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Voices of Power

Impact Report

September 2022 – September 2023



Our voices are powerful

From small-town Alaska to bustling Miami to the storied halls of Washington, DC, RESULTS advocates have shown once again that raising our voices can lead to a more equitable, just, and healthy world.

With pandemic restrictions ending, our passionate volunteers and staff reentered the halls of Congress and demanded action: to alleviate child poverty, hunger, and the affordable housing crisis in the United States and accelerate progress in health, nutrition, and education globally. We lifted up urgent issues that too rarely get the rigorous response they deserve and moved Congress and the White House to take action.

Our advocacy model proves that one person, when trained and supported, can make a difference, and we can have even greater impact when savvy and committed advocates from all 50 states work together as a community. Together, we educated and persuaded members of Congress across the political spectrum to support our anti-poverty priorities and asked them to take powerful actions — from reaching across the partisan divide to tackle child poverty in the U.S. to making historic investments to end AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria.

Thanks to the dedication of our advocates, staff, and partners and the generous support of individuals and foundations, we continue to have remarkable impact. Together, we have brought hope to both millions of people who are better able to take care of their own and their families' needs — and to people and communities across the U.S. who have realized their power to effect change.

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I feel viscerally the power we have through RESULTS. If other people knew the power they have, **they would never be silent.**

— Carolyn Prouty, RESULTS
volunteer advocate and donor, WA



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Elevating the experts



For poverty-reduction efforts to be successful and sustainable, people with lived experience of poverty must have a prominent voice in shaping them. RESULTS trains and elevates people with direct experience across our network while providing intensive support to a smaller cohort called the Experts on Poverty. **These leaders destroy false narratives about poverty and inequity, highlight the impact of anti-poverty policies, and demand — and offer — policy solutions that could make a significant difference.**

Over the last year alone, Experts on Poverty have been featured speakers at press conferences on Capitol Hill, provided feedback to the White House and the IRS on current and proposed policies and initiatives, published commentaries in media outlets across the country, been profiled in articles, showcased in videos, and appeared as guests on podcasts.

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In order for my community to become a safer and a more supportive environment, **I must be the catalyst for that change.** I know my voice matters. It's important to share with my elected officials and let them know that I am worth listening to.

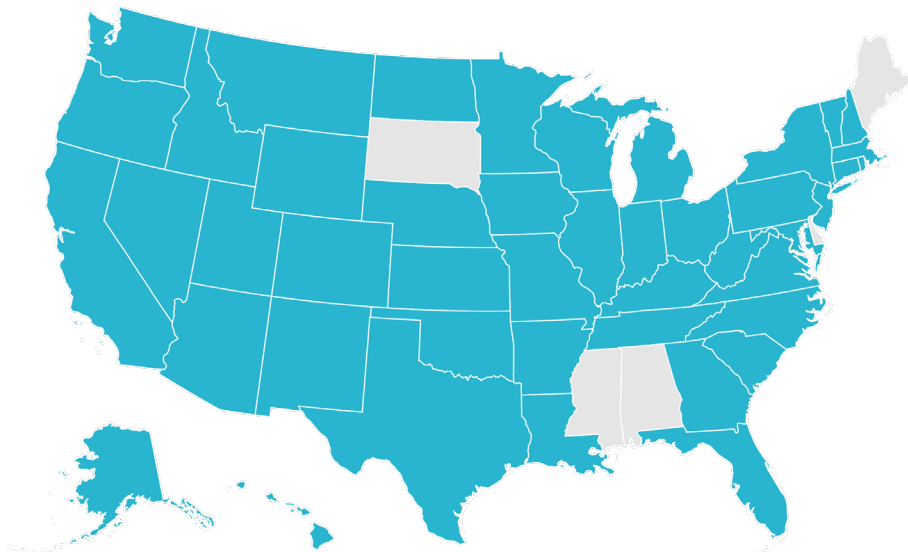
— Sharvonne Williams, RESULTS Expert on Poverty, IN



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550 and counting

Raising our voices in the media can have enormous influence, moving members of Congress to take action in response to their constituents' demands. Throughout the year, RESULTS advocates challenged each other to write letters to the editor and op-eds about our issues and were **published in outlets in 45 states**.



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I understand what it's like to be in the position of the families that we advocate for, so if I could use my voice to help those families in any way, I'm more than happy to do so. I know that **the work I do today will not only help families today. It will help families for generations to come.**

— Tiffany Tagbo, RESULTS volunteer advocate and donor, OK, had a letter published in The Oklahoman



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Turning 1 into 2,000

$$\frac{\$1}{\$2,000}$$

Working with coalitions and allies, RESULTS' advocacy has helped to leverage more than \$200 billion dollars for proven, effective, anti-poverty policies and programs since 1980 — and every \$1 in donor support has helped to leverage nearly \$2,000 worth of impact!

How do you transform \$1 into \$2,000 worth of impact? Read on.

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I think there's no better bang for the buck than the money that goes to RESULTS. The leveraging principle was what appealed to me the most.”

— Paul Brindle, RESULTS donor and volunteer advocate, MI

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Everybody wants to end poverty, and RESULTS does it in such a powerful evidence-based way that it both resonates with and empowers people from all walks of life. In a polarized world, there's so much that is cause-related that feels politicized. RESULTS transcends that.

— Casey Gardiner, RESULTS donor, MA



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Record-high funding for global health

All the superlatives apply — unprecedented, historic, lifesaving — for what RESULTS and our partners in 14 countries helped to achieve in the fall of 2022: \$15.7 billion over three years for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

RESULTS has championed the Global Fund since its founding because it takes an equitable, locally-driven, human-rights based approach and excels at supporting the countries most affected by old pandemics, like TB, and new ones, like COVID-19. In our most recent campaign, we played a key role in inspiring the U.S., as the world's largest donor to the Global Fund, to host the replenishment event where governments would pledge financial support. **Then we and allies succeeded in pressing the Biden administration to announce a pledge of \$6 billion to the Global Fund — a whopping 30 percent increase over the U.S.' previous pledge** — and to offer it as a 1:2 match toward commitments from other donors. The match, combined with smart advocacy by our international partners, helped to unlock billions more in support.

Our work wasn't done after the event. Congress still had to approve the first \$2 billion installment of the \$6 billion pledge. RESULTS advocates called for fulfilling the U.S. pledge in the media and in over 200 meetings with congressional offices — and Congress listened.

The \$15.7 billion that the world committed will help hard-hit countries save up to 20 million lives over the next three years — and make history again.

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This partnership is one of the most effective advocacy networks in the world. **We would not have gotten to where we are today without you!**

— Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in a meeting with RESULTS and our global partners



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What's in an agenda?

"I would love to be your tuberculosis champion." Those aren't words you often hear from a member of Congress. So Cat Schoessler, a RESULTS volunteer from Alaska, was thrilled when her representative spoke them during a face-to-face meeting in March 2023 and then committed to encouraging other members of Congress to become champions, too.

That meeting and hundreds of others RESULTS advocates held in early 2023 were integral to our Set the Agenda campaign. The first few months of a new Congress are especially important for educating and building relationships with members of Congress and getting our issues on their agenda. **This summer our advocacy in support of key global health, nutrition, and education programs overcame bipartisan politics.** While the House State and Foreign Operations subcommittee voted to cut funding for a number of foreign aid programs in July, it protected all of our priorities. Our advocacy will continue until Congress passes the foreign aid budget for 2024.



More impact, greater equity

With multiple global crises happening simultaneously and governments stepping back financial support for anti-poverty programs, how can we continue building impact and equity? By ensuring our foreign aid gets put to the best possible use. RESULTS is advocating for a suite of bills that require the U.S. Agency for International Development:

- Follows the evidence and supports high-impact interventions.
- Prioritizes the lowest-income communities and marginalized groups.
- Partners with directly affected communities.

RESULTS advocates raised their voices to build bipartisan support for the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act for more than a year. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of half of all preventable deaths of children under five, and increasing the impact of nutrition programs could save millions of young lives. The act became law at the end of 2022, ensuring that USAID focuses on the highest-impact nutrition interventions and monitors and tracks programs to ensure progress.

We also helped shepherd legislation to improve USAID's global education and TB programming through key congressional committees. Both await votes by the full House and Senate.



The world's deadliest infectious disease? TB

This curable disease is the poster child for diseases of inequity, pushing millions into poverty each year. Yet without our advocacy, Congress and the administration might never hear from constituents about TB or other issues that are the cause and consequence of poverty.

What's in a letter?

An important tool in our advocacy toolbox is the sign-on letter (also known as the Dear Colleague letter), which is a statement of support for a particular issue that members of Congress circulate among colleagues. The more signatures from both Democrats and Republicans, the more sway. **RESULTS is a powerhouse when it comes to getting members to sign them.**

This fall, world leaders gathered for a United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, and we wanted the U.S. to show up with a bold commitment to turbocharge the fight against this disease of poverty. Our volunteer advocates and staff worked doggedly to secure 34 senators and 108 representatives on sign-on letters to the Biden administration that called for just that. In the midst of partisan rancor in Congress, we helped unite a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers around TB.

On Sept. 22, the U.S. and other world leaders pledged to reach 45 million people with lifesaving treatment and testing for TB by 2027. And the U.S. announced a new TB initiative, including funding to accelerate detection and treatment of TB in key countries, a lower price for testing and preventive therapy, and more.

Economic justice through the tax code

For too long, tax policy has been a driver of inequality — rewarding wealth over work and fueling the staggering racial wealth divide in the United States. That’s why we’re pursuing economic justice through the tax code.

What could a fair and inclusive tax code achieve? It could:

- Provide relief for rent-burdened households who are unable to tap into the country’s limited housing and homelessness programs.
- Dramatically reduce child poverty by extending the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) to families with low incomes.
- Improve the economic security of young and low-wage workers through improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit.

RESULTS is unique in that we’re one of the only organizations advocating for economic justice through the tax code on both sides of the aisle, building critical bipartisan support for long-term impact. We also bring the voices of people with lived experience of poverty directly into these conversations.

What’s in a tax credit?

Millions of eligible households don’t receive the tax refunds they’re owed, including the Child Tax Credit, because filing taxes is so onerous. We’re working to make sure that everyone receives what they’re due. When the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act included funding for the IRS to improve its services and technology, **RESULTS successfully advocated that some be used to evaluate the viability of a free tax filing tool to reduce the barriers.**

The IRS is now developing a pilot e-file program, but opposition from tax preparation firms is steep. RESULTS is a founding member of the Coalition for Free and Fair Filing, which is working to ensure the program is equitable, accessible, inclusive, and permanent. RESULTS’ Experts on Poverty tested the pilot version and gave feedback to the IRS and Treasury Department. We will continue to weigh in as the program evolves.

Advocating for a first-ever nationwide Renter Tax Credit

RESULTS is building a campaign for a first-ever federal tax credit for renters. Similar to how the tax code provides relief and subsidies to homeowners and landlords, **a Renter Tax Credit would help struggling households defray costs and remain safely and stably housed.**

Our campaign is built on extensive research and discussions, including with advocates who have experienced housing insecurity and homelessness. To create a groundswell of support, we've brought together organizations working in housing and homelessness, domestic violence, and human rights; policy advisors in the administration and members of key congressional committees; and academic and legal researchers. For example, in August the American Bar Association's House of Delegates voted overwhelmingly to approve a RESULTS-crafted policy resolution supporting tax credits that benefit renters.

With a housing shortage and rents rising faster than wages, stable and affordable housing is increasingly out of reach for low-income Americans. A minimum-wage worker can no longer afford fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in any state in the country.



Building the path to end child poverty in the U.S.

Remarkably, 19 million families earn too little to qualify for the full Child Tax Credit (CTC), even though the CTC was designed to support the costs of raising a child. When Congress temporarily expanded full benefits to all low-income Americans in 2021, child poverty was cut in half. When those expansions expired in 2022, child poverty more than doubled. Receiving the full credit could make the difference between hunger and health, homelessness and housing, distress and wellbeing. RESULTS advocates are among the most engaged grassroots constituents urging Congress to rectify this injustice.

In hundreds of congressional meetings; in calls, emails, and letters to Congress; and in nearly one published media piece a day, **our advocates have kept economic justice for families front and center even amidst shifting political winds.**

Our 2023 advocacy strategy involved strengthening the resolve of CTC champions while building greater support among leading moderates and conservatives. Our advocates have been sharing their personal stories and the latest data about poverty and the impact of the CTC in meetings, with the media, and at press conferences on Capitol Hill.

Thanks to our efforts, bipartisan backing for an expanded CTC that supports low-income working families is growing. Importantly, we have helped facilitate much-needed dialogue between Republicans and Democrats. In the midst of what could seem like irreconcilable differences, we're building a path toward a potential breakthrough, if not this year, then hopefully next. We'll continue to press for full CTC benefits reaching the lowest-income working families in a potential end-of-year tax package, while working longer term for more ambitious expansions of the CTC that fully benefit every low-income family.

What's in a cosponsor?

When bills that RESULTS wants passed are first introduced, we encourage members of Congress to show their support by cosponsoring them. With thousands of bills introduced each year, those with many cosponsors are more likely to move forward for a vote.

Persistence was key this year in amassing cosponsors for Democrat-led bills to expand the Child Tax Credit to low-income households. In an exciting and frenetic final push of phone calls and emails to congressional offices, we exceeded the goal of securing 175 cosponsors for the House's American Family Act for a total of 207 Democrats. The united Democratic caucus combined with growing support from Republicans puts us in a stronger position to push for a CTC expansion in any upcoming tax legislation.



A leading voice for ending hunger in the U.S.

“Poverty is close to my heart because I have lived on that side of the street,” says Yolanda Gordon, who became a RESULTS volunteer in 2012, Expert on Poverty in 2015, and now leads RESULTS’ Organizing and Advocacy Fellowship. The 11-month program, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, supports young leaders aged 20 to 35 to sharpen their advocacy and organizing skills and take action to end poverty and oppression. Fellows have gone on to work in an array of institutions including the UN, UNICEF, USAID, and the World Bank.

Yolanda is also a leading voice for ending hunger in the U.S. and has spearheaded RESULTS’ efforts to ensure equity is at the forefront of White House decisions around nutrition programs like SNAP (formerly food stamps). Thanks to Yolanda, people with lived experience — including our Experts on Poverty — shared their insights with congressional offices, the administration, and others in a panel leading up to 2022 White House Conference on Hunger and continue to have a voice in the White House’s working group on hunger and nutrition. In recognition of Yolanda’s work, the Congressional Hunger Center awarded her their Community Champion Hunger Leadership Award.



Image: Congressional Hunger Center

Thank you

When you're building the political will to end poverty, transformative advocacy doesn't happen overnight. It requires sustained work over time, a mix of strategy and creativity to overcome long-standing structural hurdles, and ensuring that a thriving grassroots movement is ready to seize opportunities as they arise.

RESULTS doesn't ask our volunteer advocates to take one-off actions because we know isolated acts have little sway on Congress. We empower our advocates to actively engage for the long term.

By deeply engaging people across the country and in Washington, DC, and changing the narrative around poverty and inequity, we continue to break down barriers to ending hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

We couldn't do this work without your enduring support. Thank you for blazing this path with us.

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“I think it's important to create a culture of sustainability within the organization, so **I give my time to RESULTS, my talent, and my treasure.**”

— Bruce Davidson, RESULTS donor and volunteer advocate

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RESULTS Educational Fund received a "Perfect 100" and Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator in 2023.



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