

# bread

**BREAD FOR THE WORLD**  
is a collective Christian voice  
urging our nation's decision makers  
to end hunger at home and abroad

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## Thanks to You, Big Victories for Hungry People in 2015

**F**or you and thousands of other Bread for the World members, 2015 was a busy year—with record levels of giving and a steady stream of letters, phone calls, and emails. Congress completed many of its 2015 decisions at the end of the year, and we can celebrate victories for hungry people.

Several legislative victories that you helped achieve will have a big impact on hunger in the United States and around the world:

(1) Congress passed a tax deal that made permanent the 2009 improvements to the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the child tax credit (CTC). These credits benefit 50 million Americans, including 25 million children. This victory will prevent 16 million Americans from falling deeper into poverty. Research shows these tax credits are linked to improved maternal and child health as well as better performance by children in school. For the past six years, Bread has worked to make these tax cuts permanent.

(2) Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which prevents most of the sequestration cuts from taking place in 2016 and 2017. The act gives defense and non-defense programs equal relief, and it doesn't



PHOTO © LAURA ELIZABETH POHL / BREAD FOR THE WORLD

**Action by Congress at the end of 2015 will increase U.S. support of development assistance for farmers in Africa and elsewhere.**

find savings by cutting other anti-hunger programs. The two-year budget deal protects funding for programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Bread has been working for this balanced approach since 2011.

(3) Right before leaving for the year, Congress also passed a 2016 omnibus spending bill, which divides up all the funding among federal programs. Internationally, funding for poverty focused development assistance received an increase of \$1.1 billion. This surge in funding is a response to the ongoing humanitarian crises in Syria, Yemen, *(see page 3)*

### ACT NOW!

Congress made significant progress last year on key issues. Call (800-826-3688), write or email your senators and representative and urge them to finish the job by quickly passing:

- **The Global Food Security Act (H.R. 1567/S.1252)**, supporting farmers in developing nations through Feed the Future
- **A strong child nutrition bill** that gives more children in the United States access to the meals they need to thrive



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# 'Called to be Faithful'

By Marc Hopkins

Longtime Bread for World member Cathy Brechtelsbauer received the McGovern South Dakota Hunger Ambassador Award for her efforts to spark systemic changes that address the root causes of poverty. The award was presented during the McGovern Hunger Summit at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D.

"She exemplifies what it means to put together passion and a big heart," said Michael Troutman, Bread for the World's staff person in the upper Midwest. Troutman presented the award to Cathy at the mid-November ceremony.

In the early 1990s, Cathy led a group that wrapped a chain of 13,000 three-inch paper dolls around the state capitol building in Pierre. This dramatic effort drew attention to the 13,000 children in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program who were denied a cost-of-living increase. The program is now called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families following welfare reform in 1996.

At first, state government ignored the spectacle. Undeterred, the following year, Cathy, who serves as Bread's state coordinator in South Dakota, positioned the paper dolls for a half mile along a Church World Service CROP Walk route. The display motivated the Sioux Falls Ministerial Association to write the governor's office about these kids. Since then, the state's cost-of-living increases have usually included the children.

Cathy and her husband, Dave, met when they were students at the University of Michigan. Cathy taught math while Dave earned a medical degree.

They then moved to Virginia, where Dave provided medical services to the underserved. They eventually moved to Sioux Falls, and Cathy started her long service as volunteer state coordinator for Bread for the World.

She served on Bread for the World's board of directors in the early 1990s. She's participated in National Gatherings in Washington, D.C., helped to devise several educational tools used at Bread for the World workshops, and was named one of 30 Hunger Heroes at Bread for the World's 30th anniversary in 2004. Cathy and Dave have remembered Bread for the World in their will and thus are part of the Legacy of Hope.

Cathy is a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Sioux Falls. She says, "I think Bread for the World gives you a way to work for justice. I feel like it's a faith calling. You're kind of on God's wave length when you're working on hunger. It helps you get God's agenda to be part of your own agenda."

Currently, Cathy is focused on the abuses of payday lending, supporting a ballot initiative in the general election that will cap interest on such loans at 36 percent. The state average is 574 percent. "There's a reason we call this predatory," she said.

Even as Cathy gears up for new challenges, she wrestles with old ones, too, like working to get South Dakota's sales tax off food, a cause she has promoted for over twenty years now. She does not give up. "I feel like we're not necessarily called to have success. But we are called to be faithful."

*Marc Hopkins is a freelance writer in Silver Spring, Md.*



In November 2015, Cathy Brechtelsbauer (third from left) received the McGovern South Dakota Hunger Award at Dakota Wesleyan University. Bread for the World staff member Michael Troutman (far right) presented the award. Dr. David Mitchell (second from right) is a longtime Bread for the World member and teaches at Dakota Wesleyan. Also on stage are Erika Lehmann (left) Daryl Schubert, and Ron Fuchs, all Bread for the World members.

# Big Victories for Hungry People in 2015

*(from page 1)*

and South Sudan. This increase will allow the United States to sustain development efforts in other regions in the world. As a result, developing countries will be better able to build the capacity for long-term nutrition programs. Global nutrition programs also received a significant boost in funding.

(4) Earlier this year, Congress reauthorized the African Growth and Opportunity Act for a full 10 years. The act puts in place more incentives for businesses to invest and stimulate economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. Bread for the World played a key role in seeing that the act expands U.S. technical assistance for businesses that

engage women and smallholder farmers in Africa.

(5) The Global Food Security Act (GFSA) was reintroduced in both the House and the Senate. By year's end, 114 co-sponsors signed onto the House bill. The proposed bill's investments in smallholder farmers to boost agricultural productivity has appeal across party lines. Thus the legislation has good prospects for final adoption by Congress in 2016.

(6) Significant progress was made in food-aid reform. \$10 million was appropriated for a local-regional purchase program as part of McGovern-Dole so that emergency food can be

purchased locally where it is needed. Bread for the World also worked closely with Senators Corker (R-Tenn.) and Coons (D-Del.) to introduce the Food for Peace Reform Act of 2015. This progress sets the stage for final passage of reform legislation in 2016.

(7) Thanks to widespread involvement by Bread members and congregations — as part of the 2015 Offering of Letters — members of Congress heard a strong message of support for our nation's child nutrition programs. Several bills were introduced to close the summer meals gap. Congress is committed to passing bipartisan child nutrition reauthorization in 2016.

## Rick Steves Helps Bread for the World Raise Record Funds

Every Christmas, Rick Steves, a long-time Bread for the World member and noted travel host, raises funds for Bread through his traveling friends and network at Rick Steves' Europe. His fundraiser helps support advocacy to end hunger. In return for a \$100 gift to Bread for the World, Steves offers his own gifts—a European Christmas gift set or a complete DVD collection of his travel shows. He also covers the cost of shipping the items, which are often sent as Christmas gifts.

For the past two years, Steves has also matched the money contributed with a gift of his own to Bread. This Christmas, more than 2,400 people responded and contributed more than \$316,000 to Bread. With Steves's matching gift of \$250,000, the grand total raised was more than \$566,000!

Thanks to all of you who participated. With Steves's generosity, these funds will strengthen our work together to end hunger in the United States and abroad.



Rick Steves

PHOTO © RICK STEVES' EUROPE

Ambassador Ertharin Cousin (left), director of the United Nations World Food Program talks with Bread for the World president David Beckmann at a dinner in late November in New York City. This annual event benefits Bread for the World, Bread for the World Institute, and the Alliance to End Hunger. In her remarks, Ambassador Cousin reported on the World Food Program's response to humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. She praised Bread for the World's efforts in support of the goal to end hunger by 2030.



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# Lenten Prayers for Hungry People – *Free Resource*

**A**sh Wednesday is especially early this year: February 10. Lenten Prayers was mailed to Bread for the World members in early January. This six-panel “table tent” includes the Scripture lessons appointed for the five Sundays in Lent as well as the Sunday of the Passion—along with prayers and suggested actions. You are welcome to order additional copies of Lenten Prayers to share with family, friends, and members of your church. To view the prayers and order free copies, visit [www.bread.org/lent](http://www.bread.org/lent) or call 800-822-7323, ext. 1072.



*The Lord is my light  
and my salvation.*  
— Psalm 27:1a

## Bread's 2016 Lobby Day: Save the Date

**B**read will hold its annual Lobby Day on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in Washington, D.C. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us.

Lobby Day offers you an opportunity to communicate personally with your members of Congress and their staff—and to meet other Bread members in your area. Bread staff assist in setting up meetings with your members of Congress. The morning gathering and orientation will take place at a church on Capitol Hill, and the day concludes with a reception and worship—including time for participants to share about the day and the granting of awards to members of Congress.



## New Opportunity for Charitable Gifts and Tax Savings

**T**he tax bill passed by Congress in the closing days of 2015 makes permanent a provision for individuals who are 70½ years old. Each person may now “roll-over” up to \$100,000 from an IRA as a charitable gift to *Bread for the World Institute* or another 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Checks must be made out directly from the IRA account to the charity.

These gifts may qualify for a charitable deduction for income tax purposes, and they do qualify as the required withdrawal from an IRA. In some cases, reducing balances in retirement accounts can provide tax savings.

Before making a contribution from an IRA, please check with your professional advisor. This information is not intended as legal or financial advice. If you need assistance in making a gift from your IRA, please contact Kierra Stuvland by email ([kstuvland@bread.org](mailto:kstuvland@bread.org)) or by phone (800-822-7323, ext. 1150).

## WHAT'S ONLINE?

### New Year, New Newsletters and More...

- **Fresh Bread:** Starting in January, we're baking Fresh Bread and delivering it weekly. This easy-to-read newsletter provides an update on happenings in Congress related to issues Bread is working on. It includes a brief look-ahead and suggestions for actions you can take. To receive this newsletter, sent by email, subscribe at [www.bread.org/freshbread](http://www.bread.org/freshbread).
- **Go deeper with Institute Insights:** For regular reports on Bread for the World Institute's research and analysis, subscribe to the new Institute Insights. This emailed newsletter provides a deeper look at hunger issues related to the global movement to end hunger by 2030. Subscribe at [www.bread.org/instituteinsight](http://www.bread.org/instituteinsight).
- In addition to these two new newsletters, we will continue to send out the Bread newsletters each month. Each issue includes news about hunger and poverty issues, reflections on faith and advocacy, and suggestions for how you can take action by contacting your members of Congress. To view the current issue and subscribe, visit [www.bread.org/newsletter](http://www.bread.org/newsletter).
- The **2016 Hunger Report**, *The Nourishing Effect*, has launched and is online at [www.bread.org/hungerreport](http://www.bread.org/hungerreport). The report explores new research on the links between hunger and health, and the interactive website contains charts, graphs and other infographics that help you explore the research.



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