

# June 2013 RESULTS U.S. Poverty Conference Call Summary

## Welcome and Agenda Review – Joanne Carter, RESULTS Executive Director

Welcome everyone to the RESULTS June 2013 Domestic National conference call.

A special welcome to anyone on the call for the first time—we're thrilled to have you.

Our action this month is generating media to protect SNAP—the supplemental nutrition assistance program, particularly to create political pressure to stop the devastating cuts proposed in the House Farm Bill which would push 2 million low-income people off of SNAP and deny school meals to over 200,000 kids (though as you also know there are harmful cuts included in the Senate bill as well).

We need to urgently make the case through the media that SNAP works—it lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2011 and it has worked to cushion the economic blows of this recession on low-income families and that despite political rhetoric about waste and fraud—SNAP is actually one of the most effective and efficient programs. That we can't cut SNAP at a time when more than one in four American children are at risk of hunger and more than one in five children live in households that struggle to put food.

Paul Krugman had a [very powerful piece in the NY Times](#) on the triple benefit of SNAP—protecting millions of families (esp kids) from falling into even deeper poverty when people lost jobs in this economic crisis, investing in our future through protecting the nutrition of kids so they can grow and learn and the benefits to the economy of every dollar spent on FS—increasing GDP by \$1.70.

You've done really important work with your members of Congress already and some excellent media and right now, one of the most powerful tools we have to influence Congress in these next crucial days is ramping up that media—letters to the editor, asking for the opportunity to submit guest op-eds and using this moment and this issue to get a meeting urgently with your local paper's editorial board.

And the media work you can do will not only help us beat back the cuts to SNAP but also help address the failure in media to adequately cover the issues related to poverty in America—both by raising the issue and by pushing your local media to cover this.

Related to the need for greater coverage of issues of poverty in America and how we can work with our local media to do a better job, we're extremely fortunate to have guest speaker Greg Kaufmann from *The Nation on the call today*. Greg writes the very powerful and wide ranging [This Week in Poverty](#) blog for the Nation that looks at the underlying causes and consequences of poverty and what's working.

In a minute Jos Linn will introduce Greg and you'll have a chance to dialogue with him. Then Jos will review our monthly action on generating media around protecting SNAP. Regional Coordinator and Board member Ginnie Vogts will lead our training portion of the call. We'll have some shares about the upcoming RESULTS International Conference. Jen DeFranco will update us on RESULTS Fundraising efforts. We'll close out the call with a Roll Call to track the actions you'll be taking.

We really hope to see you in DC on July—some great domestic anti-poverty leaders like Jim Weill of FRAC

We need to keep pushing on SNAP. Thank you for all you do.

## **Introduce Guest Speaker – Jos Linn, RESULTS Acting Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns**

Greg Kaufmann is a *Nation* contributor covering poverty in America, primarily through his blog, [This Week in Poverty](#). Through his writing he seeks to increase media coverage of poverty, share new research, elevate the voices of people living in poverty and offer readers opportunities to get involved with organizations working to eradicate poverty. We're grateful that Greg has highlighted RESULTS a number of times on his blog. *Bill Moyers & Company* syndicates his blog and describes it as offering "must-read stories," and Melissa Harris-Perry calls Greg "one of the most consistent voices on poverty in America." Greg has spoken at numerous conferences and been a guest on MSNBC's *Melissa Harris-Perry*, NPR's *Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane*, *Here & Now*, *Your Call*, *The Thom Hartmann Program* and *The Matthew Filipowicz Show*, as well as various local radio programs. His work has also been featured on CBSNews.com, NPR.org, WashingtonPost.com, BillMoyers.com and BusinessInsider.com. He serves as an advisor for Barbara Ehrenreich's [Economic Hardship Reporting Project](#). He graduated from Dickinson College and studied creative writing at Miami University (Ohio). He lives in his hometown of Washington, DC, with his wife, son and two daughters.

### **Speaker: Greg Kaufmann of *The Nation***

- 1. As the New York Times just recently highlighted, the media has not done very well covering issues of poverty. You are obviously an important exception. What motivated you to start talking about poverty?**
  - Has always cared quite a bit about poverty
  - Developed relationships with kids and parents in poverty through working with the Boys and Girls Club
  - Got frustrated with the news media because media lacked interviews with people in poverty. They only covered the statistics
  - Wanted to start a blog every week that would actually show people the issues and give solutions of how to get involved because people often did not know what they could do to help.
- 2. How can we as advocates challenge our local media to devote more to writing about and covering poverty issues, like hunger and SNAP?**
  - Develop personal relationships with people in the media
  - Have ongoing conversations with people in the media that show that you know what you are talking about
  - Get acquainted with the people face-to-face instead of just relying on phone calls and emails in order to form more intimate relationships with them
  - Show that most people are dealing with these issues. Show that these issues are affecting everyone now, not just low-income people. Show that the gap between

middle and lower class is becoming smaller. This will show that this issue is not just affecting a small number of people

- Give more demographic information regarding hunger, housing needs, etc.
- 3. You've written that it's going to take a movement to force lawmakers to make serious progress in the fight against poverty. What do you think that movement will look like?**
    - Doesn't know exactly what it will look like but it is something that he feels powerfully about, especially after seeing organizations like RESULTS take action
    - Believes advocates need a more visible army behind them
    - Wants to see more people standing together and being more visible about issues
    - Believes we need to find ways to build bridges between grassroots organizations and people suffering the consequences of these policies
    - Believes we should make more advocate partnerships
  - 4. San Diego, CA: Thanks him for [putting more focus on the poor through \*American Winter\*](#), an article that she saw on Facebook.**
  - 5. Des Moines, IA (Judy Noble): What do we need beyond numbers to create change?**
    - Become much more visible and show the desperation that in [American Winter](#) is in our communities. That will get media attention.
    - Be more dramatic and visible, like how the Occupy movement got attention about inequality
  - 6. Louisville, KY: How do you handle having 2 Senators that are not open to your message?**
    - Be persistent and put yourself in a position to gain the skills to make change the necessary changes
  - 7. Greenfield, MA: When you make a relationship with someone in power, concerning the media, and their concern is keeping their reader/viewer base, how can you appeal to them? (If they do not want to lose their reader base due to publishing stories about people in poverty that may offend those in the middle or a higher class.)**
    - Be persistent
    - Find stories in the community about people struggling with poverty that others in the community can relate to
    - This will make it harder for people in the media to say no because these are stories that their readers will relate to

## **June Action – Using Media to Protect SNAP (Jos Linn)**

For this month's action, we continue our focus on protecting the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP, formerly food stamps) in the Farm Bill. As you know, both the Senate ([S.954](#)) and House ([H.R.1947](#)) Farm Bills contain cuts to SNAP that would impact children and families across the U.S., putting them at serious risk of falling deeper into hunger and poverty.

Last month, we made calls to congressional offices, opposing these cuts to SNAP. Thank you for all the calls you made; they did have an impact. In the Senate, although the amendment by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand to undo the Senate SNAP cuts was [defeated](#), so were amendments that would have made these cuts even worse. [Sen. Robert's amendment](#) to cut SNAP even deeper than the House bill and [Sen. Inhofe's amendment](#) to turn SNAP into a lump-sum block grant to states were both handily defeated. We anticipate that the Senate will pass its Farm Bill early next week.

Attention now turns to the House where the threats to SNAP are much more egregious. The House bill would [force 2 million people off SNAP](#) and deny 210,000 low-income children access to free school meals. Another 850,000 households would see their benefits drop by an average of \$90 per month. We're hoping Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts will be able to offer an amendment to undo these cuts, which we certainly support. If the House does not allow his amendment or if they do and it fails, we'll be urging members to vote NO on the final bill. Be on the lookout for action alerts from RESULTS the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> for you to call your House offices about the Farm Bill.

In anticipation of the House debate, this month we want to use the media to remind Congress that cuts to SNAP are unpopular back home. Getting letters, op-eds, and editorials printed in your local papers, and sharing information on social media, is a great way to educate your communities about this issue and push members of Congress to act. Remember, this is not just about influencing how things turn out in the House. We're looking ahead to when the House and Senate begin negotiating a final bill later this summer. If members of Congress see that you – their constituents – are raising a ruckus in your local media about cuts to SNAP, you'll be affecting the final outcome.

RESULTS has a long history of media success. This year alone, you – our U.S. poverty advocates – have gotten 32 media pieces published. Our goal is to get 30 more from this action. If all of our U.S. poverty advocates submit something this month, we'll reach that goal easily.

**TAKE ACTION:** Submit letters to the editor, op-eds, and generate editorials in your local papers urging your members of Congress to protect SNAP in the Farm Bill. The [June Action sheet](#) has talking points you can use for your media pieces, as well as background information about where things are in the Farm Bill debate. Be sure to use information in the [SNAP fact sheets](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to connect SNAP to your state and mention your members of Congress by name in your pieces.

We urge each member of your RESULTS group to submit a media piece. That will help us reach our goal of 30 media successes this month. Also, we urge you to magnify your impact. Consider writing an op-ed or asking your local paper to write an editorial about SNAP. That will bring even great attention to the issue. If you'd like coaching in doing an op-ed or editorial, please contact Ginnie Vogts, who co-leads our Media Training Group at [vmvogts@yahoo.com](mailto:vmvogts@yahoo.com). You can also contact me at [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org). We're here to help.

We want to celebrate and track your success. When you get published, please email Jos Linn the online link or copy of your letter at [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org).

### **Urge Members of Congress to Take the SNAP Challenge**

Another way to increase awareness of America's hunger problem is to participate in the [SNAP Challenge](#). The Challenge asks people to live on a SNAP food budget of \$4.50 per day for a week. Trying to maintain a healthy diet on \$4.50 per day is a challenge SNAP recipients face every day. To get a brief glimpse of what that's like, we invite anyone in the RESULTS volunteer network who is able and who'd like to stand in solidarity with hungry families to do the Challenge. You can do it for day, a few days, or a week – whatever you feel comfortable with.

The experience will not only help you walk a few steps in these families' shoes, but your experience also makes for a great media "hook" for letters, op-eds, and editorials.

Already one member of the RESULTS network has taken the SNAP Challenge. Kathleen Duncan of Houston did the challenge this week as she was driving from Texas to Montana for the summer. Let's hear what it was like for her.

### **SNAP Challenge Share – Kathleen Duncan (calling from Columbia Falls, MT)**

*Because I'm a Regional Coordinator I heard earlier than some about the SNAP Challenge. It took me 2 weeks to get psyched up to take it. Not understanding that there is a webpage for the SNAP Challenge that has suggested menus that meet the \$4.50 per person, per day criteria; I made up my own menu using two resources. Resource #1: came from my daughter and son-in-law with whom I am visiting who immediately went to their kitchen and pulled out a small sack of red beans, small sack of rice and a small box of Jiffy biscuits. While they didn't join me, they were eager to advise. Resource #2: I recently volunteered at the local food bank where we put together the Buddy Packs that go home with kids on Fridays inside their backpacks. I remembered we packed 1 box of not-brand name cereal in addition to a small bag of rice, 2 individual cartons of un-refrigerated, chocolate milk, and 2 cans of beans. So I'm eating 1 cup of cereal in the morning with milk and rice-and-beans twice a day along with 1 biscuit twice a day.*

*How is it? I was hungry the first 2 days, not so bad by the third day. But the absence of fresh fruit and fresh vegetables is bothersome. Didn't fully realize how privileged I am to be able to easily add these fresh items to my diet. I plan to use this last sentence somewhere in my media piece.*

For more information about actually doing the SNAP Challenge, [FRAC](#) and the [Jewish Council for Public Affairs](#) have some great resources to help you.

And you won't be doing it alone. From June 13-19, Reps. Jim McGovern, Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky, Joseph Crowley and a number of other representatives will be taking the SNAP Challenge as well. We urge to ask your members of Congress to take the Challenge with them. If you're doing the Challenge yourself, that could motivate members of Congress to also participate. FRAC has a copy of the [Dear Colleague letter](#) urging members to participate you can forward to your representative's office.

### **Additional Action**

Urge House members to co-sponsor [H.Res 90](#) (currently [135 co-sponsors](#)). Use our online e-mail alert to send your message: <http://tinyurl.com/HouseFarmBill>.

You can also use our [online LTE alert](#) to send your letter today. You can keep up with the latest on our work around the tax credits and early childhood issues in our 2013 campaigns in the [2013 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Summary](#) and Recent Developments pages on the RESULTS website.

- [Recent Developments in Economic Opportunity Legislation](#)
- [Recent Developments in Nutrition and Health Care Legislation](#)
- [Recent Developments in Early Childhood Development Policies](#)

Now let me turn it over the Ginnie to lead our advocacy training for this month.

### **Media Training – Ginnie Vogts, RESULTS Columbus Volunteer and Regional Coordinator**

Hi folks. This is Ginnie Vogts from the Columbus Ohio group. I am also a Regional Coordinator or RC for RESULTS, supporting a number of groups around the country. As part of that role, I co-lead a team of RCs that are tasked with increasing the number of media hits for RESULTS this year. Our goal is to double the number of media successes this year, which means getting 100 pieces published pieces published concerning U.S. poverty.

I've been doing media advocacy for a while now but I still get intimidated by it sometimes and have to remind myself of the basics. When I do that, I realize it's easier than I thought it was. So let me share with you Ginnie Vogts tips for getting media published, which I've learned from RESULTS and my own personal experience.

1. **Make a plan.** One of the biggest obstacles to doing this work is simply making the choice to do it. But if you take a few minutes to plan out what you want to do, it makes it much easier. This means being intentional about it and setting aside time to do it. It also means understanding what your local paper prefers. What's the word limit for letters or op-eds? Do they prefer you submit them online or via e-mail or fax? You can normally find the answers to these questions on your local paper's website under the Opinion section.
2. **Have a buddy.** Pair up with people in your group or find a friend who will help you. Brainstorm ideas for what you want to write, give each other feedback on what you write, and encourage each other through the process. One of the best inspirations to action is simply knowing you're not alone in doing it.
3. **Gather and use resources.** You can see some talking points about hunger and SNAP in the PowerPoint. These can help educate readers about the importance of protecting SNAP in the Farm Bill. I won't go through them here but will post them in the call summary and in next Tuesday's Weekly Update. You can also get resources by reading your local paper for columns, articles, editorials, and letters that you can use to relate to hunger or SNAP. When you reference previous items in the paper, you increase your chances of getting published. Also, remember that RESULTS has a wealth of information on the website. Look at the [Issues section](#), as well as the [May and June Actions](#) for great information about SNAP.

- **Talking Points about Hunger**

- Malnutrition is responsible for half of all child deaths under 5 worldwide – 3.1 million deaths each year.
- 1 in 4 children in the U.S. are food insecure.
- [According to the LSU AgCenter](#),
  - hungry children are more likely to develop frequent illnesses and infections such as sore throats, colds, stomachaches, headaches and iron deficiency anemia.
  - Insufficient food supply is associated with an increased incidence of behavior problems in adolescents, including higher levels of aggression, hyperactivity, and anxiety.
  - Research demonstrates that even the mildest form of malnutrition can limit a child's ability to understand basic skills and reduce overall learning potential.
  - Elementary school children from food-insufficient families were more likely to have repeated a grade in school.

- **Talking Points about SNAP**

- Nearly half of all SNAP recipients are children
  - SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2011
  - [Recent study](#) shows that SNAP reduces food insecurity in children by 20 percent and poor health by 35 percent
  - SNAP is good for the economy – in an economic downturn, SNAP generates \$1.73 in economic activity for every \$1 spent
  - SNAP is one of the most effectively run federal programs
    - 96 percent accuracy rate
    - Find SNAP state fact sheets at: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3886>
4. **Remember EPIC.** The [RESULTS EPIC Laser Talk](#) is one of the best tools you have for your media work. The format of **Engaging** the reader, stating the **Problem, Informing** about the solution, and ending with the **Call to Action** will help you write a powerful letter or op-ed this month. And don't forget to list your members of Congress by name when calling on them to act. They'll see it if you do.
  5. **Make it personal.** Lead from your heart, not your head. People respond to stories more than facts. So tell yours. Talk about you or someone you know who has struggled with hunger or received SNAP. Talk about any work you've done with families in poverty through your job or charitable work. If you're doing the SNAP Challenge, talk about your experience. People want to know WHY you're doing this, WHY you care. So tell them.
  6. **Don't give up.** If your piece does not get published, be persistent. Call the paper and ask why? If they have feedback for you, use it and try again. Also, send your letter to different papers. If one paper doesn't want to print it, send it to another one in your city or state. You can find local media outlets in our [online Media Guide](#). And here's a handy tip for op-eds – if they don't want to print it, ask if you can shorten it to a letter to the editor. That way, you can get a letter in that paper and then submit your op-ed to a different one.
  7. **Celebrate.** When you do get published, celebrate it and share. Send it your group members to let them know. Send it to Jos ([jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)) to put it in our 2013 successes tracking. Share it on Facebook so your friends can celebrate with you (and perhaps take action themselves). And send a copy to your members of Congress. Make sure they know you are paying attention and taking action.

These are just a few things I've found helpful and I hope you do too. And remember, the [RESULTS Activist Toolkit](#) has a whole section about working with the media. It gives you step-by-step instructions on various ways to get media coverage of our issues. If you would like coaching in you media work this month, please contact Ginnie Vogts ([vmvogts@yahoo.com](mailto:vmvogts@yahoo.com)) or Jos Linn ([jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)).

Good luck everyone! Now let me turn it over to Jenny Martin to talk about the RESULTS International Conference.

## **Shares about the RESULTS International Conference – Jenny Martin, RESULTS New England Organizer**

Hello everyone. This is Jenny Martin, the RESULTS U.S. Poverty Organizer for New England. As you know, the RESULTS International Conference starts a mere 6 weeks from today. We

are very excited about this year's conference. In fact, we have some exciting new speakers to announce.

**Jim Weill, President, of the Food Research and Action Center** will be speaking on Monday. He has dedicated his life to fighting hunger and poverty. He and FRAC are key leaders and allies in the campaign to protect SNAP (formerly, food stamps) and other critical domestic anti-poverty programs.

**Former Members of Congress and Anti-Poverty Champions Tony Hall (D-OH) and Jim Walsh (R-NY)** will also be speaking on Monday. Conference attendees will have the chance to dialogue with these long-time Congressional champions on global and domestic poverty issues about how we can create new leaders in Congress and be more effective advocates in challenging political times.

And don't forget the conference will include a keynote plenary with Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus and a special [day-long workshop and plenary session](#) with renowned author and lecturer Marianne Williamson!

Now let's hear from a few of you about why you're coming to this year's conference. Let's first go to Judy in Des Moines.

**Judy Zobel, Des Moines, IA** (confirmed)

*Greetings! I'm Judy Zobel and I work as a RESULTS volunteer in Des Moines, Iowa. I'm aware that there are people who go to the RESULTS National Conference every year like clockwork but I'm not one of them. Every year I have to debate it. Do I want to spend the money and time at the Conference and therefore say good bye to vacation plans? What to do to make me happy, happy, happy and yet fulfill my goal to be an activist for those citizens in America who are getting the economic short stick? I have come to a decision and here's a clue....I have a brand new little Mini Cooper and no longer have to drive with a bottle of oil and a bottle of water in the trunk of my car.*

*Yep, I'm hitting the road and my destination is the Conference in D.C. But, oh, I'm traveling a selfish little route of my own design. I'm going to a music festival in New York state. I'm going to see an art exhibit that features **all** of the Wyeths. I'm crossing Gettysburg off my bucket list. I've never seen George Washington's home...check! And I'll still be at the conference in time for all the great speakers, helpful training sessions, lobbying of our members of Congress, who desperately need to hear from us on the issues we care about!*

*My conscience is satisfied, my plans are nearly complete, and I'll see you at the conference (or for breakfast at the Black Cat Cafe in Sharon Springs, New York on July 19th).*

Now let's go to Joanna Samuelson in Columbus, OH to share about why she's coming to the conference this year.

**Joanna Samuelson, Columbus, OH** (confirmed)

*I am thrilled that I will be able to attend the international conference next month. The only other time that I was able to go was eight years ago in 2005. As I recall, some of our speakers that weekend included Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. Sherrod Brown and Jim Wallis, the editor of Sojourners. Each of them offered a message that was inspiring and affirming of the anti-hunger advocacy work that all of us do. The workshops that we attended provided us with in depth information about the issues as well as professional training to prepare us for our lobbying visits. And the visits, themselves, were especially eye-opening and empowering. As hundreds of RESULTS volunteers descended upon Capitol Hill, I was better able to appreciate the significant impact that our collective voice has in influencing legislative change on behalf of*

*those whose voices are usually unheard or ignored. It was truly a powerful experience for me -- and to think that I almost didn't go!*

*At the time, I had three children under the age of seven. I was breastfeeding our youngest around the clock and leaving my family at home in Columbus for five days simply wasn't an option. And so, I brought them with me -- and it worked out beautifully! In those days, my husband and I were learning that long car trips with the kids actually provided us with bonding time as a family, and with each road trip we took, the kids were becoming better travelers. While I participated in the RESULTS activities that weekend, my family had a memorable time taking in the sights of our nation's capital. I remember that they especially enjoyed the Air and Space Museum as well as the Duck Tour!*

*Once again, my family will accompany me to the conference next month. Only now, we have FIVE children! Our youngest are twins who are six years old and are very excited to visit DC for the first time. Our oldest is now fifteen and so we are planning to visit a couple of colleges while we are in the area. And I must say that I am very happy that our oldest two are interested in tagging along on some of our lobbying visits.*

*And so, our family of seven will be there next month. We tend to stand out, so I'm sure you'll be able to spot us. We hope to see you there!*

We hope you will join Judy, Joanna, and the other 350 people already registered for this year's conference. Our goal is to get 500 people to the conference this year and we want you to be one of them. Remember, [REGISTER by June 15](#) so you can still get the regular conference rate of \$240.

Here are a few other conference announcements.

- Start setting up your face-to-face lobby meetings for Lobby Day, Tuesday, July 23. We'll start setting up pre-conference lobby prep calls in a few weeks.
- Invite 18-27 year olds you know to apply for the REAL Change Scholarship. [http://www.results.org/events/real\\_change\\_IC/](http://www.results.org/events/real_change_IC/). We have accepted 57 applicants so far. It's not too late to apply but do so this weekend; the deadline to apply is this Monday, June 10.
- Invite your members of Congress to the Lobby Day reception with Prof. Muhammad Yunus. You can find a customizable letter on the RESULTS IC page: [http://www.results.org/events/IC\\_2013/](http://www.results.org/events/IC_2013/).

Thank you again for all your wonderful work and we hope to see you in DC this summer!

Now let me send it to Chicago to Jen DeFranco for a Fundraising Update.

## **Fundraising – Jen DeFranco, RESULTS Fundraising Events Associate**

I'm here to on behalf of the Development team to remind everyone that now is the perfect time to start planning your fundraising efforts for the remainder of 2013. As the newest member of the development team I bring with me my experience of working on multiple fundraising campaigns of all types and sizes and can share my own knowledge and ideas with anyone who is interested in learning more. As a team, we do have some fresh ideas we would love to share with groups who are interested in trying something new, so be sure to contact us for any help you might need. We also wanted to remind everyone on the call to join us at the IC for our fundraising sessions where we will be hosting 2 workshops to discuss the importance of your own personal story in relation to fundraising in addition to best practices for your online fundraising efforts. Both workshops will be hands on and interactive, so we hope you will join

us. Thank you for your time and please let us know how we can help support your fundraising events going forward.

Now let's go to Errolyn Gray in Washington, DC for the Roll Call.

## **Early Childhood Update and Roll Call – Errolyn Gray RESULTS U.S. Poverty Campaigns Intern**

Hi everyone, my name is Errolyn Gray and I am currently serving as an intern with the General Board of Church and Society with the United Methodist Church. As part of this internship I will be working here at RESULTS as a U.S. Poverty Campaign intern. I recently graduated from Alcorn State University in Lorman, MS with a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications Broadcast with a concentration in Print Journalism as well as a concentration in English. I am elated to have received my placement here at RESULTS and I look forward to working with you all. If there is anything that I can do to help, please do not hesitate to let me know.

While at RESULTS, I'll be focusing on our Early Childhood Development work and I want to give you a brief update before we do the Roll Call. This week, early childhood advocates held a Day of Action to raise awareness of early learning and to build support for the President's proposal to expand preschool to all low- and moderate-income children. The Day of Action including briefings, media outreach, and social media activities it was a great success with thousands of Tweets sent, letters published and a great op-ed about preschool in the New York Times.

This comes on the heels of the House approving its FY 2014 spending numbers. It is not good news. The House plan includes an 18 percent cuts to Labor-Health, Human Services and Education programs, which includes [Head Start](#), [Early Head Start](#), and [child care](#). If enacted, these cuts would be devastating to say the least. While the Senate will certainly not approve such a cut – increasing the chances of another budget showdown this fall – we will have to be vigilant. We'll keep you updated in the coming weeks as appropriators begin work on their spending bills and advocates continue to push for more investments in Early Childhood programs. You can keep up with the latest on our Early Childhood work on our [Recent Developments in Early Childhood Development Policies](#) page and also take action using our [online early childhood action alert](#).

Now let's do this month's Roll Call. Here are the questions we want you to answer this month:

- 1. How many people are in the room?**
- 2. How many media pieces will your group submit this month about protecting SNAP from cuts in the Farm Bill?** This includes letters to the editor, op-eds, and requests for editorials.

***TOTALS: 69 people on the call who commit to submitting 86 letters to the editor, op-eds, or editorials to their local papers.***

## **Announcements – Kem Spaulding, RESULTS Charlottesville volunteer and Regional Coordinator**

Now let me close out with some final announcements:

- If your RESULTS experience has been meaningful or informative or fun, fulfilling, help us share it with others? You can help empower a friend or a colleague to help save lives, build futures, and reclaim democracy. RESULTS staff continue to work to expand our reach and impact by growing the RESULTS volunteer network. RESULTS staff is here to

help. If you know people in New England, in particular **Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont**, contact Jenny Martin at [jmartin@results.org](mailto:jmartin@results.org). If you know people in the South and Midwest, in particular **Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio**, contact Myrdin Thompson at [mthompson@results.org](mailto:mthompson@results.org)).

- Jos Linn is helping host a **RESULTS Outreach Meeting in Orange County, CA on June 26 at 7pm PT**. It will be held at the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**, 1100 S Center St, Santa Ana, CA. If you know people in that area, please invite them to attend. You can find more details on the Facebook event page or by contacting Jos at [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org). Jos is also working with advocates in **Kansas City and New York City** to start new groups so if you know people in these or other areas, please contact him.
- And speaking of new groups, we want to welcome our newest RESULTS group to their first RESULTS conference call. The RESULTS Evanston (IL) group finished their new group training recently and rarin' to go in making poverty history. Welcome, Evanston, and congratulations!
- The next **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents call** is **Tuesday, June 18 at 9:00 pm ET**. If you have no active RESULTS U.S. Poverty group in your area, please join us. Contact Jos at [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org) for more information.
- Also, RESULTS volunteer leaders will be hosting their **next Media Training Call on June 18 at 8:00 pm ET**. This group meets monthly to coach and support volunteers in reaching that goal. We welcome all who want to improve their media skills. To participate, dial (218) 862-1300 passcode 682494.
- You can find a full-list of upcoming events, along with call-in numbers on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#). Just look under Events on the RESULTS Home Page.
- The next RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Conference Call is **Saturday, July 13 at 12:30 pm ET**.

Finally, although it's a few weeks away, operator if you'll open up all the lines, we'll wish each other a Happy Independence Day!