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JOANNE CARTER:
Welcome everyone, I am Joanne Carter. Executive director at RESULTS. I hope you all had a restful and celebratory time with friends and family over the holiday season. Happy new year to everybody. I'm excited to be with you to kickoff 2024 and also launch our Community of Change campaign.

You will hear a lot more about the Community of Change campaign later today. But what inspires me is that at this pivotal time, we will be focusing on growing this network of changemakers and growing our power.

We are on the cusp of two critical years in the domestic and global policy landscape. And, as you know, the election cycle. Achieving our goals will require more political muscle. We will invite advocates in groups to increase our impact and also increase our reach in calling for policies to fight poverty and oppression. We have a lot of lobbies and media.

In just a few minutes you will hear from an amazing congressional leader about some of that work. I just want to say that our global landscape presents unprecedented challenges and also some really crucial opportunities. The world is grappling with escalating crises from climate emergencies to horrific violent conflicts and the displacement of millions of people.

These challenges rightfully demand time and resources. We also know decision-makers one is focused on the immediate demands of these crises and often other ongoing massive silent crises get overlooked. Many of needless deaths from disease, malnutrition, hundreds of millions of kids not getting the education they deserve.

Without acute headline crises and the chronic one, it is the people negotiating poverty who are disproportionately suffering the consequences. Our focus remains steadfast on the global antipoverty priorities in this coming year and two year cycle. Nutrition, education, life-saving vaccines and other healthcare. Over the course of 2024 and 2025, world leaders will have key opportunities to pledge new funding and drive more equitable policies for crucial human needs and human rights.

Our aim is to build on the past US support we have helped create for these issues and for global initiatives like the vaccine alliance, partnership for education, global fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

We are calling for the community and the US government to make pledges to these global efforts and ensure global equity. US pledges send powerful signals to encourage other nations to follow suit. Congress is criticalness and we will do what other advocates have demonstrated time and again to be our superpower which is generating bipartisan support for ambitious funding in policies that benefit the most marginalized.

In our US poverty issues we also have major issues for impact in the next two weeks and the next two years. There is the immediate opportunity for bipartisan expansion of the tax credit for lowest income working families as part of a tax package that could happen in January.

And leadership on the CTC has been absolutely critical in the work pushing it which got us so close at the end of last year. We need to keep up the pressure now. We also have the chance to make 2024 the year of momentum for greater equity in the tax system.

Key legislation and access for tax credits is going to be up for removal -- renewal in 2025. That means 2024 is the year where we are tax community champions. We will not only try the child tax credit extension but also build powerful momentum for renters tax credit and elevate the affordable housing crisis in this year. We will lobby lawmakers, speak with communities and address poverty.

At a time of rising food and security in the West, we will also advocate to not only protect expand access to programs that addressed malnutrition. As we navigate these critical windows of opportunity in 2024 and 2025, we need more members of community and policymakers in this work.

That is what it is going to take to not only protect the gains we have made but also create an unstoppable wave for the scale of action that is needed. Finally, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who supported our end of year funding -- fundraising campaign. Either by donating or sharing results Michael's friends and family. Generous donors provided a $100,000 match and thanks to you and your community, we blew past our fundraising goal to raise $228,000.

Those resources will fuel our work in our Community of Change. So now, I am delighted and honored to introduce an exceptional leader and dedicated partner in the fight against poverty and our special guest on today's webinar. The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen joins us from South Florida where she served as a member of Congress for three decades.

She was the first Hispanic woman in Congress and is still the only woman to have chaired this committee. She helped shape legislation in defending human rights all around the world and she was a champion of credit for the most impoverished women and families.

She was also, is passionate about Global Health and fighting Infectious Diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. She worked with Congress on HIV/AIDS. I want to say one of my most enduring memories of our work together over the years was an in person meeting with Florida advocates.

We were all hugging and checking in on each other's ongoing work and family. She was the one who paused and redirected the conversation to a group of volunteers. She said she wanted to hear from them most of all and what brought them in the room, their experiences and constituents.

She knows the power of bringing advocates into this community and I will not forget that. And more recently we were thrilled to be able to partner with her another important issues like the authorization to improve education outcomes for girls and also increasing support for UNICEF. Congresswoman, we are so happy to have you with these important issues and it is such an honor and treat to have you joining us today. Welcome.

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
I am just so thrilled, I love the photo you have on the screen with Betsy and Hugh, Joanne, and our national teacher of the year. It is great to catch up with all of you. I want to thank you for this tremendous honor that you bestow upon me to have the opportunity to speak to so many volunteers across the nation right here in my home area of South Florida to all over the world.

Thank you so much, I am in your living room and your kitchen and I love all of those faces. Thank you. I am so glad that you are doing these meetings regularly to dial it up to 11 and to encourage people to get involved. As you say, bring in new volunteers and this Ponzi scheme but for the good things!

You do not get rid of the old ones, you bring in new volunteers. So we finalized this organization every year and all those issues you talked about, Joanne, I am still in Congress, unfortunately it is cooking on and the unfairness of our taxes are still, you name it, the child tax credit and so many families who are struggling to get by.

Gosh, it seems like we take two steps forward and one step back, sometimes three steps back. We hope that wonderful organizations like RESULTS and all these incredible volunteers will make all of these issues go away.

Because equity has been reached and fairness has been reached and everyone is able to live a good life with the income that they are bringing in. Thank you to all of the volunteers, thank you to each and every one of you for what you do to make our homes better communities.

So thank you, thank you, thank you.

JOANNE CARTER:
It is so great to have you and have you continuing this work and be a partner, I will turn it over to Crickett Nicovich who directs our community of affairs and policy to open up. Thanks again.

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
Thank you Crickett, thank you for the opportunity.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thanks Joanne and Iliana, it is great to see you again. I remember going to your office and drinking Cuban coffees and talking policy and a little gossip, maybe even!

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
That was a requirement! Gabby was one of the many wonderful young people who started as an intern, became a staffer and is now Chief of Staff to Jennifer (Name), the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico, representing millions of people. Literally millions! Love it, thank you. I like that in the chat. It is great to see you again, Crickett.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thanks Ileana, I think you are able to grow and continue to get staffers excited about the issues but I want to talk about how it is that you personally became more engaged and more excited about issues around antipoverty and inequity. Especially HIV/AIDS, that was something you really championed while you were in Congress. Can you tell us a little bit more about what got you there?

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
I really enjoyed serving with Karen and the HIV caucus, now she is mayor of LA. A real bigshot. We worked with Barbara Lee, Barbara Lee is running for the U.S. Senate in California now. All of us work together on the HIV caucus. We grew the caucus and Jennifer Gonzalez, resident commissioner of Puerto Rico, took my spot when I retired from Congress. She became a cochair. We need to get the more Republican members involved in this.

The reason I became involved in it, is because I represent an area that has had so many of you on the same, South Florida, a big population of Haitian Americans and Hispanic Americans. I saw that our numbers for HIV/AIDS, for example, and all kinds of Infectious Diseases were going, going, going up.

Instead of being reduced. In all of these diseases are preventable with safe actions. But, you need awareness and you need information. I saw there were few materials in Creole for the Haitian community. Few materials in -- few materials in Spanish for the Cuban community.

So that is what got me involved to get information and testing services. To help people understand they can get tested for free. That is what got me involved. I was involved very deeply in DC and with Karen and Barbara and Jennifer.

But also, because of my Miami roots. I see mag said I lived... I know you, this chats just go away! Thanks again. And so, that is how I got involved. The more that I got involved, the more I can say. We can really do something, we can change life for the better.

Now I am glad to see that those numbers are improving. And yet, with complacency, those numbers can go back to being a real problem. We see people who are afraid to get vaccines and get immunized. Education is so important. In this age of social media there is so much misinformation and disinformation. In my Hispanic community, I have so many people not wanting to get tested and not wanting to get the COVID vaccine or the regular vaccines when you go to school. So, we cannot take anything for granted.

Diseases that were a thing of the past, they can come back in. That is how I got involved and I became a better member for it. I encouraged my Republican conference to get involved.

First I told them how many cases of HIV/AIDS they had, how many cases of tuberculosis and malaria, all of these diseases that could be a thing of the past. I think many of them were shocked at the high number of transitions in their district. So, awareness and education and having facilities available for the community, very important.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Very true, and as we see in any public health crisis there is a search of resources and then all of a sudden it goes down when the resources are happening and that is maybe going down. But, if we do not keep it up and I know our results aggregate so we want to push back and try to give that up.

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
I love that, thank you.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
And another thing you wanted to do is get more Republicans engaged in your work. I know that bipartisanship is something we really value working with you on when you are in Congress. And we continue to work with you on.

Today is actually the anniversary of January 6. We see this country is really in a different place or bipartisan than it ever has been before. Can you speak a little bit about the value of building that for people with poverty issues? And if possible, what (indiscernible) on her issues it is more contentious time?

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
I agree. And sometimes we can say that we have never been as divided as we are now. I say to them to Words: Civil War. We actually have been divided before, we actually fought a war of Americans versus Americans. So we have had difficult times before, to the point, you know, it was the bloodiest episode of military engagements, that was the Civil War combined. -- All of the other wars combined, more Americans lost their lives in the Civil War. We have had tough times. But definitely this is a locally.

Bipartisanship is thought of as something negative! I am working with Congresswoman (Name) who is the congressman for the Chicago rural area of Illinois and she was the head of the DC congressional (indiscernible) commission, so as bipartisan as you can get. We are holding this (indiscernible) of bipartisanship program that we are just starting out with Mindy Mentos -- to get the ball rolling on the benefits of working in a bipartisan manner. I will read you something that minority leader Jeffries said a while ago, "Tip O'Neill got along with Ronald Reagan. Tupelo -- tip O'Neill was the speaker of the house from New England. Ted Kennedy got along with Warren Hatch.â€¦ Really Republican, from, I guess Idaho or someplace like that? Yes. Joe Biden got along with John McCain. John McCain is very conservative, from the (unknown term)â€¦ Ruth Bader Ginsburg got along with Anthony (unknown term)â€¦" It can be done! Oh thank you, from Utah. Of course.

It can be done. Bipartisanship is a positive, positive thing. I remember, Crickett, the lady who took my spot was Donna sure Layla and she invited me to be her guest at the state of union. Of course accepted! I got so much blowback from my Miami community because, "How could you do that?!" And I said, "You know, we have to get along. This is bipartisanship. How can this be wrong?"

This is how much our nation has moved. People feel like they should say they are for bipartisanship, but they really are not. And they sort punish the member of Congress who acts in a bipartisan manner. So, we have to be an example of what bipartisanship, in our daily lives is what we do at what we say, we need to work together. We need to have people embrace this.

But, I think â€” Tip O'Neill, I see I am getting corrected. Thank you everybody! (Laughs) â€“ but, I think that what the problem is, Crickett, most of the members come from different districts that are very, very, very Republican or very democratic.

There are few districts, like mine, that can flip. They can be democratic or they can be Republican. I think it makes you a better person when you represent an area that is almost 1/3 democratic and one third Republican and one third other. Because you look from a bipartisan lens of how this will benefit my community?

It is the make about the (indiscernible) that is the toxic vitriolic where people are saying nasty things about one another. I do not recognize this Congress. I know I sound like an old fuddy-duddy, "Back in my dayâ€¦", But back in my day in 1989 we just didn't have that kind of harshness to our town. And now I think it is more of a feature than a bug.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
While we say work across the aisle, working every district, wherever our grassroots are, we say to work in Congress to inspire them to action. Hopefully, having that moment of meeting someone who cares about it as a constituent is a little more pause to it.

Actually, talking about constituents, I wanted to ask Anaya -- Anaya. Naya Caldes is part of RESULTS and has been here since 2020 as part of our Fellowship, leadership partner for our young ones. Naya you want to go ahead and ask your question?

NAYA CALDES:
Yes good afternoon everyone and happy New Year's. Just an introduction to anyone who has not seen me before, I am,â€¦ Born to immigrant parents and I am happy to be with RESULTS Fellowship today. I have learned that RESULTS trained us with relationships with Congress and their staff.

As we focus on these relationships with our members of Congress, with UCSF was effective way to influence their decisions as lawmakers?

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
I am glad you bring up the word "staff", because many times people come to DC and are disappointed if they do not need -- meet the member of Congress will but, when you meet with a staffer do not think that is any less! They shape how the member of Congress is going to think about antipoverty programs. Staffers are very important.

If you have been to DC, you can see how young everybody is! So do not be disappointed who, if you see people who don't look like you -- you are a beautiful young lady -- so don't think that the young person would have less influence. You are the one who runs the Congressional law office,â€¦ And I say invite that member or the staffer to a lot of local events that RESULTS Miami will be having. They do not have to be blowout events. Live you have to put together some Thanksgiving meals for the homeless, or gathering goods for Christmas or Hanukkah.

Anything you have going, invite the Number over the staffers to your local events, and encourage them to come to the activity. That builds positive relationships and it will make it easier for you to get an appointment with the staffer or the Member.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Great tips, Iliana. We have one more question from Doctor (Name), a pediatrician down in Miami. Please go and ask your question.

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
Beautiful photo!

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Isn't she? We cannot hear you,
Yanick Perodin. Do you see that --

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
You see that little rascal laptop on your screen to unmute? What a shame!

DR YANICK PERODIN:
UNFORTUNATELY, I apologize that my camera doesn't work. It is great to see you again, Congresswoman, I think we were in this picture together. In Washington at our last meeting. With you.

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
There you are, there you are!

DR YANICK PERODIN:
WE appreciate your support and these issues that we care about. Also, as Joanne mentioned, (Audio issues) established relationshipâ€¦ Supporting advocates to improve their organizing techniques and urging our Members to do more.

I would love to hear your thoughts about the way to bring more people into the antipoverty movement. Where do you see the biggest area?

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
Thank you very much, it is a pleasure to see you again and I am honored to call you a friend. You look fantastic!

I think it is so important â€” it is imperative â€” to bring in a new generation. As anyone I feel great and healthy. My husband is 77 and we are in the older category where we know that her children and grandchildren, that is the future of our country. We need to have new volunteers be a part of RESULTS, which is why I am so happy to see Naya be one of the new people here.

The cost we have here is to lift all boats. You are appealing to the better natures of our Congress, maybe you will never get a member to support this bill? Don't say that. There is always hope! RESULTS is a hope organization, and you are all in the hope business.

You need volunteers of the younger generation to appeal to those members of Congress. It is so important. I congratulate each and everyone of you. Here it is, a beautiful Saturday afternoon, even if it is cloudy and rainy in other parts, or snowy, but what you do makes a difference. You change people's lives. You could never put a price tag on that.

So, thank you Doctor Yannick, and to all of you on the zoom to find out more of what you can do to bring in more volunteers and younger people and to reach across the aisle and his -- tell that member of Congress that bipartisanship is a positive thing. Bipartisanship is not a four letter word, it is a wonderful word that we need to build on.

I am optimistic that we can bridge the gap. I think we can accomplish the goals of all the things that Joanne laid out in her introduction. The bills that you want to pass, the equity you want to achieve for our country. With great leaders like you, Yannick and Naya and cricket, it is going to happen! We are in the business of hope. We are finding for good things. Just be positive and we can change the tone of this country. We can change the tone of that building behind you, in that beautiful photo, Yannick.

So thank you, for allowing me into your homes. I wish I could have some coffee with you. You are the difference in our world, in our community and you are the change we are going to need in our areas. Throughout the rear -- world and neighborhood. Bless you, thank you. Cricket all thank you so much.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thank you so much, we are in the business of hope. 2024 we will make sure we are pushing and talking to everyone.

HON ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN:
Very inspiring, thank you, thank you. All these amazing comments really touch base with me. I want to hear from you and Crickett has your -- my email address I want to hear from you, from the Miami Group. Bless you.

You make me feel useful. I appreciate it, I will let you know about our bipartisan program that we are kicking off next month. OK, bye!

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
We really appreciate you coming in today. I am going to turn it over to Dorothy to give our global update, our Global Policy Update. Dorothy Monza, our manager of child health.

DOROTHY MONZA:
Thanks so much!

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thanks Dorothy!

DOROTHY MONZA:
I will go, the Congresswoman and I did not coordinate our remarks, her remarks lead perfectly into what I want to talk about with you all today which is the opportunities ahead of us that Joanne had mentioned.

I am thrilled to be joining you on the first national webinar of the year to talk about this. As many of you know, RESULTS was founded in 1980 and we have been working to increase access to health, education and economic opportunity for over 40 years.

Nearly 10 years ago, the world agreed on a shared blueprint to turn the past from 2015 to 2030. Where the hundred and 90 countries agreed to 17 objectives that are meant to usher in a future of peace and prosperity. They called them the sustainable development goals.

This global product has, you know, allowed us to have immense data across multiple countries of how we are actually making progress, or not, on our issues. Next slide, please.

So the first four of the sustainable development goals may look familiar to you. They are very similar to the things that results works on. Ending poverty and multiple causes of poverty are a worthy goal, we know it is easier to put goals on paper than to actually achieve them.

Right now, we are losing momentum and focus on the basic pillars of SDG. We are not on track to get to the road we want by 2030, but all is not lost. As a global community, we can and we will refocus our efforts on long-standing health and development priorities. Next slide please. As Joanne said, the challenges facing the world arguments and there are pressing issues like conflict, climate change, new pandemics that are rightly receiving attention and resources.

We cannot forget that those who are already impoverished are going to bear the greatest â€“ my greatest burden of deeds crises. This does not come at the expense of human rights, nutrition, health, and education for all.

Next slide, please. For decades the world consistently made progress on extreme poverty. From 1990-2013, the rate fell from 38% to 12%. But in 2014, progress started flowing down and was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We lost three years of ground. Although the global poverty rate is back to 2019 levels, if you break down the data, you can see that most impoverished families and communities have yet to recover.

Today, around 700 million people are trying to survive on less than $2.15 per day. More than half of them are children. It does not need to be this way. Your advocacy will help change this. Next slide, please.

There is a two way link between malnutrition and poverty. What I mean is malnutrition negatively affects the mental health and physical social standing which makes people more susceptible to poverty. It increases malnutrition because it increases the risk that people will not have enough food and enough nutritious food to regain their health and stay healthy.

Malnutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all preventable childhood deaths. A leading cause of disability. Long-term chronic malnutrition or repeated instances of severe malnutrition can lead to a condition called stunting where a child is too short for their age or does not meet their full growth potential.

This rate has been declining gradually but still, one in five children globally are stunted. Robbed of the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential. No child should face death or disability from malnutrition when we know how to prevent it, how to detect it early, and how to treat it.

Your advocacy this year will help many access care for their children. The baby pictured here was given a medical assessment for malnutrition in South Sudan. Next slide please.

Vaccines are one of the greatest advancements in Global Health that humanity has ever seen. Because of vaccines, millions of children have grown up healthy and avoided diseases like smallpox, polio, measles. For decades, we were making steady progress. The other issues I mentioned, we did see abrupt halt string the COVID-19 pandemic.

If we look at the past and how successful vaccines have been, it is easy to see where we can go. In 1990, about one in 11 children died before their fifth birthday. In 2019, that number was one and 27.

That is still far too many children and if that was your child, nephew, niece, goddaughter, you know, hearing it has gone from 111 to 1 and 27 does not make a difference, it does not end your heartbreak, and it does not bring your child back.

So, we have a really real opportunity here just to recover progress to where we were to really accelerate at. To say as a global community, these are our values and this is what we will deliver on for the world's children. We have tools that we know can accomplish this.

Like the vaccine alliance, a global partnership that has helped immunize more than 1 billion children and has prevented more than 7 billion future deaths. This is the equitable use of future vaccines and they help in marginalized and hard-to-reach communities. The world has the knowledge and tools, now we need the political. Your advocacy will help build a world where no child will die of measles, pneumonia, and diarrhea when vaccines can protect them.

A shining example of hope from one family is the child pictured here. They were inoculated against rotavirus, this is a big reason why the rotavirus vaccine is available to millions of children today. Next slide please.

All children have the right to quality education which improves learning and play and creativity in things to unlock their imagination. Children are deprived of education for many reasons the poverty remains one of the biggest barriers. After years of progress increasing the number of children in school, particularly girls, there are devastating interruptions to education during COVID-19.

I am sure many of you felt the effects of this in the United States. At one point, more than 90% of the world's children were out of school. Although millions have physically returned to school, many are still not learning the basic math skills they need to be successful. Children are the future, I am sure you hear that all the time. They are being educated now.

Your advocacy will help push the US and the world to help recovering lost education. We need to accelerate progress to make sure all children can benefit from a quality education, now and into the future.

Children like Zara from Afghanistan, pictured here, the first girl and her family to attend school. When she was interviewed, she said my mother is uneducated, I wish she wasn't. I want to become a doctor and that is why I come here. Next slide please.

We know our end goal to end poverty, their multiple opportunities along the way where we can use our voices, our influence, our empathy, our relationships, our skills, our organizing to create global change. What specific actions do we need members of Congress to take?

Over the year, RESULTS staff will provide you with a variety of trainings, resources and coaching to take action on global issues. This presentation here is just a teaser of what is to come. In the first part of the year, we will call on members of Congress to show bipartisan support for funding increases. In the annual appropriations process.

Our goal is to secure the highest possible number of funding for 2024 and 2025 years without to lay the groundwork for some of these opportunities that Joanne had foreshadowed in her opening.

We are also going to be pushing for multi-year funding pledges and clear bipartisan leadership on each issue. We want members of Congress to say public that they are aligned with us on the need to ensure she is rights for all children.

You will notice there are no dates on that winding road just yet. That is because we are not exactly sure what all of these big pledging or public moments will be. Not all of them are marked on the calendar. There is a certain amount of uncertainty has to do with the US elections.

And, you know, who is going to be coming into power in the US government. This uncertainty is exactly why our advocacy is needed right now. Early bipartisan public support from Congress is going to lay an amazing foundation for our advocacy regardless of what comes next.

As important as it is to see you global moments when they come, RESULTS advocates no better than most that building political will can be a slow business. So by educating ourselves, organizing, building power in our communities, learning new skills â€“ we will be preparing ourselves and our groups to seize each and every opportunity that arises for global issues in the next two years.

Next slide, please. A lot of what we need done is things that RESULTS are experts in. We need your organizing, your relationships, your expertise, your stories. Most of all, we are so grateful for your time that you invest to get out in the community, get out and members of Congress, do things like generate signers for letters, cosponsors, speeches on the floor.

There are a lot of ways we can make a difference. I can not getting how all of them in the time that I have. I want to wrap up by saying that the opportunity ahead of us is immense and there is more to come as we navigate the challenges of the world in 2024.

I hope all of us remember that the decisions we make today will shape the future for generations to come. It is our collective responsibility to ensure our leaders, the people who represent us on the global stage, make bold, multi-year commitment to vaccines and education.

Together we can make a lasting impact and build the world for health, education and opportunity which is the birthright of every individual. Thank you so much and I will pass it to my colleague, TaShon.

TASHON THOMAS:
Good morning or afternoon wherever you are! I am TaShon Thomas, director of US poverty here at RESULTS. As Congress returns to work this week, we are continuing to push our congressional leaders to pass an extension as the child tax credit.

As Joanne mentioned earlier, the guidance, we have gotten to this point only because of the work you all advocated to our lawmakers about using the tax code to alleviate poverty.

There is still much work that must be done to ensure that CTC passes this year. You must overcome the hurdle of the appropriations process. Currently, Congress has to deal with a January 19 and February 2 deadline to pass the budget.

Now, just to reiterate, Congress is working right now on â€“ Congress currently works now on a fiscal year of September, excuse me, October-September. Last year they passed a resolution to ensure that the appropriations bills were in place until January 19 and February 2.

Meaning that this year's budget has not been fully approved, and therefore, congressional leaders must go back to ensure they are passed, fully. Or pass a continued resolution. In the normal course of things, this in February to be the month in which we start talking about the 2025 fiscal year.

But we are still talking about the 2024 fiscal year. Therefore, that provides us an opportunity to ensure that the expanded child tax credit is part of this upcoming package. However, we do know that as conversations continue to create a more long funding package, it is likely that a continued resolution will continue for current fund levels. That means thatâ€¦ Anything like the child tax credit will (indiscernible). Both chambers have not reached an agreement on this and therefore we believe that (indiscernible) will work together to avoid a shutdown and include a trial text.

We at RESULTS are also following the movement that is said to inspire in September (?)â€¦ Many of the frameworks including Snack, Wit, as well as others. We will have more of our efforts focus on this framework will stop

Lastly, we know that congressional options will be somewhat limited to what is called "some must pass" (?)â€¦ But we also know that these nutrition programs are on the list. We also want to use this time to educate candidates on the need for antipoverty programs, (indiscernible).

As Congresswoman I earlier, bipartisan support is (indiscernible). We need to educate our officials and ensure their understanding of the needs.â€¦ Regarding any questions with our campaigns, please do not hesitate to reject any of us.

And now, I believe I am passing it on to Joanne who will -- excuse me, Joanna who will be doing a pole for us.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thank you TaShon. Hello everyone and happy new year! Happy 2024. In the poll please respond with anyone in the room including yourself. We will pause while you do that.

Fantastic. Just a few more moments, here. Already. Thank you so much to everyone joining today on this first Saturday of 2024. We are glad you are with us. I will pass things off to my colleague, Alicia Stromberg.

ALICIA STROMBERG:
Also, thanks so watch -- thanks so much, Joanna. Hello everyone it is great to be here with you on this first webinar of the new year. As mentioned, my name is Alicia Stromberg and I am one of the associates on the expansion team here at RESULTS. I have the pleasure of helping everyone around the country getting started as a volunteer and on our advocacy campaigns.

I am eager to share about our ongoing outreach campaigns. We talked in this webinar about our upcoming campaign of change, and I want to focus next on our communities! One of our big ears -- big goals this year is to grow our communitiesâ€¦ Advocacy campaign.

We have a huge opportunity to build up our bases around the country. I'm sure you are all aware it is an election year, and historically, we have been very successful in recruiting during election year. People are paying more attention to political issues and they are more engaged than ever. This is especially true of this election.

We want harnesses movie for antipoverty movements and engage people around the same causes that are driving the polls. We also want to make sure that poverty stays at the forefront of issues being discussed by candidates in the media.

We are not growing our community just for the sake of it. Our goal behind this is to build our broad base of supporters and encourage them to take action in our advocacy campaigns. Members will listen to constituents more than anyone, and when we think about increasing our influence on leaders, especially during this challenging time where it is more time -- challenging to drum up support on this pass legislation, we want to think about how we can have more weight when we step on their toes. How can we put more air on our members of Congress so they feel pressure to take action around these issues?

One of the ways is to get constituents in action. We just heard Ileana describe bringing new people into our movement, and bringing more people to Congress. That is because it really does make a difference with political leaders.

Our plans for growing advocacy awareness is bigger this year. We want to fill this space with supporters and volunteers, so that next year in 2025, we can jump into action the new presidential legislation and jump into Congress with as much energyâ€¦ Some of you may remember that we did this in 2021,â€¦ After we engaged a huge number of people in 2020 and went forward with it in 2021.

â€¦ We can do this again next year. As I mentioned, we're going to harness this energy in this election year and build that base. As we grow this initiative, we are going to grow this from online into off-line and input advocacy efforts. What we really want to do is follow into action.

Many of you may be familiar with the warm leads strategy that we started last year.

To fill the people in on the call, our team has been contacting people with the required results over the last four years and have been inviting them into (unknown term) meetings and other ways to connect. We are going to wrap this up this year because so many of you are having success. We know this because people have the feeling that what they are doing is truly making a difference.

People are engaged online and then we bring them together in person when it really matters. Our first opportunity will be in May. RESULTS staff are going to organize a convening opportunity so that everyone around the country can participate locally, and then invite our communities to take action with us.

Now, it may, we really want to be out in our communities and building our online base of supporters so we can bring people out for this opportunity. We really wanted to do this! Staff willâ€¦ Recruitment campaigns that we participate in, but you all know your community's best and are so well-equipped to do this with us.

So, to achieve all of these outreach goals and strategies and activities, we will introduce some new volunteer roles. New tools and new strategies. I am really excited to introduce one of these new tools today: what we are calling for solidarity action. This is an online action that we are going to use to engage our communities and digital networks.

â€¦ Will demonstrate their support for these issues and only a few minutes: by adding their name to a letter,â€¦ Issues by lowering the (indiscernible). This will be for people new to RESULTS. No need for everyone here to go take this action now. But, I want you to familiarize yourself with this tool because this will set -- be something we used to engage in our outreach.

And when we attend election events and talk with people, in speaking with them we can ask people to take this to demonstrate their support. We can also share this why the online and reach people out there. This action is a great way to connect our online advocacy with off-line advocacy actions through organizational (indiscernible). New supporters to take this action will be cultivated like the warm leads we have built this year.

We can build relationships with these people and get them to engage with us at the level that works best for them. This action is going to do way more than just support our outreach and get people into our network of support. We could sure the names and testimony with people in Congress,â€¦ And demonstrate that widespread community support for these offices. I can just imagine how powerful this will be to go to will not be meetingâ€¦ And have a list of 20+ people or maybe more, from the community of people who raise their hand and say, "I care about this!" This will have a real impact on our communities.

â€¦ As being uplifted and get more people engaging. So, I know this is new stuff and it looks a little bit different is how we approach outreach in the past, but I want to walk everyone through how a Letter of Engagement might look like as we go through this solidarity action.

â€¦ I have done outreach myself, and I remember doing tabling events is results volunteer and my ask for folks was to get involved, be a joiner and get involved in our group.â€¦ This could be a lot for somebody just starting. We are opening to lower the bar between engagement and results. Therefore more people can demonstrate their support and build our base over the long-term.

And just like we are playing the line game with ourâ€¦ Because it takes time to get commitment and trust with people. We want to build on this relationship and keep them in the loop with our strategies and keep them engaged in key moments, especially with our upcoming meeting in May. The people joining us as volunteers or attending lobby meetings or even becoming donors when they get to know more about their relationship with us.

We have been doing this already. We have been contacting people from as far back as 2022 reached out to RESULTS before and they have been picking out our phone calls and saying yes to our invitations. We will plan outline game with this new basis of supporter and engage them with advocacy actions.

And, by lowering the bar -- one more slide back -- and, we are going to catch so many more people by lowering the bar who are not ready to fully commit but areâ€¦ Which is over halfway up, our main task is that people become volunteers with us and (indiscernible) results.

As you can see though we are missing a lot of people who could be part of our broad base of supporters and volunteer with us. We do not want to miss these people who want to take actions with us.

So, we're starting with social media to get this toolkit off the ground, and a big thanks to (Name) who (indiscernible) on our social media today. We will have to solidarity actions: one will be focused on antipoverty issues, and I am so happy we launched our solidarity action today.

My big ask is if you could join our social media solidarity action pages and share them on your stories. We want to uplift the viewership and boost this post into our online actions.â€¦ If you are not following us already, please do so and you can stay in the loop via our social media presence.

Go ahead in the chat and tell me if you have already shared this in your stories. Help us with this! Thank you so much and I am really, really looking forward to our work together this year for this movement. Thank you to everyone on this call here and your partnership. Whether you have just joined RR with us for years, you are critical to our meant and have played a role. I am really excited for this.

If you have any questions about this, the solidarity action or recruitment, how to get involved, please email me at any time. I would love to support you in doing this. I will probably email into the chat. Thanks so much everyone, I will pass it over to Errolyn will talk us through the volunteer roles.

ERROLYN GRAY:
Thanks so much, good morning or good afternoon. My name is Errolyn Gray and I am a senior associate under grassroots expansion team. Helping new advocates into our work and start new RESULTS groups. Also help Nucor natives and new volunteer roles.

So Alicia just talked about the importance of 2024 and how pivotal this election year is for the potential impact in 2025. We also talk about critical work supporting global poverty and equity issues as well as key policy issues that will need to be supported and pushed on the domestic policy side as well.

We talk about opportune organizing campaigns and tools and resources that will be used throughout this year. But how do we get to a point where we can make the most of these resources? Where we can make the most of this campaign and where we can see the change the world needs to see in these important policy areas we have talked about today?

We get there by supporting volunteers to take on volunteer roles in their groups and engaging in shared leadership. We want to be strategic and make the most of this really pivotal year. Part of that means prioritizing key roles in 2024 will have the biggest impact on growing our results network so we have the weight needed to step on those toes and the volume needed to make our issues loud enough to not be ignored.

So that we will have those influences that we need to get us behind the closed doors and seated at the right tables 1 2025 rolls around. Next slide. In order to reach those goals for 2024 and position as in the best place for 2025, we have identified five key roles â€“ sorry, got thrown off by the slides. Next slide.

We feel every single volunteer role is vital and needed. We are not saying any role is unimportant this year. Because this year is about growth though, we are saying there will be five roles that have a heightened important as we go throughout this year. Those roles are outreach and partnership coordinators, new applicant mentors, action network managers, congressional point people and group leaders. I will go through these five roles and how they work together.

OPCs, next slide, present awareness of issues in their communities. They are the people in the group who lead outreach and partnership efforts. They assist in group growth which means they also assist in group health.

They track and maintain a list of contacts they have made with various types of outreach and outreach tool that Alicia mentioned earlier. Tracking this list of contacts is important because those people may not have been interested in joining the group at that time that they may still have an interest in taking action or joining the group later on. OPC also works with action network managers and new advocate mentors. Next slide.

New advocate mentors, once an OPC has brought someone into the group through outreach, new advocate mentors step in to make sure that new members are up to speed on RESULTS and RESULTS activities.

They also make sure new people feel welcome and have a grasp on what the group as, what they have done, and what they are working on. They also try to see how that new persons passions and interests can come through in their advocacy so the advocacy becomes personal for them. By doing this, they can make sure to get new advocate plugged in at a level they are comfortable with and help them grow from there.

They also check in with new advocates periodically and offer resources if the applicant has a question. Having someone to mentor and welcome people into the group can go a long way in making them engaged for years to come.

If we think about ourselves, we are more likely to stay engaged with people and groups if we feel someone is personally interested in us and if we feel welcome and supported. The new advocate mentor helps achieves this by fostering a sense of community and belonging in the group.

They do this by taking action I have already mentioned but also by being a steward of our anti-oppression values and helping ensure those values are practiced within the group. Next up are the action network managers. Next slide.

There are some situations where no PC has connected with someone in the community and that person does not want to join a group, but does want to take regular actions. That is where action network managers come in. They have individuals who may not join local groups to participate in taking actions.

These actions can be things like speaking to members of Congress, taking online actions, signing petitions or writing letters to the editor. Action network managers keep those individuals in the loop so although they are not joining the group, they are still standing alongside us to make change and move the needle in the direction it needs to go.

This highlights that even if outreach does not always result in adding people to your group, it can still add voices to our mission. Next slide. Congressional point people develop long-term relationships. They did this by serving as a point of contact for legislative aides.

Often times this looks like facilitating request and ongoing communication with those offices. Congressional point people are also always on the lookout for public appearances and town hall meetings with legislators. All of these communications and all of these interactions work together to build those long-term relationships over time. Those relationships are what builds needs offices. Next slide.

Group leaders, last but certainly not least, they hold all the pieces together. They are the glue. They help promote the success of the group. Having group leaders in place helps to establish and support group health. They coordinate activities and group meetings to ensure members are engaged, inspired, and have necessary information to take action.

They also facilitate group roadmap actions which play a significant role in the groups success. They also make sure the group is active. They make sure to help us reach the goals we set so we can reach the missions we all care so deeply about. Aside from helping the group assignment team goals, they foster good group health.

Good group health and group dynamics play a significant role in helping new advocates stay connected. As we mentioned earlier, the goal for 2024 is to build a powerful base so we can be more powerful in 2025. Group leaders do have a role in the longevity of advocates sticking around.

Outreach is great, getting new members pulled in is great. But the role of the goal â€“ medical of the role is to help them stay engaged so he builds tenacity and strength. This can be fostered by building leadership practices and embodying anti-oppression values.

This means not only knowing those values but also applying it to their leadership style and interactions. Next slide. The way these five roles work together is the wonderful future of shared leadership. Each volunteer role work together with other roles to build the strength and capacity of the group.

This is just one example of what shared leadership looks like. Each role belongs to one another and each role is hand-in-hand working together. Shared leadership can also happen in the same role though. This can look like having multiple congressional point people.

One point person for each office you will work with. This can also look like coleadership in groups rather than just having one group leader. Having one-on-one outreach and coordination.

This is a varied approach which is healthy. For example, having more than one OPC or outreach project coordinator in your group invites a variety of outreach strategies and makes room for more partnership ideas. More people are thinking about this in different spaces for different groups. Next slide.

We are working to ensure each of these roles has the support that it needs to be successful and enhance the experience of those taking on volunteer roles. I will lay down some of the support and accessibility issues that we have in place for each role.

OPCs will have access to the tools and resources Alicia mentioned earlier. They also have a full calendar and monthly meetings that begin this month. These meetings provide support, training, coaching and direction for that month.

OPC will also have a training and resource page soon as well. OPCs will be supported every single step of the way. If you are interested in leading outreach efforts and partnerships for your group but you are worried about how you would do that, feel free to reach out and we can talk through that later.

New advocate mentors currently have quarterly group meetings and the mentor who is specific to them. They also have resources under the volunteer hub in working with their group. Action network managers, next slide, currently have monthly meetings as well as a resource page just for them on our website. They also have a manager Google List Serve that is specific just to them.

Congressional point people will receive training on how to move legislators up the champion scale and what the champion scale is. They also have trainings on how to research members of Congress. They have targeted coaching for key issues, teaching how to make the most of lobby meetings, deep dives on certain issues and regular office hours available to them.

So they can pop in and out to receive specialized coaching and support. Next slide. Group leaders have a resource page on the website. This page includes training they can go through at their own pace and also includes a group leader handbook.

In addition to the self-paced training, Lisa, one of my colleagues, also led a four-part training at the end of last year and another important training in just a few months for those interested in participating. Another part of support is the coordinators which provide support and guidance monthly. Next slide.

So I have just gone through what roles will play a significant part in 2024 to set us up for success in 2025. So how do we step into one of those roles if you are not already in one?

Group roadmap discussions are an opportunity to take on a new role. If you are already in one of those roles, you can use these roadmap discussions to think through and plan out how you can make the most of that role this year. How those plans can help move your group forward.

Take this as an opportunity to make outreach plans and set goals for your group. This is an amazing time to talk through how shared leadership can show up in your group this year among different roles or throat multiple people sharing the same role.

We know every single group is different. All groups may not have all the mentioned volunteer roles right now. Once you start to have those roadmap discussions, feel free to reach out to one of us so we can talk about how your group can still achieve our financial -- foundational growth in 2024. That being said, I will now pass it over to Joanna to talk about roadmaps.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thank you for that information Errolyn and Alisha. My name is Joanna DiStefano, and your associate for grassroots impact. Now that we have this bigger picture, we are bringing everything together with group roadmaps. Roadmaps hold the information for groups and will include activity and interaction in months ahead. They also house goals and objectives for connecting with each other and folks in our communities, strategies for building relationships with rational offices and plans to add volunteers and positions we don't yet cover.

Along with a timeline for all of these things to happen. Roadmap planning is certainly not a check the box activity. Our attention now strengthens group culture and paves the way for impact with congressional offices in the year ahead and even beyond.

Because 2024 is an election year, we have the opportunity to grow and build communities so we not only have the greatest impact this year, we are also poised to hold strong influence at the start of a new Congress in 2025. Next slide.

Now is the time to be hopeful, bold, and ambitious. Reconnect with your sense of purpose and talk about how you want to grow. Share what inspired you to take your first action and what sustained you in advocacy. In this together with other folks to discuss the change we want to see in the world.

While we believe it is possible and how we will make it happen together. At the outset of the year we can focus on outreach and building engagement for new folks to take action together.

With our efforts culminating in the solidarity leadership meeting that Alicia mentioned. We will take action while we elevate skill building and shared awareness in preparation for the election push. In the final months of the year, most advocacy opportunities will fall in the context of elections. We want to be poised to capitalize on all your hard work through the year for greater influence on antipoverty policy.

We have a few points to help ensure our roadmap planning meetings yield powerful conversations to uplift our goal to eliminate poverty and oppression. Ideally all group roadmaps should be complete by the end of this month. It typically takes at least 90 minutes to complete a roadmap document.

That can be done in a single 90 minute meeting or break it up into two meetings, whatever works for your group. Just make sure you get those meetings on the calendar soon if you have not done that already. Aim to have your roadmap completed by January 31.

Roadmap planning is an all hands activity. Everyone contributes. Each group member should fill out the individual planning form and one of my colleagues will drop that in the chat, thank you. Before your meeting. This is a short one-page document was questions to help assess your advocacy, where you would like to be in the coming months and how you will get there. â€¦ If your group already has an established plan for planning, use that. Regardless of the two, you should document your planning meeting. Group leaders will facilitate the roadmap.â€¦ If you haven't already, bookmark the link in your browser and edit your Google drive.

Let's spent a bit of time on this one.â€¦ We ask that you make the updates now and commit to keeping this information up-to-date throughout the year. Accurate rosters are critical for us to get a clear assessment of where we have congressional what my. It also gives us the ability to respond quickly if actions are necessary. Specific information on the roster includes, name, preferred pronouns, activity status, role in the group, contact information including email, phone, and physical address.

There is also a designated area to list your Action Network either below the group roster or possibly on a separate tab. You may have to toggle over to the last tab in order to find this.

Now, only delete people from your group roster if you are sure that they won't engage with your group again, like when they have moved out of state. If you simply haven't heard from someone in a few months, this is a good time to check in with a call or text or email, or possibly all three, to see how things are going. Just check back in to see if they would like to stay with the group.

If you still do not hear from them, make a note that you have not heard from them and simply make a note of their inactive status.

Group roles are in column E on your roster. These are critical right now. While every group role is important, the particularly vital responsibilities of thisâ€¦ In healthy groups, every person has a role in gaining success. If you have been in a specific role for a while, is there an opportunity to co-â€¦ This is a great opportunity to see how each role may fit.

If only a few members are taking on the responsibility,â€¦ As (Name) says do not take on more roles, take on more volunteers!

The tap to the immediate right of the group roster should be your 2024 roadmap. There is your 2024 roadmap. There are a few different shaded areas to make it a little easier to view sectors to fill in your group norms, meeting times, at which glands, goals for working with members of Congress and media goals and fundraising plans.

I noted that we need to proactively seek volunteers from the congressional districts that we don't currently cover, and I want to emphasize this again now. Having solid coverage through the geographic reach of your group network is very powerful. Do not be tempted into thinking that there are areas that do not matter. Poverty exists in every US government correctional -- congressional district and for that very reason, we need to be there to build awareness, civic engagement and transformation.â€¦

Just a short note here on media, too, Builds the Buy was an incredible success at the end of last year, in part because so many different books were getting published. We want to keep that going. This is another area where every group member should be contributing in setting their individual goals for publication.

Lastly, consider the ways in which fundraising can support your outreach efforts. Having a group fundraising page that's open all year gives the folks you meet and other upper -- option for engagement with your group. The resources are on the web.

Please be as detailed as possible here and the reference through map guide to complete this process smoothly. You can find the Guide, the individual planning sheet and the grassroots roles documented on the RESULTS website. From there, just go to the Working with your Page and then find the "make your group plans" drop-down menu, that is highlighted in blue and with the red circle around on the sly.

Think of your romantic is a living document. -- Roadmap as a living document. You will need to come back to update things like contact information, media publications, advocacy meetings, outreach actions, and in person events. Make a habit of regular updates, which could be as easy as setting a monthly calendar reminder for including as a standing agenda for your meetings.

Also, with our groups, let's plan to revisit our roadmaps each trimester not only to suppress -- celebrate progress toward goals but also to learn from her experiences as we seek in opportunities.

January 31 will be here before we know it, so let's get started on these roadmaps as soon as we can. Confirm with your regional coordinator when you're planning meetings are scheduled and fill out your individual planning sheet today. Also, please share your story and keep us posted on how things are going. If you have found creative work around here at!â€¦ That wraps up my section about roadmaps and I want to transition into some celebration here before we close. And, that is to welcome our new experts on poverty.

For the new year, we welcome these 4 experts on poverty which will bring us to a total of 10 experts. We are thrilled you are with us to continue elevating the experience of poverty in our work. You can find more information on our experts on the Experts webpage. Welcome to Candace, Ashley, Tiffany and Carla.

We are also welcoming a current cohort of RESULTS Fellows, in that this marks the 10th year of fellowship. Please take a quick look at this video as we celebrate this milestone.

(Video plays)

SPEAKER:
Feeling I could talk about the Fellowship forever.

SPEAKER:
I feel like I am part of something bigger than myself.

SPEAKER:
I just feel so much more confident as an Advocate now.

SPEAKER:
You are able to come in and make an impactâ€¦ And your advocacy has value.

(Music plays)

SPEAKER:
You gain so much from this experience.

(Music plays)

(Video ends)

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Fantastic. So excited to see all of the Fellows on this year. Good luck to you in the fellowship and we look forward to seeing the celebration continue throughout the year. Welcome to you all!

Let's move on with announcements: do not forget that our new Community of Change has a new website where you can grab information. You can access these information when you hover over "issues" on our website.

If you are interested in the upcoming webinars we are offering in 2024, just check out today's slides update and the events calendar on our website. Lots of really good activities going on here soon. Reminder that our offices will be closed for observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Already, with that, we hope to see you at our February national webinar on February 3. Between now and then, there is exciting work to be done. This is myself and staff wishing you a fabulous new year. Please feel free to unmute yourself and share readings -- greetings with everyone!

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
Happy new year I hope this is your best year yet!

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
Bye, everyone!

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Goodbye!

SPEAKER:
Recording stopped.

Live captioning provided by AI-Media

(Webinar ends, 2:26 PM EST)

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