, especially our middle income countries and increasingly high income countries that have high burdens of tuberculosis but don't know about it.

I have talked to Peruvian people for instance who have the socioeconomic status that I have who have no idea TB is a crisis in Lima.

Somebody mentioned in the comments increasingly we are seeing TB cases among poor and marginalized people in the United States, especially big cities like New York. Get we don't know in the US there is a growing burden of tuberculosis.

I think that is what the global information movement is about. That Tanha is working on in trying to get countries like Indonesia to engage more deeply with the reality.

It is hard partly because this is a disease of poverty. One of the other questions is what role does nutrition play in the effectiveness of TB treatment? The answer is a massive role.

Malnutrition causes more active tuberculosis cases then diabetes, HIV and all other co-morbidities combined. Malnutrition is a huge driver of tuberculosis disease and death, and a huge driver and when we don't see success in tuberculosis treatment.

I talk to people, because you get so hungry when you start to take the medicine. A lot of times people are down to 68, 70 pounds, when they are finally able to access treatment. Then your body needs so much nutrition in order to get better.

I talked to one young woman in Sierra Leone this year who told me she dreamt all night, all she could dream about all week for -- was eating sticks. She would imagine opening up the sticks in the review Rich Merrill inside of them and she would finally be able to be satiated.

She told me she almost quit her treatment because it was so impossible to think about anything other than food and feel anything other than hunger. That is the problem we know how to solve. We know how to solve it for two dollars.

We should do a much better job of acknowledging that food is medicine, and getting food to the people who need it and making nutrition in the central part of TB treatment because we know it increases cure rates.

JOANNE CARTER:
I was so struck by the data that came only from NDFL stoppages said, mass productions and TB mortality -- inductions and TB mortality by giving people nutrition. Just by giving the immediate family nutrition.

With others, 40, 50, 60% reduction. The linkages to poverty and inequity there of anyway, malnutrition and TB.

JOHN GREEN:
There are so many other ways in which TB is a disease of poverty, and exposure of the injustice of poverty. That is one of the reasons it makes so much sense for RESULTS to be working on it. I'm just really grateful you all have been focused on this for so much longer than I have.

JOANNE CARTER:
And great to be your partner. It is great to have you elevating this to a whole set of new audiences and bringing in new activists.

Is a bunch of questions, if you are also checking these John, questions how we can convince the media to put off the message need more NTB. How do we talk to people who maybe don't know this issue? Again, people are hungry for anything you have learned about how we make this issue more relevant moving to people? Just how you were speaking about it and doing that?

JOHN GREEN:
I may have more solidarity than advice at that front.

IBooks get banned a lot in the United States, especially my first novel. They are challenged by moms for liberty or whatever, concerned parents in the US. Then I say I wish you wouldn't banned my books.

That gets so much more news coverage than anything I say about tuberculosis (Laughs).

I think it is because there are two sides to the argument. It is a wedge issue. Something people fight about. Nobody is in favor of tuberculosis, no one is arguing the other side, but they are functionally arguing the other side by ignoring the crisis.

In our media landscape I think it is really hard to get attention for things that are not those wedge issues. They do not have that divisive/polarizing effect on us.

Way I have tried to do it is just by acknowledging that and emphasizing that.

Also saying look, the times in our history when we have done a good job of this which many times, think of smallpox, HIV, the radical drop malaria deaths over the last 30 years.

Times we have done a good job of this a lot of times has been relatively quiet until it got loud because people started to be, "Wow! We are having success here."

I think it is a snowball effect, and earlier listening to the people who have been â€“ like Anne Corbin pushing the snowball down the hill for 20 or 30 years is a great reminder to me to not get frustrated after four.

JOANNE CARTER:
Your point also about success. One of the things we have been talking about is just the things you were raising and Tanha asked about. The new tools, new opportunities we have two really, genuinely â€“ if they were applied with equitable access to everybody, the opportunity we would have to really come close to an existing disease.

In some ways instead of TB being the orphan disease, to what degree it could be the next big opportunity? Forcing countries, some middle income countries to step up and show it as possible. It will take resources and attention, but it feels like if we had a vaccine as part of that. Feels like there is something there about the potential excitement and opportunity.

JOHN GREEN:
I think that is right to see it as an opportunity.

The thing I tried to say to people is this is a relatively easy when in a world where winds -- wins are hard.

Summary problems can't be solved by growing resources to them, and this one can which is amazing. That was the argument that worked on me when we were first working with Partners and Health. And they said, "We came -- we came to Partners in health, and said we had a little money, what can we do? And Partners in Health said, "You have a lot of money. You're not willing to part with it." I found that very honest and helpful. It is true.

I try to remind myself that I can do much more and I need to do much more. As well as getting frustrated that others are not doing more.

JOANNE CARTER:
There is also a question there about, again, from a colleague (Unknown name). Again and that we are seeing new TB cases and searches in lots of places. And again, really being careful about not stigmatizing or adding to the (indiscernible) phobia were immigrants or people living in poverty in general. But that we are seeing some of those surges in the US. How do we make this case that this is hugely relevant for us as well? You know, and start to look again with the cycles of neglect, we start to see the disease come up again in our own communities.

JOHN GREEN:
What I try to say about that is that around one in seven people who have ever lived died as tuberculosis as best we can tell. The idea that tuberculosis would be rare in a community is brand-new. When my great uncle died of tuberculosis in 1931, that was not seen as exceptional. That was not very long ago. You know? His brother was alive two years ago.

And so, the idea that we live in a world -- were some of us are able to tell his elves that we live in a world that is safe from TB is a very new idea. And it is a temporary idea. As long as we don't make progress globally inviting tuberculosis! Infighting, there is an ever present threat in every community.

While it is true that the tuberculosis flows who the rivers of injustice as we conceive of it, it's also true that anyone can get TB. I talked to doctors all the time who have TB, or to nurses or teachers or lawyers. All kinds of people. Anybody can get tuberculosis. It's an airborne disease. You know, there is no magical strategy for presenting -- preventing yourself from getting it. I think that's part of how we destigmatize. Is saying, like,, "-- I think it makes a huge stick -- difference for stigma. I'm overly -- only 46, but I've been around for a couple of pandemics and I've seen a lot of victim blaming. My dad had cancer twice when I was a little kid, it is how people talk to him as if he was somehow responsible for his own disease. I'm sure we have all seen that with different diseases with friends and family.

The two things that I've observed work or when something stops being deadly, it stops being stigmatized. When it stops being scary, it stops being a stigmatize. I think we have seen that, to some extent. Not the extent we need to see it to with certain sexually-transmitted infections, with certain cancers.

The second thing is when people stand up and say, "I have TB. Someone I love has TB. TB isn't the disease that you think it is. Because look at me." I think of the activists who went to the TB survivors -- the TB survivors who went to their Congress, I can't remember and what country, and just coughed. Coughed loudly from the back of the room and made those lawmakers feel like, "Maybe we aren't so insulated from this disease. Maybe it isn't something that just happens to other people."

JOANNE CARTER:
Really powerful. Thank you. Maybe John just to close out, two things I guess I want to say. One is I share a lot of what is coming in the chat about just how powerful how you're talking about this is, and your ability to communicate it. And that outrage and the absurdity, the inequity of this. And the sort of power of what is also possible. Would love to continue to figure out how to work with you and including May be something we will work together with the Hill. I can imagine sometime in the new year that we can do something together with that.

I want to close by saying that you wrote a number of months ago, something that was quite inspiring. "Sometimes people say that social change is impossible, but this is not true. Social change is inevitable. What is not inevitable is the timber and the social (indiscernible)." Any last words for this network of advocacy that you want to share?

JOHN GREEN:
Just that there is a really active group of young people in their community who call themselves TB fighters who need to be better connected to your organization and organizations like it. Let's facilitate those connections and continue to build sort of a better world together. As you say, the world is just gonna change. It's just that together we are going to decide how it changes.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thanks so much, John, for being with us. And for what you brought to this work and all the new people and a new energy you brought into it. Really an honor and look forward to working with you going forward.

JOHN GREEN:
It's a great honor to be with you, and thanks for spending part of your Saturday with us. We appreciate it.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you. Folks, I'm going to be back in a bit with another exciting announcement and introduction. Next, I'm going to turn it over to Colin. (Indiscernible) follow up on this powerful conversation we had for actions with Congress and our global work on TB and what's ahead.

COLIN SMITH:
Thanks, Joanne. And thanks John, what a fantastic conversation. Joanne mentioned, and John was talking about the impact that all of you have had on TB over time. I wanted to jump back. Over the last few years, you have built at this a growing pool of members of Congress who are out front pushing it for big funding increases. You have nudged that funding level up from the US government year after year.

That helped encourage USAID to be bolder. Because now they know that they have the political backing and the money to make it possible. Even before this year, a little over a year ago, USAID laid out this big ambitious new strategy for supporting countries to end it TB.

And then this year, when you went back to Congress, the spring and summer, getting all those signers on that letter, writing to the Biden administration, the Biden administration, USAID was able to answer that call with our new announcements.

I give this a bit more of a back story because you have been creating this upward cycle where the administration and Congress keep upping the ante with each other. Right now, it is back with Congress.

I was thinking about what John was saying about getting policymakers excited about their legacy. I feel like this could be it. Because throughout this last year, even as you has been doing all those other things on TB, you've also been getting cosponsors on that critical piece of legislation. The End Tuberculosis Now Act. This bill would take the new USAID strategy and not just have it be a new idea! Good idea. But actually make it new law to make USAID people to prioritize equity and to support country partners.

I think if we can pull the slides back up as well, we are confident that if this bill were to come to a vote, that it would have strong bipartisan support. It has already passed unanimously out of both of the key committees in the house and the Senate. You have gotten cosponsors from both parties. The challenge now is getting it to that vote. And we can go one more slide. Maybe two more slides.

In the House of Representatives, there is a special way to essentially fast track legislation when there is strong bipartisan support. There is a queue of these bills waiting to come to the house floor on what they called the Suspension Calendar. The End Tuberculosis Now Act is now in that queue. The issue is that there are a lot of bills other -- also there. It can stay stuck at the end of the line, or speaker Johnson, the new house speaker can decide, "You know what? I'm going to pull the End Tuberculosis Now Act and put it to the front of the line."

In order to do that, he has to know that the bill has not only support for members of Congress, which you have shown, but that it is a priority for them. We want to members of Congress walking up to him on the floor of the house and saying, "Speaker Johnson, my voters keep contacting me with this. We've got to bring it to a vote." That is our ask right now. For members of Congress, if they are not signed onto the bill, to get signed on. But then to talk to party leadership to bring the End Tuberculosis Now Act to the floor. They know who this folks are. In the house, it's speaker Johnson and minority leader Jeffries, and the Republican and Democratic leadership to support them. Same in the Senate with Majority Leader Schumer and minority leader McConnell. Sing to them, "Let's pass the bill."

One more slide. While they are added, the golf members of Congress can do is talk to the same folks about the read -- READ Act, which many of you know is a similar piece of legislation, but focused on global education. It is at a similar place right now with lots of bipartisan support. But first, we don't just need to get it to the floor of the house. We need to get it through the key House committee.

So, we need leadership both at the house leadership level, as we were just talking about, as well as the House foreign affairs committee which is the key committee in charge of foreign affairs. And legislation like this bill on education.

And then the other thing that I wanted to close on to celebrate is that as we are pushing members of Congress on both of these pieces of legislation to get them to come to the floor and is signed into law, we note -- this is the same side we had on the screen last month. The senator section did not say Done a month ago at this time. As Julian said, we had an action (indiscernible) to get this bill to the floor. You did that. It's entirely possible we can do that again with the rest of the house on this bill in the House and Senate on TB.

Happy December everybody. Back over to you Joanne.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thanks so much, Colin and everybody for the work and moving these bipartisan issues. I have an announcement in introduction I want to make.

First the announcement. I know many of you have made a donation to it RESULTS already this year and are supporting our work through the friends and family fundraising efforts. Thank you so much for your dedication, generosity and support.

What I wanted to announce if you have not seen it already is a small group of RESULTS donors from the US and even one from Canada have pooled their resources to create a 100,000 dollar match for our end of your fundraising efforts. These donors were much every gift to RESULTS education fund up to 100,000 dollars. It does double the impact of your support. We launched this a match on giving on Tuesday, and it continues through December 31.

My deepest thanks to the generous donors across the country and in Canada who made this possible. I wanted to say again that truly giving, if you look at leverage, give-and-take RESULTS is the best way to (indiscernible) and results against poverty. Our advocacy has helped to leverage more than 200 billion dollars for proven effective antipoverty policies and programs since RESULTS came into being in 1980. For every dollar in support over the last four decades we have helped mobilize nearly 2000 dollars for proven efforts to end poverty.

Donor support is going to be so important for our work and success in 2024. We know people look for ways to get more engaged in democracy in election years, especially presidential ones. We want to make the next year one of the best ever for growing our movement. Your generous support is going to help us expand into new legislative districts, and to grow our influence and all the places that we are.

We want to maximize our impact and key moments during the election cycle from candidate forms to media events. The key of the election is when candidates listen most to constituents. Donor supports can also allow us to keep investing in all of you in the coaching and training and support to help you be as effective as you are in this work. It is a really key moment in our end of your fundraising efforts are critical for starting next year strong, and building our movement next year in this generous match is further going to amplify the impact.

Thank you to match donors and all of you who have already given and those who plan to give, and each of you for connecting with your network to unlock this match. Thank you.

Want to transition back to another policy update, to do that I'm delighted to start with an introduction.

RESULTS is lucky -- lucky to welcome a new member to our staff in this movement as our Director of U.S. Poverty Policy Forum

TaShon Thomas just joined the team a couple of weeks ago and brings it back on and advocacy and policy policy designing campaigns, indicating and leaning work to center the expertise of people's lived experience of poverty and policy and advocacy.

Most recently he was leading policy work with United Way in the Bay Area in California, and has had a long line of leadership and advocacy rules in Texas and elsewhere, really grateful for the insight and leadership is already bringing to this work. We are thrilled to have them as part of this team, and I will turn it over to him to share a bit more about himself and also for some updates on capital and tax policy.

TaShon, welcome it over to you.

TASHON THOMAS: Vicki so much Joanne, it's glad to see you here on a Saturday morning and afternoon. Glad to be in RESULTS.

A little on my background, I grew up in one of the poorest communities in Houston. Always notice the differences between my side of EL Street, -- still is a black working class neighborhood. On the left side of Yale Street which is a white working class neighborhood.

Just seeing there was no difference in our income levels, but there was always a difference in our services that were provided. Garbage was not always picked up on our side of Yale Street. The community pool barely worked. The grass was barely cut at the local parks. When you go on the other side of Yell Street, all of that was taken care of.

Just having a real-life understanding that a lot of the issues in terms of poverty go back to shortsighted policies that did not see what America would be today.

So my mission in life is been to try to get rid of those shortsighted laws, and actually create things that benefit all Americans. Whether or not it is the vestiges we still have around redlining that created much of the housing crisis that we have today, or whether in -- or not it is the work on her Child Tax Credit which I will talk about.

It is always been a mission for me to try to ensure we become better Americans.

As Joanne mentioned, I come with years worth of experience. I started off going to school at Howard University, wanting to be an educator because I thought education was the layout of the hood. Found out that was not my ministry. To all of those that are teachers out there, I give hats out to you all for all the hard work you all do on a daily basis.

I knew had a love for Public Policy, and worked for my member of Congress on Capitol Hill. Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee for a number of years. Really learned what policy was like, and eventually became the executive director of the Texas legislator Black Caucus. Worked on a lot of state issues.

There I am proud to have been part of a movement that created what was called the Texas Grocery Access Fund, which created funding for grocery stores and low income/low access communities throughout the state. One of those communities that did receive funding was my community of independent sites. If you're in Houston at the intersection of 16 and EL Street, there is a whole foods they are now that was built with funding from the Texas grocery access fund.

After working in Texas politics for a while, and gets a little cumbersome. Moved to California, have been working with the United Way. I see Daniel Batiste on the call as well. Really working hard on trying to change the narrative of just increasing the minimum wage, to actually talking about a livable wage for people regardless of where you live. How that can be functional to creating a more equitable society. Really talking about the racial wealth gap and other issues as well.

That now brings me to RESULTS. What are we doing here to help better the lives of all Americans? I know there is a slight in regards to some of our policy updates.

If you would have asked me a year ago that the Child Tax Credit would have bipartisan support amongst members of the legislature, I probably would have laughed and said that is majorly impossible. They don't get along in terms of actually trying to get the funding. How can they actually get a Child Tax Credit past?

Here we are towards the end of the year now, and it seems as though most of our members understand a Child Tax Credit is necessary in order to move us forward, regardless of what funding packages available.

That is because of the work RESULTS and our partners have done to really influence our lawmakers over the last year. You will have done a great job of showcasing the need for the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, and how we actually need to do even more work in regards to the CTC and other items as well.

There were ongoing conversations right now trying to get a bill passed or some sort of funding package either at the end of the year or by the January 19 funding bill deadline.

This week actually, about 150 members â€“ Republican members â€“ Santa letter to Speaker Johnson asking for a business tax package to be sent for passage by the end of the year. Knowing that members understand that no tax package can pass without the CTC now means that we are seeing a new vehicle that was not there before to attach the CTC two.

As that package moves through, we do know conversations will be ongoing. In fact there is a bipartisan conversation happening next week on the hill with Senator Maggie Hassan and Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana. Just to talk about the CTC and other childcare initiatives that are really needed to help move working families.

We will be working hard on that over the next year or so. Towards the end of the year we will ask for more and more support for these initiatives.

I will pass it over to Jos to give you all some calls to actions.

JOS LINN:
Thanks so much TaShon, we really appreciate it and welcome to RESULTS.

Folks, I'm going to update on some of our actions right now that we are working on. As you know we are in the middle of â€“ towards the end of our Build the Buy-in Campaign.

As this is the last month of the Build the Buy-in Campaign. Remember, this campaign was designed to put inside pressure through targeted lobbying and outside pressure through media to get Congress to buy in on our priorities on child poverty, call the health and global education.

So where are we? As Colin and TaShon just explained, our issues are still right there in the mix. Congress can take action between now and the end of January that makes meaning policy change that concerns poverty.

Make no mistake, has TaShon just said, it is your advocacy that got us here. Colin alluded to that as well. If not for your lobbying, outreach, media work, who knows if our issues would even be talked about? So I want you to take a moment to feel good about the work you have done, it has made a difference.

On to our media campaign.

I am so proud of the incredible work you have done. Look at these numbers for media. Just since September 1, you have gotten 158 media pieces published, it is likely 160 now, we got 2 this morning. Published in 37 states and 44 different RESULTS groups here on the slide gotten published.

What great work! This is why people have turned to RESULTS when they need constituents taking action. You get the job done.

But remember, we still have one month left. The next few weeks can be critical. We can see an expansion of the Child Tax Credit, passage of the End TB Now Act, and passage of the end -- The READ Act. We can also see none of those things, that is why we must remain vigilant.

One thing on her CTC work, some of you will hear from RESULTS staff over the next few days about reaching out to those 150 Republican offices that sign onto that letter to remind them to continue to push for the CTC as well.

Also on our media works, remember our goal is 250 media pieces by December 31. In all 50 states and with each results mac group getting at least one media he's published.

Now we can make it, I know it! But it will take a little bit of extra work.

Every volunteer in each RESULTS group and free agents submits one media piece per week for the next four weeks, I'm confident we can meet our goals. That is hundreds of media pieces being submitted in four weeks. The newspaper won't be able to ignore you. Just think what impact your letter will have on our policy goals. Your letter might be the one that moves your member of Congress to act. So don't wonder if they will do it, make it happen.

I have included here some useful hooks on the slides you maybe want to use for the next few weeks with your letters to the editor. We have also updated our online media action so if you don't know how to get started, just go to our website to the media center, I mean the action Center, and use whatever tablets to get started.

As always if you need help please do not hesitate to contact me, I'm ready to assist.

Thank you offers incredible work, let's make this last month of Build the Buy-in are very best. Good luck, and thanks so much.

I think now I am going to Ken.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thanks for inspiring us, have a letter to the editor in my head I will be writing and submitting today, so thanks for that. Let's make this happen folks.

Let's do a quick poll here. What is he who was online with us today. We watched this poll here.

If you can let us know, including yourself, how many people are in the room? One marvelous advocates, two incredible advocates, three awesome advocates, force depends advocates, five unbelievable advocates, six sensation advocates, seven sublime advocates, or more than seven heavenly advocates. If you can let us know who's in the room with you today, that would help us figure out who is attending, and how we are doing on getting people to join our webinar.

Look at that! Three groups have more than seven heavenly advocates, that's amazing. Who had to continue to fill that in. Need a few more responses yet.

That's alright. And if you are one marvelous advocate, we love having you here as well. That's all good.

Let's go ahead and finish that up. Let us know who was in the room with you. People are still hitting the button so we will just wait a couple of seconds.

Again, we have a few folks in the chat as well. Great.

Anyone else? We are going to close this up here momentarily. Here is the results that you see it right now. Again, we got four. There were four groups with more than seven people which is fantastic. You can see all the others here. Thank you so much for participating in that.

And then I'm going to turn this over to Lisa right now, Lisa Marshall. She's going to lead us a bit in a celebration.

LISA MARCHAL:
Hi everyone. This is Lisa from Indianapolis. Pray to see all of you. In a moment, Ken is going to be sharing a video. Why? It's because December 5 is International Volunteer Day. Truth be told, every day is a volunteer day at results. -- RESULTS. You are at the center of what we do. You bring the fire, fuel, passion and resistance, knowledge and the know-how, the energy and enthusiasm. You are truly the heart of RESULTS. We couldn't see the change in the world that we see regularly without you.

This video is a small token of our gratitude. The video of appreciation from us to you.

(Video plays)

SPEAKER:
Happy International Volunteer Day. We are grateful for you.

LISA MARCHAL:
Is so, thanks to everybody for being such fantastic advocates. And with that, I'm going to hand it over to my colleague Sarah Lyons who is going to continue the celebration.

SARAH LEONE:
Can everybody hear me OK?

SPEAKER:
You sound great.

SARAH LEONE:
Awesome, thank you so much. Like Lisa said, my name is Sarah Leone. I live in (Unknown name) Indiana, and I became as a RESULTS fellow back in 2016. I work on the senior associate grassroots team at RESULTS here. We want to take a moment to thank everybody who helped us build the RESULTS movement here this year. Thank you so much. Together, we welcomed over 100 new advocates into the network from orientations this year. That doesn't even include all the outreach you did and are in your local community. Congratulations on your amazing efforts on this.

If you have someone new join your group this year or join you in an action like attending a lobby meeting for the first time, please put their name in the chat so we can celebrate all these new people who joined our movement. We would really love to celebrate and uplift these folks. I see that people are starting to put names in the chat, so thank you for participating and engaging in this.

Welcome everyone who is new, and thank you so much for being here. I'd actually like to take a minute to share a couple new advocates who took on some big leadership this year was we will go to the next slide.

So, Elsa le Blanc joined the New Hampshire group earlier this year, and right away attended a lobby meeting. Multiple lobby meetings and took on a speaking role as well. She also participated in our media campaign this fall and brought media writing to the group. As a result, Elsa and her other group members were published, which is really exciting. Next slide.

We also have at Molokai Gillette see who joined the Colorado group. Immediately jumped in to advocacy by (indiscernible) this year and sharing their personal experience in meetings. He confidently took on speaking roles and has written to his members of Congress multiple times this year. Malachi is now going to be joining our upcoming fellowship class. Which is excellent. Next slide please.

We also have Daiana Surkova from Tallahassee, Florida who joined us in 2023.

I also wanted to share Angela Rodriguez who joined the RESULTS group earlier this year. She traveled to DC to support appropriations. Took on a roll with being congressional point person for the first time, and stepped up to be a co-group leader of the RESULTS North Florida group. Thank you so much to our new advocates. These are just some few stories of the amazing actions that we know that advocates took this year. I know that there are countless more stories of new volunteers who really stepped up. Thank you to anyone who joined the RESULTS movement this year. You're such an incredible part of our movement.

We also can talk about our success of our new advocates without recognizing the support of existing leaders who take the time and care to coach new members to take action. Our new advocate mentors are guiding lights in their groups. Stepping into their responsibility doesn't fall solely on group leaders to welcome new advocates. One of the most impactful things that you can do as an advocate mentor is to empower a new volunteer to take action and take that first action.

We know that empowering new advocates and leaders doesn't happen overnight. It can be very rewarding but also challenging, which is why be like to honor a few of you and actually on this slide here we have all of our current and new advocate mentors. If your name is missing off this list and you are a mentor, let me know. We want to be able to track who is who. People like Andy Clark in Washington state and Colorado for Steve Arnold in Indiana. Catherine (Unknown name) in Alaska. Joanne (Unknown name) in New York. Still (Unknown name) in New Hampshire and countless more. You see over 40+ names on this list. We see and appreciate all that you do.

We have so many opportunities next year to bring even more people into the fold. And into our movement. Let's keep this up. With that, I will pass it over to our executive director Joanne Carter.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you so much, Sarah. And just echo, a huge thanks to the new leaders who have stepped up and also to the mentors who are supporting folks and all of their hard work and dedication.

Now, I get a fun job. I want to take a moment to recognize a couple more exceptional advocates in our midst with this year's grassroots awards. I want you to know that both of these are surprises to the people that are getting them.

First up is at the Bobby Decker some grassroots leadership award. Bob was an advocate from Washington state who made antipoverty advocacy his life's work. He was an inspiration and friends of so many of us. After getting diagnosed with cancer, he quit his job and through all his energy into advocacy for a decade and 1/2 or more. The New York Times published a piece that Bob wrote about his advocacy that he titled Death without Regrets.

We created this award in honor of Bob and also advocates who share his deep commitment to advocacy and sense of justice. This year's winner has gone above and beyond as a leader in anti-oppression. Over the last two years, this advocate has shared her expertise with deep commitment and passion with our network, by facilitating the hugely important and really hugely popular anti-oppression workshop series. Over 530 result volunteers have engaged with her and grown their awareness and understanding and commitment to anti-oppression thanks to her leadership on the workshops.

Her action goes deeper than the workshop. She has provided one-on-one coaching to individual volunteers and groups. It was also a port of the powerful training that she did with our entire board. At every turn, she moves and advances are values and anti-oppression. I'm immensely grateful to her for her guidance, grace, enthusiasm on this essential and often times challenging topic. Doctor Christina Gunther, I am honored. I wish I could be with you in person, but I'm really honored to present to you the Bob Dickerson Leadership Award. Think you really for your incredible leadership incredibly important work for this organization and world. Thanks, Christina.

And now, and more to be said, and I do hope I can hand it to you in person at some point. Now the Cameron Duncan Media Award, which is given to a Grassroots volunteer who has published media and made tremendous work on her impact to end poverty. This award was named after a former executive associate Director, the first associative Executive Director against -- made the fight against poverty his life's work. (Indiscernible) made the idea of this award to honor outstanding journalists who have used the media to bring political attention and action against poverty.

In the last few years, we have extended this to include on record journalists among the many of you getting published in your local media.

Sometimes I get questions about our work with the local media. Do these letters and op Ed matter anymore? And while so much has changed and is changing in the media, we are still hearing from staff and folks like the Congressional management foundation that this kind of old-fashioned opinion media still holds a tremendous influence on Capitol Hill.

This year's winner has published 41 pieces of media in 2023 alone on the US poverty issues. This includes 28 letters to the editor spotlighting the writers tax credit, introducing voters and decision-makers to this new critical policy. She accomplished all of this while acting as a group leader for RESULTS St. Louis. Teaching sixth grade social studies, she's starting to realize who it is. And full-time to the next generation of civic activists and also planning her own wedding. Congratulations on your nuptials and Sarah Miller, I am really honored and so pleased to present to you with a very well-deserved 2023 Cameron Duncan Media Award.c

Again, I wish I could do it in person. Amazing at work Sarah and amazing getting of these really critical issues to the community and to policymakers and the world. Thank you.

And now Sarah, (indiscernible) back to you.

SARAH LEONE:
Thank you so much, Joanne, and congratulations to our awardees. You both really deserve these awards. Also thank you so much for you do Christina and Sarah. We are going to go ahead and go through some announcements. Bear with me as we go through the slides quickly. We will go ahead and go to the next slide.

Group planning materials are coming. RESULTS groups typically spend January of each January preparing their actions for next year. 2024 promises to be interesting year and with much going on politically as we look as a taking advantage of new outreach opportunities in 2024. We will have a Group Planning resources including where to find the roadmap later this month.

The January webinar, we will jump into the actual planning process. For now, please schedule a time when your group will be able to meet in January to do your planning. Get it set up before the holiday rush takes over. Thank you and stateroom for more information on this. Can we go to the next slide?

We invite all of our volunteers to a Grassroots Town Hall event or the discussion of your your results, your celebrations and successes, acknowledgment of disappointment as we face the year ahead. Come share with us one thing you are proud of or excited about involving RESULTS work this year. Your biggest disappointment with the funniest moment of your RESULTS work this year. The town hall will be Thursday, December 7 at 9 PM Eastern. The Zoom link will be in the slides as well as the weekly update. Can we go to the next slide?

Additionally, we are having a joint December policy form. We will cover both US and global issues. We will update you on the latest regarding our campaigns and celebrate some of your accomplishments for the year. The form is Thursday, December 14 at 8:30 PM Eastern time. That is 5:30 PM on the West Coast. You can register using the link in the slides or in the weekly update.

To note that beginning in 2024, we will no longer be holding the policy forums on a monthly basis. We will hold it when we feel that they are needed, which is not always every month. We can go to the next slide.

This is just another uplifting opportunity for you to share your advocacy stories, or anything that has happened within your journey so far. We want to hear these experiences. Can we go to the next slide?

This is an amazing opportunity from our expansion team. We are learning to celebrate new advocates. If you have had an advocate join your group and they have been taking action and you want to celebrate them, submit a form. The link is in the slides. They will receive a personalized note, and then a piece of RESULTS swag. We thought this was a really nice way to uplift and elevate the work that hard-working advocates are doing. You can go to the next slide.

We are having an upcoming anti-oppression applied learning simulation. That will be Friday, December 8 at 12:30 PM. Please be sure to attend. It is best if you participated in previously AO trainings before -- it is at 12 PM. You can go to the next light.

These are additional support calls we will be having over the course of this month. I did want to uplift that this appointment on Wednesday, December 6, I am holding an end-of-the-year action network managers webinar to talk about the impact that our action works have had on this year on our wider RESULTS network. Go to the next slide.

Of course we have our Free Agent webinars this month. And then I also did want to give another announcement on folks who made a gift to RESULTS on giving Tuesday. Reminder as Joanne shared earlier, a group of generous supporters has committed to match every gift to RESULTS from giving Tuesday from the end of the year, up to 100,000 dollars, which is really amazing. Two are gifted to RESULTS this month will be doubled. Thank you so much for investing in our great commission.

With that, I'm going to close us out. I wanted to share a brief moment of gratitude with you all. This has been such a long but impactful year. I know we are all feeling it and we are all sort of racing towards the finish line, trying to get to 2024. I know I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and empowerment going into 2024, knowing that we will once again be able to fight side-by-side in this fight against poverty and to continue to dismantle the oppressive structures that have been put into place.

Our work is not easy, nor is it meant to be easy. But each year, we do continue to tear down practices put into place to continue that cycle of poverty.

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones. With that, have a wonderful rest of 2023. Hopefully we will see you on the December 14 policy form. -- forum. Have a good rest of your weekend and take care of yourselves. Thanks so much everyone.

KEN PATTERSON:
If you all want to say goodbye to each other, you are allowed to unmute your lines at this point. And just happy holidays!

(Multiple speakers)

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