How It Works

RESULTS and its structure isn’t for everybody. If you are looking for a postcard to sign or an email to send, you may want to look for another group. But if you are passionate about making a difference, if you are committed to ensuring the poor have dignified pathways out of poverty, if you’re willing to go out on a limb, to stand up for what you believe in, then RESULTS is the place for you. RESULTS’ mission statement, our mantra, is that we are empowering citizens across the country and around the world to generate the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty. Before you can do that you have to identify what stands in the way of achieving that goal and then how best to serve the communities that are at the greatest risk. When we talk about generating political will, what we have to do first is dispel the myth that the poor are directly responsible for their plight. We have to dispel the myth that the underlying causes of poverty are laziness, apathy and ignorance. Our job is to replace that myth with the truth, which is that the underlying causes of poverty are social, economic and political. Taking people out of the box of laziness and ignorance and seeing them as productive members of their society held back by social, economic or political problems not only allows us to take action, it demands that we take action. So your next question might be how do we do that and how do we identify the programs that will address these issues?

**Determining our campaigns**

What the RESULTS’ policy staff does really well is team up with the heavy hitters in hunger and poverty circles. We learn from each other and from the people working and living in impoverished communities about what is working and what’s not. We look for sustainable solutions with a history of success. Organizations like the World Health Organization, the Grameen Bank, the Children’s Defense Fund, UNICEF, The Earth Institute and The Kaiser Family Foundation have all lent their expertise in guiding us to develop long term sustainable solutions to the end of hunger and poverty. But what RESULTS doesn’t do is fund any of these organizations directly. We ask Congress to do that. In this way, we are able to leverage millions of dollars from the federal budget for programs directed at solutions to deepest poverty related to health, education, and economic opportunity. The legislative staff of RESULTS identifies the most effective programs with the most significant history of results in reaching the poorest of the poor, and then through a series of calls and meetings disperses this information to a grassroots network of hundreds of volunteers across the country.

**The power of the volunteer**

From there, our volunteers start chipping away at the myths that hold us back from doing all that we could to end hunger and poverty. They write letters to the editor, generate editorials, write, call and meet with their Members of Congress, hold press conferences, hold outreach meetings, and host fundraising events, essentially creating a movement by winning the hearts and minds of our political leaders. RESULTS volunteers educate our members of Congress, the media and members of our community stressing that ending hunger and poverty is not only the right thing to do, but that it is in our own social, economic and political best interest to do so. Our volunteers are the meat and potatoes of the organization. RESULTS has an extraordinarily small number of paid staffers, but an unbelievably strong and loyal cadre of grassroots volunteers. Each global or U.S. poverty RESULTS is responsible for building and maintaining a relationship with their members of Congress and the media. Each group has a designated Group Leader that agrees to be in direct communication with a RESULTS staff member or a RESULTS Regional Coordinator twice a month to receive legislative updates on our issues and strategize how to move our issues forward in Congress, the media and our communities. The Group Leader then takes this information back to their group of volunteers where they strategize on the most effective way to influence their member of Congress. Global poverty and U.S. poverty RESULTS volunteers also meet once a month for a national webinar with staff and volunteers across the country for one gigantic strategy meeting with coast-to-coast advocates on the line. Volunteers also make their way to Washington, D.C., in the summer for our International Conference to hear critically acclaimed speakers, get trained and hone their lobbying skills and then lobby their members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Given all of that it is no wonder that RESULTS works.

**You make a difference**

So it is truly our volunteers that are the heart and soul of this organization. They are the ones responsible for breaking through the myths that hold our leaders back from making hunger and poverty a political priority. They are the ones who stand up in a crowd to speak out on behalf of those with no voice, even though every fiber of their body says to sit down and not stand out. They are the ones constantly pushing, constantly questioning, constantly demanding better from a country and government that could do so much, with so little, for so many. RESULTS is not for everyone, but if you have been searching for a way to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people around the world, we think you’ve found it.