



U.S. Development Assistance to Become More Effective

Thanks to You, Congress Passes Two Historic Bills

On July 6, the House of Representatives passed a version of the Global Food Security Act (S. 1252) that had been adopted by the Senate in April. The vote in the House for this bipartisan legislation was 369-53.

The bill calls for a global food security strategy that fights hunger and malnutrition. It strengthens food production by focusing assistance on smallholder farmers, and it emphasizes improved nutrition for mothers and

children in the 1,000 days of a child's life between pregnancy and age two.

The Global Food Security Act will benefit many of the more than 795 million chronically malnourished people, including nearly 160 million children. The bill supports more flexibility in disaster assistance. This flexibility has enabled emergency food assistance to reach Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

The bill had more than 140

co-sponsors from both political parties. You and other Bread for the World members—with letters, phone calls, and personal visits to members of Congress—played a direct role in recruiting more than 60 of those co-sponsors.

Bread for the World President Rev. David Beckmann notes, “The passage of the Global Food Security Act shows that ending hunger is not a partisan issue. This bill will help strengthen communities and develop stronger trading partners for our country. It will help create a more stable and secure world.”

The day before acting on the Global Food Security Act, the House passed the Foreign Aid and Transparency Accountability Act (H.R. 3766). The act will require U.S. government agencies to consistently and rigorously monitor and evaluate assistance programs. Bread for the World has been working for nearly a decade to see these reforms adopted.

President Obama signed both bills into law in late July.

ACT NOW!

Call or write your members of Congress. Thank them for the passage of the Global Food Security Act (S. 1252).

COURTESY OF JOSHUA DUBOIS



Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, greets Pope Francis following the pope's address at a June meeting of the United Nations World Food Program in Rome. Beckmann was one of a handful of religious leaders asked to respond to the pope's address. The meeting resulted in an initiative to stimulate increased advocacy to achieve an end to hunger. For more photos and additional news, visit www.bread.org/rome.

A Life's Work of Guaranteeing People's Right to Food

By **Jennifer Gonzalez**

Joyce Rothermel is no stranger to the issue of hunger.

She is co-founder and former CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. She also helped found Jubilee Kitchen, a soup kitchen in Pittsburgh's Hill District.

So when she recently sat down with Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) during Bread's Lobby Day—her third—she was both gracious and to the point. She urged him to support increased funding for nutrition in global health programs. She also asked him to support a strong federal child nutrition program and the Global Food Security Act.

"I became a Bread member because I believe that good public policy is the best way to lessen and ultimately eliminate hunger at home and abroad," Rothermel said. "Bread for the World concentrates on the improvement of U.S. public policy to do just that."

Rothermel and others from southwest Pennsylvania also visited the offices of Senators Bob Casey (D) and Patrick Toomey (R), and dropped off letters at the office of Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-12). "Our Pennsylvania delegation is great in diversity, number, age, and race. It makes me proud to be a Christian in Pennsylvania," Rothermel said.

Rothermel grew up on a farm west of Canton, Ohio. She was the oldest of four children—and only six years old—when her mother died. After high school, she entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. She later attended St. John's College in Cleveland, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education followed by a master's degree in education from the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Rothermel taught math and religion to Catholic junior high school students from 1967-77, before helping found the Jubilee Kitchen in 1979 and a year later co-founding the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. She served as the food bank's executive director from 1987 until her retirement in 2011. She said she is most proud of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership she was able to shepherd during her tenure.

"It is awesome to me to see how a community can respond so effectively together to address a community need," she said.

Her passion for advocacy stems from her immersion in Catholic social teachings and her association with the Thomas Merton Center in Pittsburgh. She said Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement inspired her to make the guarantee of people's right to food her life's work.

Rothermel said that at the core of the teachings "is respect for the dignity of each and every person, and the most basic way to show respect is to see that each and every person's basic needs and basic rights are ensured."

Jennifer Gonzalez is the associate online editor at Bread for the World.

Joyce Rothermel (left) joins Melissa Laughlin, and Jennifer Lawer in a meeting with Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) during Bread for the World's Lobby Day on June 7 — when Bread for the World members had more than 170 meetings with members of Congress and their staff.



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Lobby Day, June 7, 2016

Your Voice is Heard on Capitol Hill



Philippe Ambata from Cameroon meets with Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.-3). The meeting with Rep. DeLauro involved several Bread for the World members.



A group of 21 Latino pastors and other leaders participated in a training session the day before Lobby Day. Here four leaders join others in the briefing on the morning of Lobby Day.

Toby White (left) and Elizabeth Haberstroh, Bread for the World summer interns, are joined by Suzanne Martin, Becky Luigart-Stayner, Vic Adamo, and Marthamaria Morales, all Bread for the World members from Alabama.



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Bread for the World's 2016 Offering of Letters

Catholic Parishes Work Together to Write 3,000 Letters

Under the leadership of Kayla Jacobs, Justice and Peace Coordinator for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, eleven parishes decided to participate in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters, which urges Congress to support robust funding for maternal and child nutrition. Throughout the month of May, all eleven churches conducted Offering of Letters activities. On June 1, the diocese held a dinner open to all who had participated. The effort yielded 3,000 letters! Zach Schmidt, a Bread for the World regional staff member, joined Jacobs and the group to share a meal and let the participants know that he would deliver the letters personally to their members of Congress.



Letters written by children to their members of Congress were among the 3,000 letters generated by an innovative diocesan-wide letter writing campaign in Joliet, Ill.

PHOTO © TOM GARLITZ

What You Can Do This Election Season

The fall elections are an opportunity for you and other Bread for the World members to help shape the campaign process so that issues of hunger and poverty are raised. Getting involved in the elections is a way to exercise your Christian stewardship and to participate in the preservation of God's creation.

As always, Bread for the World's activities in this election cycle are bipartisan in nature. No political candidates are being endorsed.

Bread for the World has been communicating digitally with 14 million voters, focused in 10 swing states. Bread for the World members are also meeting with candidates for

Congress. Bread for the World is one of 110 organizations in the Vote to End Hunger Coalition, which is organizing activities at the first presidential debate in Dayton, Ohio.

These efforts reflect Bread for the World's mission as a collective Christian voice for an end to hunger. In the Scriptures, rulers and those in authority are admonished to govern with justice and compassion. Psalm 72, for example, is a prayer that the king "defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy."

The goal of Bread for the World's elections work is that, when the new president and the next Congress take office in 2017, they will make

ending hunger a national priority and will put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030.

You can help achieve this goal by meeting with candidates and asking them the following questions:

1. If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the U.S. and worldwide?
2. Will you publicize your position on hunger, poverty, and opportunity in your printed materials, on your website, and in social media?
3. Will you meet with us again within the first 30 days of taking office?

For more information and additional ways to get involve, visit www.bread.org/elections.

Involve Your Church in Bread for the World Sunday

Thousands of churches are preparing to celebrate Bread for the World Sunday. On October 16—or another Sunday in the fall—people in these churches will lift up prayers for those who struggle with hunger and will rededicate themselves to efforts that help end hunger. Rev. Beth Bostrom, a United Methodist pastor in Florida and a member of Bread for the World's board of directors, has written an inspiring reflection on Luke 18:1-8.

Rev. Dr. Chris Repp, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign, Illinois, has prepared a new litany and other prayers for the day.

Dr. Hosffman Ospino, who teaches theology at Boston College, has written a Spanish-language study of Luke 18:1-8 as well as a litany in Spanish.

These resources, as well as a large poster, worship bulletin inserts, and offering envelopes may all be ordered free of charge to help congregations celebrate Bread for the World Sunday. A Spanish poster and bulletin inserts are available. Visit www.bread.org/sunday to view, download, and order resources.



Free worship bulletin inserts are available to help churches celebrate Bread for the World Sunday on October 16 or another date in the fall.

Help Elect Bread for the World's Board of Directors

All members of Bread for the World are eligible to vote in the election for the board of directors who will assume office in 2017. The deadline for voting is September 16. To view the candidates and cast your votes, visit www.bread.org/boardvote.



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