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JOANNE CARTER:
Hi everyone and welcome, I'm Joanne Carter, Executive Director at RESULTS. And I have to say we are coming together today on the heels of yet more unprecedented upheaval in them â€“ Mike in US politics, right? Since our last webinar, we have seen an assassination attempt, the incumbent stepping down and the first Black woman nominee. I have to say I have heard from others a cascade of emotions, from fear, to anger, to grief, to help, just to name a few. And I think there is overarching uncertainty we may all be feeling about the future.

But I have to say that after decades in the antipoverty movement with this network, I also know that our advocacy is a constant in this shifting landscape. And our ability and commitment to work across the political spectrum, to engage with all those who represent us in order to build support for bold change and for protecting critical programs, right? Work to create relationships with lawmakers and their staff that are not just transactional. And with newspaper opinion editors to cultivate new allies and Champions, it is one of the most powerful parts of the RESULTS model and it is really key to why we can create impact whatever the outcome of the election is.

And also it is why August is such an important time for our movement every year. Because during this month, Congress goes on recess and lawmakers had back to their home states and districts. It's often a great time to get face-to-face meetings with members and in this election year with candidates. Especially this year! These are moments when we can focus on creating connections with the lawmakers and their staff and new congressional candidates, and laying out key issues. You know? You can bring personal issues â€“ my personal stories grounded in key issues as we share our policy priorities. -- Bring personal stories. We will expand what is important for congressional offices and why it is important for you to have these expenses of advocate for democracy.

You are setting the stage not just for the next few months but literally for the next few years as we build up our fall election campaign.

You will also hear more in the webinar, but I do want to say a few words on the Senate vote that finally happened Thursday on the tax relief for American families and workers act. That bill included important inspections of the child tax credit that would benefit 16 million kids from families -- for families with low incomes. It was freshening and disappointing special for families who need those resources that we did not get the votes needed in the Senate to take that bill forward. But that was election-year politics and not a failure of your advocacy!

In fact, I don't know if you have noticed this, but for me literally almost every story I read or I heard on the Senate vote started with, "The Senate failed to pass the tax bill that passed the house with overwhelming but person support." That was the story. And that is what you created, the overwhelming house support is the only reason why we had a Senate bill to vote on it at all. I will also say you saw and built bipartisan support for child tax credit in substance that did not fully show up on Thursday for an array of political reasons.

And I will end by saying, we live to fight another day. Next year will be a huge tax year and you will hear more about that a little later in the webinar. But I'm absolutely clear that your work with Congress, the media, and that successful house bill has absolutely changed the baseline loop we can demand and expect from next year. So just thank you for the rootless, inspiring advocacy and where that puts us today despite some of those frustrations in this appointment. -- Frustrations and disappointed. I also want to say a big thanks for the fundraising success they know many of you contribute to in many ways.

You might remember that we set an ambitious goal for our fundraising campaign, we wanted to raise $3500 to support our work based on the 3.5 million children in the US and around the world were undernourished. And results of volunteers -- RESULTS volunteers were so committed to our work that they agreed to match all donations three times up to that goal.

And so I'm really pleased to announce that we not only met the new birth match, but we exceeded it! So with that triple match we raise more than $365,000 within the last three months! I want to say a huge thanks to everyone who has donated and who asked friends and family to donate. I also want to get a special shout out to the volunteers from South kids harbour, the folks in Washington State who work together to create a really successful! â€“ Mike who worked together to credible successful barbecue us we can. They raised over $10,000. So thank you so much! Everyone please note every dollar that you raise is precious to us and we are so grateful.

Now I'm really excited to introduce our guest speaker! Melanie Vant is the Director of the Democracy Delivers Initiative at the U.S. Agency for International Development. You know, at a time when democracy in the world and here at home is under threat, and the space for civil society to act and speak out is shrinking and many countries due to government repression, the work of supporting democracy and actively practising democracy has never been more important! And Melanie has dedicated her professional life to strengthening democracy, and also to driving writer equity, health, nutrition and more -- driving better equity, health, nutrition and more! Before Democracy Delivers Initiative, she was staff of the COVID-19 Task Force, and before that the Chief of Staff at the Bureau for food security and feed the future.

Prior to that, she helped scale up power Africa, a presidential initiative aimed at doubling access to electricity across sub-Saharan Africa. So, no small jobs! She was also a field organizer for President Obama's residual campaign and with top organizing with Harper Gans at Kennedy school. So she is one of us, and organizer! And earlier on in her career, she worked for RESULTS for five years and she played a really key role in launching our global health advocacy program that now spans five continents and now has mobilized tens of billions of resources for health equity.

So Melnyk, it is great to have you back in our national webinar! I will handed over now to Ken Patterson. Can come over to you. And Melanie, welcome!

KEN PATTERSON:
happy Saturday everyone. There are a lot of exciting democracy initiatives affluent at home for the next couple of months here to do their campaigning. This really creates an opportunity for us to raise property â€“ my property problems and solutions with them and to educate the public. And we want to support you to do that -- poverty problems.

In July, we kicked off our engagement campaign with Greg fig, and he shared research of what really works and advocacy with congressional offices. That was an excellent webinar and if you did not the chance to listen to it, you should definitely do that!

And so our conversation today continues on our work with the election campaign stuff with Melanie Vant. The initiative that Melanie Vant directs, democracy delivers initiative, divides support to democratic openings and bright spots around the world. -- Provides support. We will look at the state of democracy in the world, look at essential elements of thriving democracies, and we will also look at what this means for us as we deepen and broaden our democratic participation during the selection cycle. -- During this election cycle.

So Melanie, thank you for being here! Can we start out by saying how the US and in the USDA is supporting democracy? Melanie Mack thank you so much Ken and Joanne --

MELANIE VANT:
Joining you all today feels like a family reunion and homecoming. I'm just so honoured to be here. Everything I know about how to advocate for equity and justice, I have learned from you, all of you! And I bring those lessons, and adjusted the imminent equal spirit that RESULTS volunteers bring to your work every day to me and to my work, on the inside so to speak, at UCEDD which I'm very proud to represent today. --USAID.

I want to thank you for advocacy and support for 40 years now. USAID has been at the forefront of advancing prosperity, dignity, and peace all over the world. Democracies however imperfect and messy as they can be as we all know personally, are the very best way to achieve peace, prosperity, and of element for all. There also just intrinsically valuable. -- And development for all.

I will share a story. I remember the first time I washed a sinner, when I was 14 years old I came to Washington, borrowed a suit from a friend. I felt like this big imposter searching for courage in the right words to ask him to support more funding for school meals that my family and friends dependent on in my community in New Jersey. -- Watched a Senator.

I wish I could have benefited from coaching and training from Ken, Josh, Lisa, and many of you. But the power I felt that day got me hooked on democracy and the importance of everyday people influencing the decisions that influence our lives.

And that very same conviction really underpins the Biden administration's focus on galvanizing this democratic renewal, recognizing we are at this reflection point as Ken and Joanne shared. And so to answer your question Ken, USAID is working in over 100 countries over the world to really stand up for those democratic values. We support activists and civil society organizations that are influencing the government's policies and budgets. We help governments hold free and fair elections and turn out their voters.

We support journalists and independent media so that citizens are informed. We trained lawyers and judges to uphold rights and prosecute justice. We have just launched a new policy actually that commits the entire agency to rallying around democracy as a fundamental cause to meet this moment, harnessing all of our development assistance to achieve democratic outcomes.

I'm happy to spend some more time can--Ken to talk about bright spots and what we do through proxy delivers initiative if we have time.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you for those starting, it gets there. -- Starting comments there. Can you talk about how democracy delivers initiative mixed difference? -- Democracy Delivers Initiative makes a difference?

MALI HOLMES:
Yes. We have heard a lot about global freedom and we cannot ignore where good things are happening --

MELANIE VANT:
, Where citizens are coming together or maybe there's a twist of fate to great a more democratic future. -- To create. That is all what democracy is trying to do and support. I'm going to talk about a country that's very small. But it has a very mighty story. Moldova, which is right on Ukraine's border.

So during battling, greed and petty corruption with the Soviet Union 30 years ago, Russia aligned colour guards and masterminded 12% the country's GDP from contraband. A few years ago, people took to the streets, amending -- demanding accountability and justice in a government that will actually deliver to its people.

Unelected â€“ Mike Anna elected member, woman, took on the oligarchs and stood up to Russian aggression in Ukraine. Her country welcomed over 1 million displaced Ukrainians --An elected woman. Many of them still calling will double home now.

Many retaliated by cutting energy supplies, not taking imports from Russia which it really relied on, so many suffered and citizens energy build multiplied. But with support from USAID and our partners, the government quickly identified alternative resources for gas imports. Were able to weather toward -- whether to very difficult winters and they had a place to send their agricultural goods. Today the country is largely independent of Russian gas, which is an incredible achievement! Unofficial candidate for European membership and more --An official, just this October before our election, they will be holding their election and people will vote whether they should amend the Constitution to join the American -- European Union. So with America's help, Moldovans will be free to decide for themselves their future.

KEN PATTERSON:
That's great. So, to sure advocates understand the connection between our advocacy and democracy, you know, what is the connection between development assistance that supports things like healthcare, education, economic opportunity, and strengthening the Democratic from your experience?

MELANIE VANT:
Great question was publicly, we have the data. We have the data. So, we know from decades of data analysis that democracies are more peaceful. Democracies do not go to war with each other can't experience economic growth but lower poverty rates. Democracy do a better job of protecting the environment - providing more clean water for their people, which we know is really essential for the health outcomes that we care about as well. They have higher life expectancies and see more equitable distribution of education.

So, by advancing democratic development across all of our foreign assistance, were helping to ensure that growth and prosperity lift up everyone, not just the favorite or the wealthy. Doing so anyway that's also about protecting human rights and dignity.

I'm going to share an example of something that democracy delivers have been working on a Tanzania which is a health program but also a governance program. In Tanzania, the president there came to office in 2021, soon after the sudden death of the predecessor.

Early in tenure, she made maternal health a signature issue. She learned about M mama (?) which is an emergency transport and referral sized system for pregnant moms and newborns. This is something that USAID had been funding and part of the global funding that RESULTS has been advocating for for years. We were doing this with the foundation.

The way that it works is there is a 24 seven toll-free number, sort of like 911 that moms can call when they're having trouble. A nurse picks up the phone, helps the triage where the woman and or her newborn should go to help come up they find the right referral site, and then using an app, a community driver or an ambulance â€“ which are hard to come by, picks the women up, takes her tuitions to go to get the care that she needs. -- Takes her to get the care that she needs.

They had learned about a mama that had decreased mortality by 30% where the region it was first deployed, she asked us to scale it nationwide which is under two years ago. I'm really pleased to share that last week we hit 100,000 emergency transports for women in Tanzania. Saving thousands of lives!

And now we are working for a foundation and other partners to scales it in other countries. What's interesting about (unknown term) is it works through the local government. The woman who picks up the phone is a nurse paid for by the government, she is a health worker. The staff who work at the health facility are government health workers and those people have all been supported by Afar and other global health programs that you've all been advocating for.

Through all of that, my knee is flowing in a transparent way,-- my knee, from the capital to the local governance, drivers are being paid to agility and soul about the whole system together working for people making a difference people's lives.

KEN PATTERSON:
That's great and just a pile on a little bit on that one, I mean, is there a chicken and egg sort of thing here? Promoting democracy creates prosperity or does, you know, promoting prosperity and health and things like that also protect democracies? What's your sense of that, if you know what I mean? As we work on our development assistance to support programs and all of that, you know, is that actually helping democracies either stay in place or strengthening them in some fashion or form from your experience and data?

MELANIE VANT:
The way we are doing development, yes. So, one of the campaigns I know that RESULTS has been championing for many many years is access to basic education. I know as a parent, I can send my kids to school and there's a teacher that's trained and their supplies for them, there's going to be water and food at the school if they need eat it. It's not just of the kids can get the education they need to succeed in the world, but also parents being involved in their community, influencing what's happening in their schools, being able to tell their mayors when there is a problem.

There's ways in which now we are hoping parents attract teacher attendance -- helping parents attract teacher attendance and helping teachers advocate for the pay they need.

KEN PATTERSON:
That's great. That's a nice connection to make between what we're doing on education and democratic strengthening.

You were talking about some of the challenges right now and democracy, how concerned are you about negative democratic trends in the world and as you think about your work with other democracies, are we a fragile.marker see in the United States? -- Democracy

MELANIE VANT:
You put me in the hot seat. I am concerned, you don't all need me to make sense of the headlines here at the top of the call or the world. We have our work cut out for us and we know from our own political challenges here that democracy is as much a verb as it is a noun. We have to commit to preserve it every single day.

And that's especially true when there are these geopolitical forces that are behind some very repressive actors. They are relentless but so are the people who are fighting back. Something that the administrators Samantha power always reminds us is that nothing is inevitable and that gives me hope.

KEN PATTERSON:
How does elevating voices of people with lived experiences of poverty strengthen democracy from your perspective?

MELANIE VANT:
Yes, thanks for that. I'm going to give two examples. Just last May, have the opportunity to travel back to Zambia, a place I hadn't been in almost 18 years. I traveled there with two of my RESULTS coworkers at the time. We went there to visit Winston Sulu and his family - if you've had the opportunity to get to meet or work with Winston when he was with us, I'd love to see some thumbs up our hearts.

And for me, like Winston sort of embodied that with the spirit of your question. He put a face to the HIV epidemic and TB epidemic that was needlessly taking the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. His lived experience was what inspired me and so many of us to take action. His recommendations for what needed to change at the country level, international system, pharmaceutical companies. It all got us to the point where at NetWare TB drugs are more affordable. When you walk into a clinic, you are being tested for TB and HIV if you're showing up with the symptoms.

It's really a testament I think to people like Winston who are really centering themselves in a way that is often really dangerous and takes so much courage.

The other example I will share is from Guatemala. For decades, you know, the country has been rocked by really corrupt leaders and crackdown on political dissent, they will shut down to independent newspapers. Most of the country was marginalized and neglected. Last year, this really (indiscernible) rose up and said enough, they got behind a candidate, a reformer who was brave enough to stand up against powers, at great personal risk. And were really powered that movement for Indigenous communities and all of their diversity and richness, they organized around the country with young people and they won against all odds.

So, one of the things it that they did between the election and president Arava Lowe's inauguration and soon after was organized these dialogues in these Indigenous committees around the country where for the first time, these communities were interacting with people for the government. They would never bother to show up before. And those dialogues enabled these Indigenous communities to say directly to the government, "Here are our priorities, here are the issues we want to see address. Here are the issues we want to put forward." And so through these dialogues, we organize dozens of them around the country and the president and administration put forward their governing agenda a few months in court that reflected that input.

In one of the really cool initiatives that will resonate with using this club on mono, hand-in-hand, it is an effort bringing nine government ministries together focused on supporting marginalized families to reduce poverty with a huge focus on malnutrition. And so, it's just once again one of those examples where people know what they want, they know the solutions and if there at the center of decision-making and power, good things will come.

KEN PATTERSON:
That's great and it's great to hear were kind of on the right track and were taking that on inner advocacy network as well.

So, last question for you Mel. So, what reasons can you see as to why people should take heart in the current political moment?

MELANIE VANT:
For me, it's seeing all of you on this call on a Saturday in August, instead of sitting at the pool. You here to learn how to be more effective advocates for your communities come on behalf of your families. It is such a critical moment in the country, you give me that hope and I'm so privileged that I got to spend this little bit of time with you all and really grateful for all of the work that you do.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thanks so much, Melanie for being with us today, we really appreciate it. This is great content for our advocates who do the everyday work that they do and are plans to engage during this election season.

As Melanie kind of noted here, democracy is not a given state of existence. It takes diligence and, work, management, maintenance, and particularly when there are forces that are trying to tear down - we have to tend to it every day that's really our call to action is to engage in our democracy every day, do whatever we can to engage people to do the same thing we are doing right now.

So, thanks again, Melanie, I really appreciate you being here today. I will have this over to my colleague Dorothy Monza will pick up the nutrition message for us. Dorothy is our policy manager for nutrition and Child health.

DOROTHY MONZA:
Wonderful. Thanks so much, Ken and Melanie. I'm sorry, my dog is fired up to talk about nutrition as well.

So, I'm really excited that were going to be focusing a bit more on nutrition as a grassroots network and really highlighting how fundamental nutrition is to good health and well-being, which is fundamental to our families, our communities, and our democracies. Next slide, please.

The first thousand days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday is a time when our brains and our bodies are growing faster than any other time of life. And you know, children are not always represented, even in democracies. They can't often vote until they reach legal adulthood and their parents and caregivers are really stewards and Africans for their children throughout their lives -- advocates for children throughout their lives and the other thing is their mothers, parents and caregivers during early life.

Unfortunately, not every family is able to feed their children well, even though that something deep down that every parent wants. We've seen firsthand how rich countries in the United States, child deaths have declined over time into the type of extreme malnutrition that was seated next low income countries is of a -- is at an extreme and low income countries that is a severity and amount that we're lucky not to see in the US. We know it is possible to prevent young children and pregnant people in adolescence, we know it's possible to prevent malnutrition in them because in reacher countries that's already happening through improved living standards and clean water and things Melanie touched on but also through government services that we provide here, things like SNAP or WIC which is additional nutrition assistance for people during this important time of life. We have made amazing progress in reducing child stats by more than half in recent years. But of the nearly 5 million preventable child's deaths that remain, malnutrition is an underlying cause of 45% of those. And that is because nutrition is the fuel that our entire body system operates on. You know? Our immune system, our ability to learn, our ability to make emotional connections with others, all of that is based on us having the right fuel. But also the right type. You know? We cannot have, you might've heard of empty calories. It is not just a matter of filling everyone's bodies, although we produce enough food in the world to do that, it is making sure the people have the right types of foods and also the right information that they need to advocate for themselves and their families to be healthy.

So we can prevent malnutrition through education and counselling, breast-feeding support and things like vitamin A supplementation for children at risk.

Where we cannot prevent malnutrition, we can detect it early. There is no need for children or their parents to be at a stage when they are coming to healthcare clinic skin and bones and in a release a state of malnutrition. By the work that RESULTS does to support healthcare systems, healthcare workers, basic immunization, all this creates an environment where people can also have their nutritional needs met and if they need specialized support to recover from malnutrition.

We also know how to treat malnutrition. So all of these deaths are a tragedy but I think especially in the case of malnutrition where we have so many tools available, we have therapeutic foods, we have ways we can omit children into the hospital and help stabilize them so something like diarrhea does not need to be deadly. And so -- admit children into the hospital. So I'm excited about the role we can play speaking up for nutrition. And how something so fundamental is still somehow not being delivered to all the world's families.

A big global moment does coming up for us and is sort of the flagship moment where the global world comes together to

JOHN WILKINSON:
That is coming up for us. At the global stage to make commitments and pledges of what they are going to do, that is coming up next year. -- That is coming up for last. And that process was kicked off by the Olympics. If you have all enjoyed watching the Olympics from Paris, every four years the host of the Olympics also hosts the nutrition for growth Summit.

It's a good moment to take stock that the Olympics are really a global moment that showcases global partnership, solidarity and our common humanity, as well as the amazing things that humans can achieve. I see amazing things that Simone Biles is doing and I think, "It's not be possible humans could do that!" But we can do incredible things and we can and none attrition in our lifetimes too. -- And we can end malnutrition in our lifetimes too!

The US has always been a Goebel leader in health, development, and nutrition. -- Global leader. But that does not mean that we don't have to do more, we should absolutely be doing more!

So in the coming days and weeks we are going to be sharing more information on how you can take action with your members of Congress to elevate the importance of nutrition with them and their staffers, but also you know, helping our members of Congress see how they can be advocates for the US of menstruation for boldness. We have that is a direct line to our members of Congress. In a way do not have a direct line to the president who oversees hundreds of millions of Americans. So we really want the US to make a specific, bold, new financial pledge to malnutrition because we know more money is needed.

But we also know it is a strong public signal to the world. We need money, we need good policies, we need everyone to step up and be bold where they can. And there are a lot of different ways different countries or different foundations or different private sector funders can do that. And so the US, the nature of how big of a role we play on the global stage, we can be the 1st foot out there saying, "This is the level of ambition that we want to see. And this is the world we want to live in, one where we have ended malnutrition."

So coming soon there will be a congressional sign on letters in support of a strong US pledge for nutrition and growth. That will be coming as soon as next week in the house led by Governors McGovern or Massachusetts and cells are -- and (Unknown Name), and we are working on a campaign as well so we will keep you updated with how you can take action and elevate the need for nutrition and growth.

It happens every four years. Maybe some members of Congress do not know about it or they were not in office last time, so letting them know that there is this opportunity. And we will be sharing more in the weekly update and in action alerts as well.

And for a deeper dive into the issue of global malnutrition, you know, some of the causes, where and why it is happening the most, we are going to have a policy form on August 15 at 9 PM Eastern where we will have more time to go into the overall landscape of global malnutrition, including new data from the state of food insecurity report released late last month -- policy forum. As well as we will answer questions about the congressional water and raise our voices for malnutrition.

So I'm really looking forward to see more action coming and to be at the policy forum. -- The congressional letter. I will pass it back to my colleagues.

TaSHON THOMAS:
Good morning everyone, for those of you not aware I'm the Director of US policy. We will go over a few updates on the US policy side as well.

Before we begin that, I first want to take a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lane of the 18th Congressional District of Texas. -- Sheila Jackson Lee. For those of you not aware, I first started off my career as an intern and staffer form Jackson Lee -- for Jackson Lane many years ago. She was a hard worker for the country and state. In fact she has cosponsored several pieces of our legislation which we have back, and most notably and recently was the author of the federal Juneteenth holiday bill. â€“ Mike Jackson Lee will truly be missed and I know the Texas and Jackson group loved working with her. So at this moment we will have a quick moment of silence in her memory. -- Jackson Lee.

Thank you all so much.

This week was somewhat of a whirlwind when it was announced that Senator Schumer would finally release the tax package this year. This week. As the Senate was going out for August recess. There was some expectation of some truly crossover support from Republicans. We unfortunately it did not pass in a vote of 48 to 44. Of course you need 60 in order to break the filibuster, so you basically have two votes and this did not pass the first hurdle.

This is a great note, this was not a failure of our advocacy efforts! This is just election season. And so during election season you're going to get votes from folks whoâ€¦ Or no votes from folks who would have otherwise supported if it was not less than 100 days from the election.

And so with that, we will continue over the next couple of months. I know during the campaign cycle, campaign advocacy, you're talking points include talking about child tax credit, talking about this recent bill and really setting that foundation for 2025 when we know that the tax may getting --taxmaggedon as they put it, where all of the major tax legislation will end in 2025. So we know that they will have a conversation about that. More than likely it will be within the first 100 days of the new Congress.

Then what about SNAP and housing? SNAP, there is currently no movement on the farm bill. It seems like those conversations have stalled out until of course after the election. Understanding that the farm bill expires in September, chances are that there will be a continuing resolution to continue to fund and its current levels -- at its current levels all programs included in the farm bill, which include SNAP.

I know there is a meeting in Senator's office this week, so as one of the items we want to know as the chair of the centre and the committee, is it even an option? We get a farm bill this year? And if there is a Farmville â€“ Mike will we get a Farmville this year? And if there is a form bill, -- farm bill. We are waiting to see. As mentioned before, it will probably be a continued resolution until next September but we shall see.

And in regards to housing, as we have a -- have had a webinar around grants pass case and what that means for us in different cities, we are looking at what different states are doing in regards to the Grants Pass decision. This is a bipartisan thing to where homelessness is now being criminalized even more. And so it is one of those where we are trying to really figure out what is next, how this will impact homelessness, homelessness criminalization throughout the country. As well, most notably, Furnace governor has ordered all call for news homeless encampments in the city cleared, which has been â€“ but California's governor, which has been a very un-tactful way to announce that. -- Has ordered all homeless and caimans in the city to be cleared.-- Homeless encampments.

We are watching out for that as we continue to work on Housing Policy in general and the housing team is looking for having those conversations with you all is well. Next slide.

So, what are your actions to date? For the CTC it is simple, email your senator and expressed disappointment with the sample or thanks depending on how they voted -- with the Senate vote or thanks depending on how they voted. Also publish a letter to the editor, once again expressing your disappointment. Again what we are trying to do is set up the foundation for 2025.

For the Farmville and SNAP, continue to talk to your members of Congress. They also move quicker than the Senate most likely in regards to this. And make sure they understand our viewpoints around SNAP. -- Farm Bill. We need to explain their movement of the family band and ensuring any family that needs SNAP will have the ability to use it. -- Sell any band. --felony ban.

We submitted a letter to Congress that is urgent, saying to fix the snow and create urgent housing solutions. Again it is part of the campaigning advocacy we are doing as well. -- Fix the crisis and create urgent housing solutions.

Again for the CDC, the fact that we were able to even get it where it is today showcases that our country is in need of action around this item. And will more than likely do so and 2024. -- Do so in .25. -- 2025. It is a few months but we will continue to do the work to ensure that the child is suffering and poverty. So we look forward to those conversations in the next few months.

SARAH LEONE:
Thank you so much, TaShon. For those who don't know me and are new to the grassroots movement, my name is Sarah Leone. I am a senior associate on the Grassroots Impact team. I'm going to run you how you can engage in the election, as well as your candidates this upcoming August.

So, we are now in the August recess. The House of Representatives did begin their recess at the end of July and this past Thursday, the Senate left on the recess. So, this recess will run from now until September 9. During the August congressional recess, we know that US senators and representatives at lead DC and go back to their districts to meet with constituents, fundraisers and donors, townhouse, community events. This will be an especially engaging August recess as many incumbents and candidates, new candidates for Congress will be in the community and are up for reelection.

For those who attended last month national webinar, Brad FH for the quick rational management presented some powerful and up-to-date research on having effective congressional meetings. While our members of Congress are home this month, we can put will be learned from Brad to better use. Above all, we want to keep in mind that the members of Congress are home, they want to meet with you and hear what's important to you, and candidates for office as well.

So, this is your opportunity to get to know them about poverty issues around your home time, and globally. Our goals for this recess are to confirm meetings with members of Congress and folx running for those seats as well and to mobilize people from the commute is to attend the lobby meetings with us.

Again, the goals of a lobby meeting are to introduce your RESULTS as a resource, and to prove that the community care is about the poverty issues that we are bringing to their attention, or educating them on issues. Are also gathering information about the office. If this is a new office or lobbying with, maybe you don't have as much information on them, this is a great opportunity to get background on who is the staff in the office, what poverty issues of the members of Congress have previously supported and so on. It's a a valuable opportunity me with your representative or senator's face to face, you will have the opportunity during August recess but even if that's not possible, I meeting with the key staff members is equally effective.

If you have lobbyRESULTS during the off recess before, let us know by putting a number one in the chat or a yes in the chat or raise your hand.

So, why do we do it? Why do we engage with the August recess? It's an opportunity to build more relationships whether staff of DC, or local staffers from the district office. Sometimes when we don't get answers from the DC office, we can't leverage with the office to get response was to pipe seen it happen. Many of you have heard from Ken Patterson's tips and tricks for getting an office to respond and this is what he recommends.

Again, why do we do this? So that we can demonstrate that real people have power with our members of Congress to buy uplifting new voices from our community who are also in support of our issues. So, members of Congress do keep attendance records at lobby meetings and this can help build - this can help RESULTS build community-based action takers, truly.

The work you do in these meetings helps us forward for policy request which helps us to chip away at the high rates of poverty in this country into the world.

So, next, we will talk about best practices for in district lobbying. Our goal is to build relationships with members of Congress that will build influence over time, not necessarily to always get an immediate yes. I know many of us have dealt with offices before we know we will not get any obedient yes and that's pretty common knowledge - immediate yes. Building relationships takes time and we describe advocacy as a marathon and not a sprint.

For the sake of time, I will highlight some key tips. Focus on building relationships is going to be important, even if you disagree with your member of Congress or staffers on many things. Find one thing that you have in common, that can be the starting point for building the relationship of stop invite your community members to attend, reach out to local homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, community activistsâ€¦ They will not pass up an opportunity to speak with representation but also feel free to reach out to people who aren't as actively engaged.

Be persistent, I know we talk about being persistent here at RESULTS. Again, they work for us, we elected them into office so if you ever feel like you're getting the runaround with an office, feel free to stand your ground and honestly genuinely say, I'm a constituents, can we find steps and find a solution to work through this?

Additionally, try to find your Member of Congress that a community event. If you know they will be in town, at a certain event, try your hardest to go. Rally your RESULTS group members come seeking get a group and see if you can find out if they are there and just have an introduction, that can be really important.

Every lobby meeting has an agenda. They have roles. There's practice and lobby prepositions that happen and so we share the responsibilities as advocates to enable volunteers to do this work.

So, have a question for you all. Do you have other basics or things that you think are important? Feel free to put them in the chat, what do you think the best practices for interdistrict lobbying? We will be saving the chat and sending this as a resource.

For now, I'm really excited to introduce David Burns was going to share a bit about great instances and experiences that he's had with his members of Congress, especially with representative Keen.

DAVID BURNS:
Hi, can you hear me?

Great! This is perfect to talk about this a little bit. New Jersey in the middle of (indiscernible) we having state, county and local fairs and these are great opportunities to possibly meet members of Congress.

I remember last Sunday, there was a street fair in the town where I live, in Hackettstown, New Jersey. I was thinking it's possible that Tom King Junior would come in person. I did a little preparation before the meeting, so I came up â€“ I thanked him for supporting the (unknown term) resolution that was approved by Joe Biden in the - at the Gavi conference. I literally want to thank him for the support.

I didn't know for sure that he was going to be there but when I found a table that he had, asked him, "Is it the Congressman?" And they said, "The Congressman is walking around right now." So, I walked and found him and thanked him for supporting the resolution and I mentioned that I had written a letter to the local newspaper. I literally quoted his words from the resolution and he said, "Thank you. Very kind" And he said the most important thing, "Is there anything else I can do to support you?" And I said, "Don't worry. We will be sending all kinds of things in the mail to you."

So, my point is, with a little bit of planning, and preparation, you can do this too. Your congressman is likely to be at a state fair, so we can approach you or her and plan and make the request, and most important is to have fun with it because after you meet with your Member of Congress, you can enjoy the rest of your day at the fair, knowing that you made a difference will stop

SARAH LEONE:
Absolutely. Thank you so much, David.

DAVID BURNS:
That's all I have to say.

SARAH LEONE:
Wonderful. Thank you so much for sharing these valuable insights when people are preparing to engage with their members of Congress and candidates. So, thank you again.

So, lastly before I handed off to my colleague just real quickly as you continue to engage with the candidates and maybe incumbents, please make sure to report your encounters in meeting on the reporting form. You will see that we are sharing where you can report that on the RESULTS website. With that, they you so much for listening and I will pass it over to Karyne.

KARYNE BURY:
Thank you so much Sarah and David. That was a wonderful share. Can y'all hear me okay?

Hi, everyone. My name is Karyne Bury and I'm part of the Grassroots Impact team. Last month, we shared during our election engagement campaign that were here to support you from now through November 5 and beyond as we position ourselves to hit the ground running in the hundred 19th Congress running in January.

I want to share a quick recap of our goals was to particles during the election engagement season is to interact with as many incumbents and candidates as possible, state fair is a sound like a lot of fun so I would definitely take that as a suggestion. Getting those folx who are running for office on the record in addressing US and global poverty issues, elevating the issues of most of the public narrative and continue our base building efforts that we started this summer.

Amongst the advocacy actions activities that we are engaged in this month include writing to â€“ excuse me, during the month of August is not only meeting for representatives, but also in generating media.

So, as David shared and demonstrated in his share today, media rating can be very effective. For example, using the Congressman words directly to the editor. Media is a critical point in the election cycle. What you can get publish now will matter in the next four months.

By amplifying media you can build awareness of poverty issues amongst the public, prompt concerned as well as desire for action, and make a strong case for leaders were running for office support solutions. And then, once they are elected in January, hold them accountable for what they said during their campaigns. We are really focused on compelling candidates to take a position, a yes or no answer on issues and hold them to the record.

So, I wanted to share just a quick overview, again of where we are in the month by month timeline. We just heard some wonderful, inspiring, insightful perspectives from Melanie Vant on global democracy, so I encourage you if you've taken notes today to bring those into your office around discussing issues about bringing an end to global poverty.

In the September National Webinar, be sure not to miss my colleague's media training on how to (indiscernible) media, but cuts through the noise of the election cycle. September will feature a guest speaker, who will be retiring at the end of this year. So we put forward to seeing you at our next webinar. Next slide, please.

As a reminder, we also wanted to share some of our resources. Our election team will be hosting office hours, starting this week. Myself, my colleague Joanna Distefano, Sarah Leone will be available on Wednesdays through the month of August. Will be providing you with coaching support, for election engagement, specifically for August recess.

I think the dates are on the next slide. Our hours are listed as well. There's no registration required, so feel free to join us starting this week.

And in switching gears, wanted to share RESULTS can maintaining the commitment, we maintained our commitment to creating inclusive environment for everyone engaging in advocacy and democracy.

As outlined in our value statement what you can find in the link posted to the chat, the false statements, at RESULTS we pledge to create a space for all voices, including those of us who are currently experience in poverty. We will address oppressive behavior in our interactions, families, committees, work, and world. And we feel our strength is in our diversity of experiences and not in our assumptions.

As we cope deeper into the election season, we will be too often exposed to racist, sexist and oppressive rhetoric which causes more tension and stressors and tumultuous season. Know that we are here for you all as advocates and we will be providing support to help navigate this environment, as we continue to advocate for a more just and equitable country and world.

Are you or have you experienced an incident that you just don't quite know how to respond to? And if it felt wrong or uncomfortable, it is. If there is a situation that you want support for finding solutions on how to respond, we have updated and posted on our call in/callout guide that we will also post in the chat. The guide provides written additions and resources on how to respond to oppressive comments and behaviours, specifically in RESULTS spaces, whether this happens with Heather -- with fellow advocates, members of Congress, or other situations. Calling in and calling out are ways to address oppression in areas that value conclusion. And we want to tell you how to respond to oppressive comments and behaviours in a way that allows for accountability, understanding, grace, and growth. If you are dealing with a particularly challenging situation and you feel he needs staff support to process, we have a staff response team that will help identify next steps.

You are welcome to share this event with us by complaining a short form. The form will help us stay aware of conflicts within the network and help us maintain the inclusive culture we see. You can submit the form anonymously and at any time! During this particular season, advocacy is here to provide an antidote to feelings of distress and anxiousness. Cultivating inclusiveness and safety is our goal, and it is really relationships you have with each other as advocate that helps in doing the challenging work and that is what is paramount.

With that, I will pass it off to my colleague who closes out with some announcements.

--JOS LINN:
great thank you. I will not go through all the announcements was mild, you can find them in the sides and the events calendar. -- Slides. Sorry, we are going to do the poll first to see who is on the webinar today! In a minute the poll will pop up and you can answer who is in the ring today. Please let us know so we can get an accurate count of the number of people who participated today! -- Who was in the room today. We will take just a minute to do this.

Alright, please fill it out if you have not checked on it yet. We are getting there, three quarters thereâ€¦ 15 more seconds. Anyone else? Anyone else, anyone else?

Alright five, four, three, two, one. Alright thank you so much everyone for taking the bull and letting us know! â€“ Mike taking the poll and letting us know! You can access today's slides on our webinar pager here. You can also find it on our events calendar. And as Karen said, we look forward to seeing you next month September 7 and our special guest speaker representative Derek Helmer from Washington State, we will have a conversation with him!

With that we will transition to the final part of our call. --Karyne.

I'm going to say most of us on step have been dreading this part of the call. As you may know, the Director Ken Patterson is retiring at the end of this month after 19 years on staff at RESULTS! We have known this has been coming for several months, but it still feels like Ken's departure has snuck up on us and quite frankly, most of us are in denial about it. So since this is Ken's last National Webinar as a staff person, because many of you know Ken from your tender and RESULTS, we want to give you the opportunity to say farewell. -- Tenure.

If you are so inclined, we want to assure you -- invite you to share parting words with Ken. If you would like to speak, use the right-hand feature in Zoom. It is on the bottom panel under reactions in Zoom.

SPEAKER:
I'm really happy for you Ken, and --

JOANNE CARTER:
And really sad for us because we all got to know you, I got to know you during grassroots work and right from the start can have the passion, the persistence, the optimism, the willingness to be bold that he has brought to all his work in RESULTS and when he was brought on to step two lead grassroots work. I have been honoured to work with him for 19 years!

And Ken, honestly it is hard to overstate your impact on a movement and the work in the world. More than that Ken, you have always had crystal clarity on the power of our grassroots advocates, on their impact on politics. And you have been a champion of grassroots and billing supporting your network and equipping them and allowing them to discover and act on their political power which has been transformational for themselves and for the world.

And I love you because you have never been stopped and only energized by big, bold goals! And you have been there for grassroots day and night. You have been on 225 RESULTS webinars! And I will just end by saying can, big part of the--Ken, a big part of the legacy that you lead is a huge part of this team who you heard from today will take this work forward, and as well as a huge contributor in the grassroots era, when we celebrate the tens of billion dollars that we have helped leverage and of the policies that are equitable in that matter in this world â€“ Mike leveraged, -- leveraged, we owe so much of that to you and the team that you supported. Into the power of your work over the last two decades and going forward is really a testament to you! -- and the power of our work over the last two decades and going forward is really a testament to you!

SPEAKER:
Thank you. There are people in the cute so when we unmute your line, please be brief. We will get to as many as we can. And please remember to keep your line muted until you are called on. Let's first go to David Burns.

David you should see that I have on muted your line.--unmuted. Go ahead David.

DAVID BURNS:
OK. I didn't expect to be first. But, Ken, I just want to acknowledge you being there for a difficult time in my life with my injuries. And we talked through a good part of that. And I just want to say how much I really appreciate your support and friendship in that! And just think you and -- thank you and all the best in retirement and you know that we are not far away, so thank you! Strike right thanks David. Let's go to Teri and Bill Nicholson. --

SPEAKER:
Thanks David. Let's go to Teri and Bill Nicholson.

SPEAKER:
Hi Ken! We loved having you here in California, and in retirement if you plan to travel, here we are! You are welcome to come anytime. Anytime! We love you.

SPEAKER:
It's been great working with you! Speak Mike great, thank you so much to you both.

SPEAKER:
Great, thank you so much you both. Joseph Perry? Speak Mike can we have worked together a long time â€“ Mike

SPEAKER:
Ken we have worked together a long time. We have done a lot of fun -- stuff and a lot of it is thanks to you. So best of luck in retirement! Something that is dear to my heart.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you Joe.

SPEAKER:
Thank you Joe. Let's go on to JoAnn.--Joanne.

SPEAKER:
Ken has worked with me during his first meeting in Manhattan, since he was before onset, and he has been a great partner to me little time I have known him! -- on staff. Thank you so much for all the support you have provided me! You will be missed. You know, Ken is my go to person when I have something, some piece of information that I need, I go to Ken. So thank you so much for your partnership. I will miss you but we will stay in touch!

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you JoAnn.

SPEAKER:
Beth Wilson?

SPEAKER:
Ken, I will never forget when I joined results my back in 2007 one I was getting so many messages from RESULTS saying, "Do this, do that." And I felt like a failure because I was working full-time and I could not do them all. I somehow sent you a message and you called me up on the phone and you said, "Beth!" Because I wanted to drop out, you said, "Beth, it is not a recipe, it is a menu! You can choose what you do. And anything you do would not have happened without you. So don't drop out! Stay with us and use this as a menu." And I have passed that on many many times to lots of other people. And it is that kind of advice given with such love and humbleness that we will all miss so much!

KEN PATTERSON:
Thanks for that.

SPEAKER:
Thanks so much Beth. Let's go on to Joan Hornby.--John. You are on mute John.

SPEAKER:
There we go, I'm sorry! I was pressing the wrong button. Hi Ken! 12 years ago when I became an RC, had a very low -- ahead very little idea what that meant. And throughout the years of the RC roof treats and you coming to support us in Washington State â€“ McCarthy retreats, I learned a lot--RC retreats, and I contribute a lot of the success we have at in Washington State to you! You've made a huge -- huge difference in encouragement, I never see website, you're always optimistic and that is very infectious. So thank you for all the great support you have given us over the years! We will miss you.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you Joan.--John.

SPEAKER:
Thank you. Mukund?

SPEAKER:
I joined RESULTS relatively recently but thank you so much for helping me set up a chapter in Columbia. You were instrumental in guiding me through that process and helping me with gathering promotional materials and to really start the chapter.

So I really think you for your service here at RESULTS! -- Thank you. Thank you for guiding me, and yeah.

KEN PATTERSON:
I really appreciate that, thank you so much!

SPEAKER:
Let's go to Bree.

SPEAKER:
You have not only been a treatment for about a friend. You have taught me to be a better advocate and leader and so I think you so much! --you have not only been a great mentor but also a great friend.

SPEAKER:
I will make sure we get can a copy of that--Ken. I won't leave the last few minutes for Ken to share the thoughts he has. Thank you everybody --

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you everybody! It is easy to question oneself as a person responsible for grassroots network of volunteers. You know, we asked big things of all of you, things that often times seem impossible.

You know, go and get Congress to agree on policies and funding levels that will make differences for millions of people. And by the way it will cost several billions of dollars. Oh yeah, go out and commence people in your community is that they have more power than they possibly know and get them to do things that they have not done before. -- Go out and tell people.

I have asked myself if I'm too far out on the skinny bridges as I do is work and the things we asked people to do. But again, you just do it. You do it over and over again and even when things do not go away --branches, like this VTC thing, we keep going because we know that persistence is all. -- Persistence pays off. --CTC. Your boldness and persistence has inspired me and kept me going.

I hear a story that someone did something with someone with conference. Someone decides that they're going to have an encounter with a congressional staff that is just changing. So, I just hope that have been able to bring a bit of that inspiration and support that you've given me back to you, and I just encourage you to keep on fighting, and to keep on going, and keep on making the world a better place. I just want to thank all of you so much.

JOS LINN:
Great. Thanks, Ken. Were going to be indebted to you for a long, long time. So, just folx know, Ken is here until the end of the month. You will still be getting emails from him telling you to do stuff. He's not going to be a ghost, there's still plenty to do before Ken leaves but thanks everybody for sharing your thoughts. Thanks everybody for being on the webinar today. The recording will be up later this afternoon. Let's have it can unmute the lines and we can all say farewell to Ken, bon voyage and happy retirement.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thanks, everybody.

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
Goodbye, Ken.

SPEAKER:
Thank you for always helping.

SPEAKER:
We love you!

KEN PATTERSON:
Love you all too.

SPEAKER:
Glad we have one more webinar.

SPEAKER:
The world of (indiscernible) Oregon awaits you.

KEN PATTERSON:
I love those invites (Laughs).

SPEAKER:
Take care.

KEN PATTERSON:
And the heat of Florida.

SPEAKER:
And the rain in Washington (Joke/joking).

(Laughter)

SPEAKER:
Come to Austin.

SPEAKER:
I expect to see you more in North Carolina. You're going to get a lot of invites, but remember us (Laughs).

KEN PATTERSON:
Will do, for sure. Have a great weekend. You'll probably receive some actions to take.

(End of Event)

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