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DR JOANNE CARTER:
Thanks a lot, and welcome everyone to this last National Webinar for 2024. I'm Joanne Carter, executive director of RESULTS, and in a special will continue folks joining us for the first time. Your involvement can make such a difference in this key moment.

We will talk later in the webinar to celebrate what we have accomplished. So that we can remember what we have done, and the power of our voices and collective advocacy. So we draw strength for planning for what is next in some of these challenging times ahead.

But right now, I'm going to go right to introducing our incredibly special guest speaker. In terms of drawing strength for our work to end poverty, I can literally think of no one on the planet who was more the model of courage, bold vision, massive impact in the world, and our special guest today. Marcus woman Barbara Lee from Oakland California.

Congresswoman Lee, I what is a few things about you, then I will turn it over to you. Really there are no awards big enough for introductions long enough to honor your life work. The entire Congress and all of us have looked to you as the leader in the fight against HIV-AIDS for over to 1.5 decades. Immobilized congressional support for the president's emergency plan for AIDS relief to make that a reality. And years ago, that early AIDS trust fund you created became the basis physical will fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, which is saved 65 million lives in which RESULTS will fight to protect again and expand next year.

Not only have you been a champion for global health equity, also in centering the lives and lived experience of people in the domestic antipoverty space. You were among the first folks that talked about in Congress who spoke openly about your own experience with US nutrition programs like SNAP, you have continue to uplift the voices of lived experience in the US Poverty agenda. And you also led the charge in naming racist policies as a driver of poverty everywhere, and pushing for the kind of change that dismantles oppression as the root of poverty. And you have had an unflinching legacy and advocacy for justice and peace, including when it is unpopular.

Again I think folks know this, but for some of the folks who are newer. You voted bravely against the invasion of (Indiscernible) by pressure from your colleagues in 2001, the only member of Congress that did that. You've been a outspoken advocate on the Child Tax Credit for Medicaid for women's health, ever so much more. And you have been such an inspiration and partner to RESULTS. So just want to say that upfront, entered it over to you and say how honored we are too heavy with us today.

I don't know if your muted congresswoman.

REP BARBARA LEE:
OK, can you hear me now?

DR JOANNE CARTER:
We can hear you.

REP BARBARA LEE:
First of all, let me say how happy I am to be with you this morning. And how grateful I am to RESULTS for all of the work you continue to do.

And Joanne, let me say to you very quickly, that you know... RESULTS I think was probably the first organization that I started working with in 1998 when I was first elected to Congress. And I just want to say thank you, because I don't know. You know I continue to say that it has been very difficult to have a Democratic caucus talk about and use the P word, and that is poverty and peace. But because of you all, I have been able to actually get established the poverty and opportunity task force, after you helped me do that. And we had to fight our own caucus to say, "Look, we have to continue to talk about working people, the middle class, low income people. We have to talk about poverty and poor people also." So let's use the P word.

Finally they got sick of me, and reestablish the Poverty and Opportunity Task Force. And 100 members join. And that never would have happened had it not been for you, Joanne, and results mac, from day one.

Also let me take a minute to acknowledge, I don't know if TaShon Thomas is on, she is our interim VP and results of advocacy. But from my district. The 12 conditional -- 12 congressional district. Also I know she'd been chair of the Oakland African Brecon chamber. Excuse me he, and I wanted to ask if TaShon is with us this morning to just say thank you for your service.

But Oakland, and my East Bay community, is very similar to many communities around the country. We have high rates of wealth, but we have a heck of a lot of poverty. So poverty initiative such as SNAP, Headstart, affordable housing, everything you all have championed to lift people out of poverty is what we in my own congressional district do on a local level.

You know there is a saying, "Think globally act locally. Close quote I think of that when I think of RESULTS. Because yes, you will understand the world is a very small place. And we are connected by a lot of issues, not to mention poverty unfortunately.

And so for your work on global HIV and AIDS, Global Health, both internationally and now here. And of course here in America. Is what most organizations hard look at as a model for really changing the world. And I still say that is our goal, to change the world for the better.

You know, I was really proud to work on so many of these initiatives with you. Specifically remember when we worked with Congresswoman Seale ball to commission the national Academy of sciences. Historic landmark report on child poverty reduction. And one of the conditions was the Child Tax Credit. And out of that we were able to pass it, especially during COVID, which we saw historic reductions in childhood poverty. Cut it in half. So we have to make that perfect. That never would have happened had we not had that study, had you not been so important in getting that study. I think we got about 2 million to begin to do the work, and we are continuing the work now.

When you look at bipartisanship, it has been a heavy lift, and continues to be. But we have been able to work then with George Bush, it was replicants -- Republicans, to authorize Pat, funds, and authorize Pat farm, the emergency AIDS relief program. And we have saved 25 million lives! To date. Now I am trying to get it, a five year reauthorization so we can end the AIDS fight 2030. That's the goal, but of course you know there are some in the United States Congress, some of the Maga Republicans were trying to hold us up and set us back. But because of you we are not going to let that happen.

Also, I hope that you understand and know what we are going to be faced with moving forward with this new administration. Because they are trying to do everything they can do to dismantle government. Which is the framework for our democracy. Our constitutional framework. So we have to be very vigilant and resist what they are trying to do, but also find ways federally, statewide, and vocally, to continue to make sure that people know that they have a government that is looking out for them, and trying to make their lives better.

When you look at the tax bill that is coming up for renewal, we have to push hard to make sure that we do not allow these billionaire tax cuts to continue. And let me just read you the names of a few billionaires we know are going to be influential, who are now influential in our tax policy.

You have of course Elon Musk, billionaire. Doug Bergen, Department of Interior nominee. Billionaire. Howard lugged it, secretary nominee billionaire. Linda McMahon, educational secretary, billionaire. Vivek, billionaire.

When you look at project 2025, and what, remember the appropriations committee and budget committee. They have been doing this for years in terms of offering amendments. The track by chapter and verse project in 2025. And one of the areas they want to do is to dismantle the Department of Education. They want to cut safety net programs, they want to erode our civil rights, they want to dismantle Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which will you know come into this country, racist policy still exist. We have to disrupt those policies and build on Equity and Inclusion Plan tub and they are trying to dismantle that. They are trying to of course deport immigrants. They are going to mess with our sanctuary cities and states. And I'm telling you, I have told my colleagues and my district to lawyer up, because we have a lot of work to do. And even though the Supreme Court is part of this administration now. The guardrails are very blurred. We can always file lawsuits and hold this administration accountable through the courts, the liberal courts. And that is a strategy I hope you will look at when they start to dismantle programs.

The four years, yes is a long time, but for lawsuits that is not so long. So just lawyer up as we continue to work to provide progressive solutions to end poverty. And keep as your goal, and in poverty. Because we have to end, not reduce poverty, but end poverty. In the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, was a military budget it is nearly $1 trillion, having slumped seven audits. Myself and a Republican member forced the Pentagon to do. Become auditable. And they had never been audited before. They flunked seven. We had the investments, the resources and the tax dollars to end of her tea in America.

So stay focused, I look forward to working with you in the next chapter of my life. And I appreciate all of the support, all of the love, and your vision and your sacrifices that RESULTS continues to make to and -- end poverty in America and throughout the world. Thank you again Joanne and everyone for having me with you.

DR JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you so much. I wish you could see the chat, maybe we will send it on to you. That your constituents are saying how much they are going to miss you.

I wonder if you have time for just one quick question actually from one of your constituents.

DR JOANNE CARTER:
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REP BARBARA LEE:
Sure.

DR JOANNE CARTER:
You want to go ahead, as were thinking of going to 2025, does have a bit more of your thinking. Had Susan.

SUSAN WRIGHT:
Good morning Beverly. As your constituent, I've been especially proud of your strong successful record in getting adulation and funds through Congress to improve social justice both in the US and overseas.

What lessons from your bipartisan work can you share with us? You've already shared some, but how can we advocate and help build political will for bipartisan actions to spite -- despite the strong artisan headlands now?

REP BARBARA LEE:
Thank you, because that's the question of the hour.

(Laughter)

REP BARBARA LEE:
Really.

This is going to be about localizing political action. Republicans, especially in rural communities, have poor people. They have low income people. If people vulnerable, living on the edges. When you look at the red states, they have large numbers of African Americans. You have large numbers of black women for example. They try to institute a national abortion).

So what we have to do is organize politically in districts that we know we have the leverage. And we have not done that as much as I would like to see us do that. But I think right now, to get that leverage was republican, because there are some Republicans. They had to do this a few times mind you.

There are some Republicans who have constituents who is a ignore. They just don't even believe they exist. We have to get to those people in these districts. Look at the numbers of Democrats, look at the districts that are, could be red to blue. Look at the districts that have large numbers of people of color and start organizing. Pick five or six districts. Just two votes short in the house. And we have a lot more to do in the Senate. But still. I think we can leverage the votes in the house for votes and the Senate if we organize locally. And I would suggest we do that, and we do that right away. Because otherwise, it's not going to get done.

I will give you a couple of examples. Donald Trump signed a couple of bills of mine into law, and I never had to even call him or talk to him, and I won't. But had Republicans who we found common ground with, who went to the White House and said, "Yes, please sign this bill." And I got them signed.

I was the rep ascended of to the United Nations through three different administration's, including, Nancy Pelosi always used to like to say. "Don't tell anyone, but I nominated her, Trump appointed her to the UN." (Laughs)

Don't tell anybody right?

But I have been the UN representative working on issues with regard to women, and the global South, and poverty, and all of the issues, globe health. At the United Nations.
I am sharing that because where there is a will there is a way. And I think the way right now is to get to Republican district,
five or six, that's all we need. And organizing those districts around our issues, and then dares them to vote against the bills that we are bringing forward.

DR JOANNE CARTER:
That is such great advice and is a little bit like what we saw with the Child Tax Credit in February but that gives us an extra push. Also, thank you for everything. For your decades of leadership, for all that you have been to all of us.

Just to say, we wish you the best in the next chapter and we will deeply miss you and continue to support the staff that you have pioneered and championed. If there are ways we can continue to work with you, we will continue to do that. You have been the Northstar for us and we are honored to be your partner.

One last thing that we were thinking about as you were coming on, we want to express our gratitude, we said this before the call started, you have built and mentored and supported a wonderful staff over the years.

I was thinking about Michael Riggs, (Name), Greg, Julie and so many others. What you have helped seed in the world and the partners we have gotten to work with through your team has been really wonderful for us. Thank you.

REP BARBARA LEE:
Thank you, this is about being a member of team Barbara Lee. My staff has been phenomenal is there is no way I could have done any of this without what they have done. They are out in the world doing the Lords work and I really appreciate that. So, thank you very much for acknowledging them.

Just know in this next chapter, I will be forging ahead and will continue to work with you especially at RESULTS. As I said, you are one of the first groups when I was elected who gave me what I needed when I moved forward to address the P word, poverty and peace. I will continue to move forward. We are just starting and thank you so much for having me.

DR JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you. Goodbye. Yeah, we should definitely send some of the chat, we can pull it out and it would be great to send it to her. I am just going to say a few words. As I said, we are going to take time later in this call, we will celebrate what we have accomplished and start planning for FY 25.

It was great to hear about what Congressman Lee had to say and the reality of the challenges. I want to say a few things before, a little bit about looking back in order to look forward before we turn to the rest of the team. And to acknowledge, this is the first webinar since after the election.

I know we have had other moments where folks were gathered. It was such a turbulent and fraught election period. For many people in our network, election not only involved uncertainty but also pain, fear, experiences of oppression. A number of us who have ended -- identities that have been targeted for decades and very publicly during this election cycle, we cannot forget.

I know this community will stand together in strength and solidarity. It is important to coalesce together and as someone says, we pool our power to protect those who are being targeted and raise our voices louder than ever. You know, it feels like since the November election, we are in unknown territory.

There are lessons we can take from work we dead and successes were achieved during the first Trump administration. The key to bipartisan work in the last year. I think the biggest take away from me is our capacity to engage early and ongoing with members of Congress as constituent advocates has never been more important.

What Barbara Lee just said about five districts, if we can move those, to help shape, you know, this is about shaping congressional priorities. It is also because Congress was and can be again the board and protection against some of the acts of the administration to prevent huge setbacks.

I also see the possibility to make huge progress like maybe the tax credit, if we can build support. As a reminder, during the last Trump administration, our work with Congress pushed the administration to support the pledge for vaccines. When they wanted to/foreign assistance, we encourage Congress to prevent lot in a bipartisan way. And the TV, AIDS and malaria in 2019 as there will be next year and we will continue to work on it, they wanted to cut funding by 29%. We encouraged Congress to go around the administration and Democrats and Republicans flew to Congress in France to make a pledge and increase funding. You know, we also worked, just a reminder, we worked in 2017 to pass the read act with Senator (Name) and we have been champions on that.

That is a very bipartisan piece of legislation and Secretary of State. There is room there was Congress and with our direct work. In our recent work, we built bipartisan support for the tax credit and we saw a remarkable showing of that support in the house. We set a new baseline.

There was an overwhelming vote of expansion for the Child Tax Credit to help families. For the first time ever, both presidential tickets made expanding the Child Tax Credit campaign issue. Folks in the community with lived experience of the credit continued to speak out and affirm its transformative power. We will hold Congress and administration to action and expand the company in ways when Congress takes the big new tax package.

I will say to and that part, our champions in Congress don't even necessarily need to be convinced to want to protect and expand these programs. That helps and we need to build more allies. They need to be convinced there is enough support in Congress for them to take action, even if it means going against others in the administration on the hill. That is why building our network and the big push in the first hundred days will be so critical. It is really exciting to hear about the spike in interest of new people wanting to learn and engage with results.

I welcome any new folks on the call. I recently heard from our colleague Amanda about a new advocate, Maggie, who joined as part of a rural community in Missouri and is dedicated to social justice. After the connection, was long time advocate Beth Wilson, Maggie took the leap and started to meet with other RESULTS folks. She was excited to learn that her member of Congress is Jason Smith and he is the chair of the (Name) committee and the single most important person in terms of this tax policy.

When they met after the day of the election despite the fear, the planning that they are doing and that we can take forward could be transformational. Really exciting to have Maggie and lots of other folks in the organization. Just yesterday I was in Houston with a group of the RESULTS volunteers who put on a fundraiser and community event.

Huge kudos to them. I will also see the energy was palpable. Not only did they successfully raised, at least, going into the event $75,000 and more, and get the final number later. Also, so much interest in people wanting to join and engage with RESULTS. Not just anybody saying, "in case you haven't heard, RESULTS contributors raised $100,000 that are matched to inspire people together." All donations and gifts will be doubled up to $110,000.

We are so grateful for this opportunity and the fundraising and contributing yourselves, a huge thank you. This support is really crucial for our ability to carry out our work, especially grassroots organizing work.

Thank you so much for landing and planting those seeds of action and hope together, we will take them to fruition. Grateful to be a partner and grateful for the work. I will turn it over to Crickett for a policy update. Thank you.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Hi everyone, my name is Crickett Nicovich, director of policy and government affairs and am happy to be with all of my favorite people on a Saturday afternoon. Let's go ahead and go to the next slide.

We will talk about some of the big things that we are trying to finish up this year. We have some opportunities in the last bit. We will launch the lame-duck session and I wanted to remind everyone where we have been and how far we have gotten under issues this year especially with our campaigns.

Just a reminder on the End TB Now Act, we were able to pass it fully out of the Senate. This is the first time we have ever had the spell move all the way through the Senate. We passed it out of the house for a affairs committee. We are currently trying to work with Congress and the House foreign affairs and Foreign Relations Committee leaders to try and attach the bill to one of the moving pieces of legislation. One of the things that we know has to pass is an appropriations bill that keeps our government funded for the next several months, known as a continuing resolution. There is a possibility to airdropped a piece of legislation onto this moving bill.

The continuing resolution. So everybody, if you're calling members of Congress in the next week, ask them, ask your members to talk to leadership about making sure the End TB Now Act is passed on any must-have bill back -- at the end of the year. Next slide.

Likewise, we passed the READ act which is our central bill that Joanne just talked about that we originally moved back in 2017. Authorizing Bill around global education work. It was fully passed by the Senate and has passed out of the House foreign affairs committee.

There are 2 options that are in play right now for this act. One is kind of on the down low, it has not been totally announced. It may be attached to it is known as the National Defense authorization act. Part of what is known as a state preauthorization.

We have had our champions in Congress and the Foreign Relations Committee still pushing to make that happen. It is not guaranteed, none of the text is released yet, none of it is public. We are fingers crossed that it is our smooth sailing because it is a must pass a piece of legislation.

Others are still getting on the suspension calendar. That is a trick that you uses the house to move a bill forward quickly with consent from the committee. So the house committee has given their consent for the spell to move on the suspension calendar. If it doesn't get on, there is a possibility that last minute we could still move it through what is known as a switch calendar where every member of Congress gets a vote. Or it may be a voice vote procedure.

Still a possibility but not quite finished yet. Next slide, thank you. Let's celebrate some of our incredible wins this year in our appropriations. Even though we know we are getting a continuing resolution, we still have not had a final bill for fiscal year 2025.

We did a lot of incredible work in the front of the year to really push up numbers and go to the house and Senate bill around maternal child health and nutrition. Then protecting the funding for all these other programs. David, -- Gavi and tuberculosis and education. We got more people than ever before on the record of tuberculosis and a lot of really strong language.

Because of all of your really detailed work at the beginning of the year on appropriations, really strong language. Pushing to be more accountable and transparent around their efforts. Gavi, nutrition and tuberculosis. Next slide, please.

Of course, our big one this summer, ending our pledge. The multi-year pledge. The first ever five-year pledge in support of Gavi, $1.58 billion. That would not have happened and we know we heard directly from the administration that it would not have happened without the congressional push that you had.

Getting all those members of Congress on the administration and legislation, that helped make it happen and push forward. Yeah, actually getting the 1.58 billion. We had a strong letter for global nutrition with 106 members of Congress supporting Nutrition for Growth. That will be an early decision next year.

We are hoping we can get the new administration to sign up. We do have some strong publican support for our nutrition work, especially some work around using therapeutic foods. The things you need to help children prevent wasting or treat wasting in children. So, we hope to have some really big opportunities next year around that along with all our other work.

This is a huge number, 207 representatives and 40s editors took at least one of our global policy actions. These are just the ones that actually could sign onto something. Barbara Lee's name was not even on this list. The people who were at leadership levels, the people who are working behind the scenes, do not sign onto public letters, but we know our inaction. Our you know (Laughs). Have done an incredible amount of work this year. But to get this many members on the record, was just incredible. And I am just really proud of all of the work that y'all did to get it out to members of Congress early and often, and cannot wait to see what you will are doing next year. Thanks so much. Over to TaShon.

TASHON THOMAS:
Alright, good afternoon everyone, once again I'm TaShon Thomas, interim Vice President of campaigns and advocacy, next slide.

I want to start off solid writing are wins for 2024. And talk about some of the things we are expecting the next couple of weeks and months ahead.

First I want to celebrate our housing win. This year we were able to lay the groundwork for reintroduction of Renter Tax Credit. Really moving forward with what that will look like in 2025. A lot of this has been you will educating members about why a Renter Tax Credit is necessary, and the staff doing ground work as well to ensure that we have bipartisan support for as well as sponsorship for it.

Taken of course after the Supreme Court's case in June, decision about Grants Pass and the criminalization of homelessness, we have been really hitting hard on the education of what that means in regard to legislation on the national level. And how we as RESULTS can be impactful about that.

So you will see more conversations going on. We hosted a webinar this year. And we will expect even more in 2025. And of course we want to give special thanks to all of you well who wrote op-eds, sent letters to the editors, your local and national newspapers, with regards to housing affordability throughout the nation. Next question... Next slide.

Now on to our nutrition wins. We were able to stop the harmful cuts to SNAP. Of course you remember the House committee on agriculture had supported creating, or cutting $30 billion from the Farm Bill, specifically targeting the thrifty food plan, which funds SNAP. And we were able to not only educate our members about it, but stop it in its tracks, so that it may have gotten out of committee but did not receive a full floor vote. So we are gearing up for what that looks like in 2025. But want to give special appreciation to you all for truly hitting hard on why SNAP is needed, and the cuts will be extremely, extremely detrimental to all constituencies.

And then moving on to the WIC program, we helped to save WIC from its $1 billion deficit in funding. And we were able to increase it this year. So thanks to you all for writing letters to the editors. Once again there, and actually meeting with members of Congress at the beginning of the year, typically -- to really discuss why we need to continue WIC and provide the emergency fund is needed to ensure there are no decreases in program attic support to some of the most neediest in our communities, where women, infants and children.

In terms of another when -- win, was finally for the first time there was bipartisan support for the removal of the federal felony ban on receiving food assistance.

So currently, if a person has received a felony, drug felony, it could be something that occurred when you were a teenager, or 20 years old, or whenever. Once you have served your time, you are permanently removed from being eligible to receive food assistance. In both the House and Senate versions, from both the Republican caucus, and the Democratic caucus. There is bipartisan support to remove that felony band. And it is likely going to be on the next reiteration of the Farm Bill, and it's because of you all work and educating our members that this was able to be accomplished. Next slide.

Asked... Let's go up one. Thank you.

And last but certainly not least, he wanted to absolutely celebrate our tax win. This year we had hard on the Child Tax Credit. And because of you walls work, it passed the House 357:70 vote, that's an overwhelming super majority. And because of all of the work you will have done over the years to really educate our members about the necessity of the Child Tax Credit. It's an equitable balance. The reason for creating a new baseline for it, and these new updated conversations. We have a new baseline for negotiations moving forward in the next Congress.

Even though the Senate did not pass it, it was successful in getting the support of at least 48 members on the record. In a bipartisan manner. As will as we know that there were several senators who were out because of the fact they were campaigning. When one particular instance, one of the major supporters of the bill was campaigning to be vice president of the United States, JD Vance.

We know that because of your old work, both presidential candidates had it as a top priority of increasing the Child Tax Credit. It's now our job to hold their feet to the fire to get that done.

I also want to give special thanks to those who participated in the Direct File software development through the IRS, and submitting letters to support in regards to the Direct File, because of that now several states have the option to file their taxes directly to the IRS. And amazingly Elon Musk has proposed making sure that all people have the ability to submit their taxes online. So we will see what will happen during the next Trump administration. Next slide.

And last but certainly not least, opportunities for this month. The Farm Bill of course has yet to be passed. We are looking at a one-year extension. Once again, all of the priorities we have advocated for, we would love to see it in the next Farm Bill. But for right now, we want to make sure this Farm Bill is a clean extension for one year. Remember our model. -- Motto. I know form -- Farm Bill is better than a bad Farm Bill. We don't want the $30 billion in cuts, we want to make sure we are strengthening SNAP programs, and not leaking them.

We also want to prepare for the incoming administration and 119th Session of Congress. As cumbersome and finally said, it is going to be... I am hopeful because of the fact there is an extremely slim majority in the house. And there was not a filibuster proof Senate. That means I have hope that the next reiteration of Congress is going to have two work together across party lines to really work together to strengthen our priorities and policies moving forward. So there is some hope coming out of that, and we will see what happens after the special elections as well. Because we know anything can happen in the special elections. So we are hopeful for what is the next reiteration of Congress looks like. With that I will pass it over to my colleague Jos.

JOS LINN:
Thanks so much TaShon and Crickett, appreciate those updates.

And some as they pulled pointed out, even though we are at â€“ close to the end of the year, you can still make a difference on these issues right up to the end of the month. Whether it is pushing Congress to pants -- past End TB Now Act, Oryza strengthening of SNAP, or education for Child Tax Credit and EITC next year. Your advocacy now can make a difference later. As well as right now.

So thank you for everyone who has submitted letters to the editor and op-eds as part of our Double/50 Media Campaign. As of today you've gotten 170 media pieces published in 34 different states. US publication's counts as a state, that's why it says 35. And since September 1.

So our goal, again, is still 300 media pieces across all 50 states by the end of December. And while that is a tall order, you all are just the folks to meet it.

So if everyone on this call submits one letter to the editor each week until the end of December, I believe we can hit our goal, or come pretty darn close.

Remember, most people are focused on the holidays right now. So while they are busy, you can be pushing Congress to focus on TB, or Globe education, or nutrition, or child poverty.

Then imagine handing your members of Congress copies of these media pieces get published in your lobby meetings during our first hundred days campaign. In early 2025.

And it takes just a few minutes to submit something, but the impact is immeasurable. Especially when you have (Indiscernible) from our website, and as well as new media hooks we are putting on a weekly basis on our issues.

So let's end 2024 with a flurry of December media, and use the momentum to carry us into 2025.

So speaking of 2025, it's that time of year again when RESULTS groups meet to plan out their goals for the coming year. Yes, it's roadmap time! And instead of going through all the guide and the forms which are pretty self explanatory, this month we are going to focus on hearing from you, our volunteers, about your planning experiences and why it's important to go through this process.

So we are first going to hear from Rayna Castillo, who was coleader of Phoenix Arizona domestic group, also one of our Regional Coordinators, also an alumna of our fellowship class from 2021. She is going to share how planning has been important to her and her group, as well as some of the waste they have addressed barriers completing the process together. So Rayna must make

RAYNA CASTILLO:
Hi everyone, I've been a volunteer with RESULTS for about four years now, and I initially joined in November 2020, so it was right before the Group Planning process has started. And while it was not this is really as exciting as my first lobby meeting, it did show me all the different opportunities that existed in the work that RESULTS does.

For exam become I was able to see what kind of leadership I could get involved in with my own group, and delivered to different kind of actions we could take together that maybe didn't necessarily come to mind immediately for me.

It was also just nice has a new volunteer to have a say in the development of our group really early on in our involvement.

So since then I have also seen rates these roadmaps have been important in our work and other ways. For example as a co-Group Leader, adding -- having a document with a list of point person for different members of Congress is a great way for me to ensure I am including all of our members in the work that we do. Except think if I did not have the group roadmap, I would probably just default, try to take the action itself, try to get it off my checklist and say, "Yes we took the action." But instead the roadmap gets me direction from CTRL+B include our members who want to be included in that capacity, and make sure I'm not robbing someone else of an opportunity to take action.

Recently weapon welcoming new members into our group. So one of the things that was suggested, one of our last meetings, was using the individual planning form as a prompt for sharing out, and learning more about others in our group. Which was a great idea command after give special credit to a member Barb who came up with that.

You know, it was just really nice to get to know each other through those prompts, and we were able to share some values and motivations for this work. And I wish I would have done that actually at the start of our meeting, and just let that have been most of the meeting. So definitely recommend that for other groups as you are in the process of doing that.

And so with all of that being said, we have also had our fair share of challenges in getting these completed. And something I've observed is one of the reasons for that tends to be I think groups want to be really inclusive of all of their members, and so one way to ensure that while also being able to get these done in a timely manner I think is just offering a lot of different ways for people to have a voice in the process.

So one tip I have picked up is sharing the group roadmap ahead of time over email, and also just giving people space to contribute over email. Or in other forms of communication too. That way if one group -- member can't make the meeting, don't feel you have to reschedule. If at the next one someone else can't make it. This way there are multiple opportunities for people to still offer feedback and ideas, and that is also the beauty of it being a living document. It's not something that you are just one and done on, but if someone has a just just in later or you want to revisit it, there's an opportunity to still do that.

Overall I found them to be a really helpful resource. For me personally and for our group, to make sure our goals are aligned with our values and motivations, so everyone is excited for what we have planned for the year.

JOS LINN:
Thank you so much, great advice and I'm going to steal some of those ideas. Next we will go to Angela Rodriguez who is the group leader for our North Florida group. That is one of our newer groups, started in 2022.

She will briefly share about their approach to group planning. Angela, take it away.

ANGELA RODRIGUEZ:
Thank you, so happy to be here with you guys. I want to talk to you guys a little bit about what inspires me and my group for planning for the coming year ahead. It is always to go back to our individual why's. It is important we fill out those individual forms as well before we transfer it over to the roadmap. Because it kind of reminds you of why we are doing this. We all know we are passionate about doing this work. But why, personally, are you passionate about doing it.

It is helpful for your other group members to know why you're doing it as well. That is what I look forward to in our planning meeting. The other thing I wanted to touch on when thinking of ways to kind of make the group that we have stronger. Which will allow us to grow in the future which has been one of our goals since 2022.

That is still on the roadmap, getting new members, showing the group. One of the ways I like to do that is plan in person meetings. In North Florida, we spanned from Tallahassee to Jacksonville, we are very far apart from each other and all of our meetings are on zoom. So I usually like to hold time in the planning process, how many times can we meet this year?

Where should we meet? Who should we host? What day works for everyone or the most people? It is really important that we have that time together, in person. It really invigorates all of us, every time we have this time together. It allows us to get to know each other on a more personal level. Having that rapport when you go in to meet with members of Congress makes everyone more comfortable and it feels like we all know each other. And that helps our messages come across better when we know each other.

We can support each other. So, those are my new focuses for this coming year. The roadmap will be very helpful in getting all of that written down so we can keep track of it.

JOS LINN:
Thank you so much, Angela. I appreciate. Focusing on the why is such a core part of this process and I am so glad you have it. Thank you to you and Reina -- Rayna for sharing your experiences with us. We appreciate the time and attention in this process. I hope everyone will bring a similar perspective and energy to your plan. We know that the staff can sound like a broken record when it comes to planning every year but that is the reason. But the slides back up. One, your plans are invaluable to us and RESULTS. The roster tells us how many volunteers we have and how many members of Congress.

They tell us who to contact for targeted action and help us to support you in your advocacy work as well as reaching your goals for the year. They are also not just about us, they want the planning process and roadmaps to be helpful to you as well. Group planning can help you focus on the things you want to do in your RESULTS work.

It can divide the work so everyone feels invested in the success and it can push you to do things that perhaps you did not previously imagine you would do. You have a lot of advocates for 2024.

And we will go here in a few minutes, just know that you are planning you did a year ago helped make those things happen. So, please talk to the group today about when you will do the 2025 planning. We will be jumping right into the first hundred days, we encourage you to plan in December, if possible. If not, set a time early in January.

We hope you will have all the roadmaps and rosters done by January 15 you can focus on setting up your hobby meetings knowing that the planning is done. The 2025 planning guide and resources are online now and the guide is meant to be used like an agenda for your planning.

Next slide please. So go to the website, there is a homepage and once you get into the hub, next slide, please click on the working with your group icon and scroll down to find that. You will find the group planning materials on making the group plan on that page. The group leaders have all received their 2025 roadmap links.

You should be good to go. If you have questions about planning, please don't hesitate to contact me or a regional coordinator to help you in any way we can. With that, I will turn it over to my colleague Joanna DiStefano to talk about celebrations this year.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thank you. We have not met yet, I am Joanna DiStefano, I am joining the call from Morgantown West Virginia. As we approach the end of the year, we get to reflect on our planning for last year, celebrating all we have accomplished in the past 12 months.

Various points in the section, I will be inviting everyone to utilize the chat to recognize folks who have inspired them this year. Please feel free to share folks who have received your gratitude and admiration. Generating media is one of the most prolific actions we take each year. If there is a media person or mentor who is been valuable to you this year, go ahead and drop their names in the chat. Our current count of published media is 522. Without the constant dropping of CTC media from 2023 into this year, the tax relief act may not have passed the house.

Our media on vaccines also helped push the Biden administration to make the US first-ever five-year pledge to Gavi. We continue to be a powerful voice to protect SNAP and to protect the READ act and End TB Now Act before the end of the year.

This would not be complete without mentioning experts on poverty who have published 8 beds that were published 93 times this year. In other volunteers were able to share their stories with the partnership for policy studies. With that, our total count of lived experience media this year increased 292.

That is more than 1/3 of all of our published media and is a vital part to educate lawmakers and the public about the impact of poverty. Let's give a round of applause for the RESULTS employees and volunteers who made the syntax this year.

In person events take off this year, 64 total. Troops in 34 states and all 14 RESULTS volunteer lesions participated in at least one in person gathering. This kicked off with the global speaker tour featuring renowned pediatrician and Vice President of the pediatric Association of Tanzania.

Who shared her experience being a patient, doctor and vaccine expert. Her message emphasized the power of vaccines as well as the opportunity to support Gavi.

We kept things busy through August with 38 local results gathering -- RESULTS gatherings taking place across 24 states. By and large, most were small local gatherings focused on building connection, fellowship and inclusivity also taking action together.

And let's not forget, three regional conferences took place this year in Orlando, Florida, Houston, Texas and see that, Washington. In total, groups have reported over 700 actions taken as part of in person advance or other outreach efforts in 2024.

Due in part to the increased outreach effort associated with these events, at least 50 people have committed to becoming RESULTS volunteers and almost 80 folks committed to joining local action efforts.

All of those new advocates are supported by a cadre of 74 new advocate mentors and nearly 50 action network managers. Of course, none of our gatherings would be nearly robust this year without our planning, outreach and partnership coordinators. Take a moment to recognize these amazing folks in the chat.

Lobbying is the heart of what we do and none of this comes together with the group leaders and congressional point people doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Go ahead and give them a shout out in the chat. Volunteer has long to over 300 congressional meetings with 126 house offices, 66 Senate offices in 17 candidates.

Approximately 20% of all the meetings included a new advocate. The geographic spread of our meetings was also very broad. You can see here we had at least one meeting with members of Congress from all but seven states, which is incredibly impressive.

We've maintained strong coverage of Congress as well, covering 373 offices. That is 279 house offices and 94 Senate offices. All of those numbers represent the strength of our consistency across the country and our collective power to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.

Nearly 200 new volunteers joined the RESULTS groups in 2024, quite a few folks in the grassroots network lobbied for the first time this year. This was also the case with many of our national fellows. They came from 28 states to participate in a held day in May that included 55 lobby meetings. To put their contribution across the whole year into perspective, at least one current fellow and/or alumni of the RESULTS Fellowship participated in 107 meetings with members of Congress.

That is over 1/3 of all RESULTS meetings. Let's which members of the 2024 Fellowship cohort congratulations and for all the fellowship alumni, thank you so much for your continued engagement.

Organizational partners also play a very large role in the lobbying numbers as well. This year alone, returned Peace Corps volunteers and volunteers in the together women rights advocacy chapter participated in over 30 congressional meetings. All the folks making these partnerships strong, we are most grateful for your collaboration.

Last but certainly not least, regional coordinators are the backbone of our grassroots network. There are coaches, mentors, cheerleaders. For established leaders alike, they are doing so much to be a primary source of guidance and encouragement. Let's take a moment to uplift the folks who do so much to uplift all of us.

To all RESULTS regional coordinator, our gratitude for you is immense. Thank you for always going the extra mile for RESULTS. And on that note, I will pass things back to Joanne Carter to present our 2024 grassroots leadership awards.

DR JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you, Joanna, for the really great and inspiring section. Just a reminder, congratulations to everybody on the remarkable work this year with lobbying, media outreach, community building and the impact it has had on Congress and the administration. What it is and is going to make possible in the world.

Now I have the honor of announcing the winners of the annual leadership RESULTS awards. We have two awards, the Bob Dickerson leadership award which is given to a grassroots volunteer who shows extraordinary leadership and commitment to the mission of RESULTS. And Kathleen Duncan award given to a journalist or grassroots volunteer for outstanding work on elevating issues related to poverty in the media.

So, first, I am really proud to announce that the winner of the Bob Dickerson leadership award is Kathleen Duncan. Coleader of RESULTS Houston.

Kathleen, I got to see you in Houston the other day and just to say, Kathleen, you are an amazing, dedicated -- RESULTS leader who has been described as a force to be reckoned with. Truly inspiring and poverty fighter extraordinaire.

The team of advocates in Houston continues to be strong, a big part of that is Kathleen is always looking for ways to support new members to grow, take on new challenges. She looks after folks, builds community, and supports volunteers to be accountable to their goals.

She has been a long long time champion, particularly for US Poverty work, and a leader on that across the national network. But also just maintaining awareness and a bank of knowledge on issues and campaigns is a big priority for her. And I have heard she's a master at convening that information to others.

Kathleen's empowering presence guided the Houston group as they hosted the Texas-Oklahoma Regional Conference in August, and under her leadership all of the members of the group made an active contribution to the event planning, and really took ownership and were energized by their participation as was everybody who attended.

Like I said, had a chance to meet with Kathleen in Houston around her inspiring seeds of hope event. Just again, what a linchpin she is for that group. For many in that community.

So Kathleen, thank you for being a model Group Leader. We are so proud to award this year's Bob Dickerson Leadership Award to you. Congratulations to Kathleen.

I would also like to recognize two other one nominees for support this year. Rayna, Mary and Margaret, thank you all for your incredible leadership. So lots of great candidates.

And now for that Cameron Duncan Media Award. It is our honor to recognize the winner of this year's award, who is Lesley Hartley, coleader of RESULTS Massachusetts group. Congratulations Lesley Heilig.

She began as a dedicated volunteer, advocate and leader as a foundational partner of the Together Women Rise Advocacy Chapter, and one of results mac as you heard and most of you know, long-standing partnerships where she served as chair from 2018 to 2023.

Leslye continues to write and submit letters, inspires others to find their voice, and write in cement letters as well. The work inspires other advocates, including ultimate fellows in her local group. As well as Together Women Rise volunteers, and she continues as a dedicated coach and mentor to volunteer advocates in this organizational partnership.

On a recent RISE advocacy webinar, she shared how to approach letters to seasonal volunteers. Panic to give a sense of FRBR, she has reported 55 published letters to the editor since 2020. In her home state and nationally, and is developed strong latent ships with newspaper outlets such as the Berkshire Eagle and The Boston Globe. And she has really developed a reputation as a subject matter expert in advocating for the end of poverty.) Really about both domestic issues like housing and SNAP and Child Tax Credit, and global issues like maternal and child health and education. And she has been published I think on every single one of the issues we work on.

Her big influence is definitely reaching embers of Congress. The Office of Massachusetts Rep Neil invited her to discuss the Farm Bill in response to several editors â€“ make letters to the editor she published demanding congressional action. And Leslye has a can-do attitude and is always excited to support your fellow advocates and never fails to shine a light on the recall bushman's.

Congratulations Leslye, think you for your media leadership and all of your leadership.

Again, just to say other media champions who were nominated for this award and do fantastic work, Tiffany Tagbo, RESULTS Oklahoma coleader and Expert on Poverty, and John Bauer of the editor, Everett Herald of Washington state. Congratulations to both of you, congratulations to everyone for the missing work you are doing and have done over time. Thanks a lot. I think I will turn it back to...

LAKEISHA McVEY:
To me!

DR JOANNE CARTER:
Excellent, thank you.

(Laughter)

LAKEISHA McVEY:
Thank you so much Joanne. And just congratulations, I think Joanna and Joanne encompassed all of the many things you will have accomplished this year. Congratulations again to Leslye, Kathleen, for your amazing leadership.

Hi everyone, for those who do not know me, I am Lakeisha McVey, I'm Senior Manager on the Grassroots Impact Team from DeMore Nyleve. And as the webinar comes to a close, I have a few announcements to share. But as we always do on these webinars, it is Oscar just put in the chat. We are going to launch our attendance pulled first.

As usual I'm sure you are all used to this by now. But soon you should see a poll popping up on your screen. You should see it now. When you do please select the number of people you have in the room with you, including yourself. This is super hopeful for us to keep track of how many people we have on these national webinars.

People are already zooming to answer, which is great (Laughs). Awesome! We will give you a few more seconds, and then we will pull the poll down. When it stopped moving.

I'm seeing a few more come in. It's so great to have so many people on the call today. Yes, go ahead and keep answering that. Thank you all for filling that out.

Now I want to share a few reminders about some great events and webinars we have going on soon.

The first is that the fourth part of the Motivational Interview Training Series will be happening this coming Wednesday, December 11, 8 PM Eastern time. Even if you have not been able to participate in the previous sessions come is not too late to start. Dr Dave Christian is an amazing facilitator and resource to help you strengthen your skills in using Motivational Interviewing to have more effective conversations.

Someone will be dropping the registration link in the chat soon. All of the previous sessions were also recorded. So you can always go back and watch those, there is plenty more to learn. I hope you will register and join us for that.

And send the next event I wanted to share about is there will also be a Regional Coordinator Open House, this coming Monday, December 9, a 9 PM Eastern time.

If you've ever wondered what a Regional Coordinator does, or have an interested in becoming one, this is a perfect opportunity to find out. You will get to meet our credible regional coordinators and hear directly from them about their leadership role and experiences, and be able to ask them questions. You do have to register for this as well. And someone will also be dropping the link to that here soon. So be on the lookout for those.

But I am not going to go through all of the rest of the slides, as always as you well know. We have plenty of training, support and partnership calls each month. So definitely check them out. And there is likely a training out there for you. And don't forget to submit any of the media lobbying or outreach events that you have going on.

And you can find â€“ you can always find all of these in our events calendar on the website.

And quick tip, if you scroll to the bottom of the events calendar, you can actually subscribe to it so you will never miss a results event ever again, if you're one of those people who likes to go to the mall.

I know we went through some things quickly, especially the celebration slides you might want to look back on. You can always view the recording, the trend script and slides for today's webinar on the website by going to the webinar and training resources page.

And the next National Webinar that will happen will be on Saturday, January 11 to kick off the new year.

There is a brand-new registration link for the 2025 National Webinar, so please be sure to take the time to register so you do not miss those.

Even if you have registered, like I said, even if you register for this one or register for a password, this is brand-new. Someone will be dropping the link in the chat here soon. Definitely take 60 seconds to fill that out so you do not miss anything.

But besides that, this is our last webinar of the your folks! RESULTS office will be closed December 23 to January 3, so thank you all for joining us. This year felt like it flew by. I know with the holidays right around the corner, it is time to embrace the festivities. Whether you are decking the halls, lighting candles, or eating way too many -- cookies which I support, hope you find joy, laughter, and at least one super ugly sweater to wear.

We will see you will in 2025, feel free to come off of mute now and say goodbye and spread some cheer. Happy holidays everybody!

SPEAKER:
Happy holidays!

(Multiple Speakers)

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