Summary of 2011 Successes

RESULTS volunteers worked tirelessly to achieve remarkable results for the poorest and most vulnerable. In 2012, they will continue their winning strategies of building strong relationships with members of Congress, local media, and community partners. The national staff continues to build new partnerships so that RESULTS’ reach will be magnified and even more successful in 2012.

Global Poverty Programs

RESULTS volunteer advocates led efforts to protect critical global poverty programs:

• Funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria held steady at $1.05 billion. RESULTS secured 82 signers on a congressional letter that supported the Global Fund, which was critical to avoid devastating cuts. U.S. leadership is critical because historically every $1 from the U.S. is matched with $2 from other donors. Every day Global Fund programs save 4,000 lives.

• U.S. tuberculosis programs, critical to fighting this devastating disease that still takes 1.7 million lives a year, increased $11 million to $236 million. RESULTS secured 31 signers on a congressional letter supporting U.S. TB programs. Given that totally drug-resistant TB emerged in January 2012, funding for the Global Fund and U.S. TB programs has never been more important.

• Contributions to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) increased by $10 million to $100 million, which is the first installment of a new U.S. three-year pledge to support the rollout new vaccines for the poorest children. Volunteer advocates were instrumental in securing over 71 media hits and 62 signatures on a bipartisan congressional letter to the Administration supporting the U.S. pledge. Over the next three years, this funding will support immunizations for more than 250 million of the world’s poorest children and prevent 4 million premature deaths.

• The House introduced the bipartisan Education for All Act, which will improve the effectiveness of global education funding for the children most in need. Congress and the Administration also supported the first funding for the multilateral Global Partnership for Education, which brings donors and developing countries together to achieve education goals. This U.S. funding will leverage additional money from other donors. REF volunteers generated 50 pieces of media and secured 69 cosigners for a congressional letter that was crucial to achieving this new commitment.
• The House and Senate introduced new bipartisan microfinance legislation that will improve the impact of U.S. funding by ensuring innovations and programs that reach the poorest are supported. Years of building bipartisan support for microfinance paid off as Congress protected microfinance funding in the foreign assistance bill.

• In 2011, our global campaigns advocates had seven meetings with senators and 53 meetings with Senate aides, 52 meetings with representatives and 129 meetings with House aides, 16 editorials published, and 37 op-eds published. Additionally, groups generated an impressive 108 letters to the editor and had 49 groups represented at our international conference.

U.S. Poverty Programs

RESULTS volunteer advocates led efforts to protect critical U.S. poverty programs:

• Despite repeated attempts to cut Head Start and Early Head Start funding in 2011, RESULTS advocates and our allies secured a $340 million increase in funding in FY 2011 (which was not finalized until April 2011). In the FY 2012 budget, RESULTS and our allies once again pushed Congress to reject cuts and instead invest in Head Start/Early Head Start services. As a result, these programs received a $409 million increase, which will allow 968,000 low-income children and their families to continue to benefit from these quality services.

• The Child Care Development Block Grant also saw an increase of $55 million in the FY 2012 budget. After receiving no funding increase in the FY 2011 budget, RESULTS and our allies worked to secure an increase for the CCDBG, which helps fund child care assistance programs around the country. As a result, this investment will allow 1.6 million low-income children and their working parents to afford child care this year.

• RESULTS worked in coalition with many groups to stave off cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), Medicaid, the Earned Income Tax Credit and other vital anti-poverty programs in 2011. Despite being prime targets for significant cuts in deficit reduction efforts, RESULTS volunteers and our allies mobilized and took action to successfully avoid these cuts in 2011.

• RESULTS volunteers helped raise awareness of economic opportunity by promoting the national release of the film “To Catch a Dollar”. TCAD highlighted the importance of microfinance programs in the U.S. in increasing self-sufficiency and reducing poverty. RESULTS volunteers helped coordinate and participated in 36 events in the U.S. to promote the film, generate turnout, conduct outreach, and provide material and action steps for film patrons.

• RESULTS Domestic volunteers once again had an amazingly active year. They met face-to-face with 35 representatives and 16 senators to discuss our issues. They also generated 54 pieces of media and held 88 outreach events. These efforts were integral
in helping secure funding increases for early childhood programs, avoid reckless cuts to safety net programs, and promote the importance of asset building as a means to escape poverty.