

Legacy of Hope

SPRING 2016 ♦ VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1

Young People Learn about Persistence and Hope

Gifts from the wills and estates of Bread for the World members—along with giving from current members—are helping train the next generation of leaders in the effort to end hunger.

Last year, Jared Noetzel, who works in Bread for the World's church relations department, launched a new program to equip young adults to advocate on behalf of policies that will lead to an end to hunger.

"Bread has always hosted groups that wanted to learn more about our advocacy and model," Jared explains. "I asked to launch a program to train groups of young people visiting Washington, D.C., as part of their mission experience."

Among those groups participating in these training programs are Intravarsity Urban Plunge, the Center for Student Missions, and the Pilgrimage. All three initiatives provide immersion ministry experiences in Washington, D.C.

In 2015, more than 500 young people spent a full day meeting with Jared and other Bread for the World staff. Many of these young advocates engaged in visits with their members

of Congress and their staffs.

Jared, a 24-year-old Eagle Scout, is an ideal person to lead these training sessions for young people visiting Washington, D.C. Three years ago, Jared first learned about Bread as a senior at Wheaton College. He and a vanload of students drove for 15 hours to attend the annual Justice Conference. The gathering "endeavors to call followers of Christ into a more intentional lifestyle of 'living justly' as we seek to live out our faith as disciples of Jesus."

At the Justice Conference, Jared met Bread for the World staff member Krisanne Vaillancourt-Murphy, who was offering a Bread T-shirt to those who signed a petition. Jared was already a veteran of several mission trips, including a stint in Bolivia with Fundación Paz y Esperanza, an international human rights organization.

He took Krisanne's card and, not much later, he began a summer internship with Bread for the World, which has evolved into his role as project coordinator for church relations.

Jared believes the energy and



Jared Noetzel (right) talks with a student who participated in a day-long training session at Bread for the World's offices in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO © JOSEPH MOLIERI

passion of young adults make for a potent force for change. "Advocacy is about hope. It's about persistence. It's also about leading others. Christians are natural advocates for positive change," he says. "We are in it for the long term."

This June, Jared will represent Bread for the World at the Justice Conference, where he'll have a chance to recruit even more young people to take part in strengthening Bread for the World's collective voice to end hunger.

Thank you! Your membership in Bread for the World strengthens our collective Christian voice. Your financial support and active involvement inspire others to join in our work to change the policies and conditions that allow hunger to persist. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.



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Architects Give Voice to the Voiceless

Decatur, Georgia-based architects Ann and John Gerondelis met in their “first class on the first day of school” at Georgia Tech. Before they both graduated with master’s degrees, they were married—and members of Bread for the World.

As newlyweds, Ann and John were members of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Atlanta, where they still worship today. At St. John’s they heard Bread for the World’s message being preached in their pastor’s sermon, taught in the Sunday school, and operating at full steam during the church’s Offerings of Letters. As a Bread for the World Covenant Church, St. John’s has participated for decades in the annual Offering of Letters written to members of Congress.

The church also supports other ministries that address poverty and hunger. When the weather turns cold, St. John’s provides an overnight refuge and food to unsheltered people. The congregation also participates in a partnership that assists refugee families and advocates on behalf of the refugee community.

In the mid-1980s, Ann and John were eager participants in Atlanta’s Bread Group. The group, led by Bert Hahn, met monthly. “A big focus at the time was WIC [the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children],” remembers Ann. “My eyes were opened by our studies as part of this group.”



John and Ann Gerondelis with their daughters in Decatur, Georgia.

Between 1993 and 2001, John and Ann lived and worked as architects in Singapore. Although they were in their 30s and hadn’t yet started a family, they created their will before departing the United States—and included a bequest to Bread for the World. “It was a time of reflection for us,” explains Ann.

“Bread for the World does good work, in the right way,” adds John. “We knew we wanted to make the most of whatever we had when we are gone, and that has not changed.”

Because they no longer resided in the United States, they were not represented by a specific member of Congress. But that didn’t keep John and Ann from participating in the Offering of Letters. They wrote letters to then-President Bill Clinton. In addition to continuing her Bread-related advocacy in Singapore, Ann belonged to a group called AWARE, which operates a suicide hotline and provides direct care for battered women.

Today, Ann serves as undergraduate program coordinator for the School of Industrial Design at the Georgia Technology Institute in Atlanta. John helps direct a large architecture firm that specializes in high-rise residential, retail, and office projects.

Ann and John have two daughters. One attends Macalester College (St. Paul, Minn.). The other, a high school student, leads a service group at her school. Both daughters have strong positive memories of the family’s participation in Bread for the World’s annual Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.

The family continues to be involved in community outreach activities through St. John’s Lutheran Church—including the Offering of Letters. John adds, “Although I’m socially liberal, I’m fiscally conservative. Bread for the World helped me to understand the power of using finances wisely.”

“Bread for the World has proven itself to be a powerful venue to provide a voice for the voiceless,” says Ann. “Today loud voices very close to the microphone are building a base of power upon people’s fears. I am committed to doing all I can to ensure the voice of love and care is heard.”

Mercy Makes a Difference

By James R. Lund
Vice President for Development
and Membership

With his call for the 2015-2016 church year to be a Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis has called on Christians to respond with compassion to those whose past or present circumstances cause pain and suffering. Inspired by the pope's words, individuals and institutions have redoubled their efforts to provide help and opportunity to those who suffer from hunger and poverty.

That's why it's so encouraging to see Bread for the World members increasing their involvement in our work together to end hunger. For many individuals, this has meant including a gift in their will or estate

plan. Today, nearly 500 individuals or families have let us know of such plans. Their intentions are truly a legacy of hope.

Other Bread for the World members are discovering they can increase their charitable giving now rather than wait. And they can do so in a way that benefits them financially and helps their heirs in the future.

Congress has made the charitable rollover of IRA funds a permanent provision, so some Bread for the World members who are 70 ½ years or older are making this part of their annual giving plan. For others, establishing a charitable gift annuity—with potential tax savings and fixed payments for life—is a way to make a long-term gift to Bread for the World Institute.

In a very real sense, these creative charitable gifts are truly an outpouring of mercy, one that inspires all of us to be part of God's plan for ending hunger in the world.



James R. Lund

This information is not intended as legal or financial advice. You are encouraged to speak with your professional advisor. Charitable IRA rollover contributions must be made to Bread for the World Institute, a 501(c)3 charity. For initial information and discussion, you are welcome to contact Jim Lund, Vice President for Development and Membership, at 800-822-7323, ext. 1091, or jlund@bread.org.

New Opportunity for Charitable Gift and Tax Savings

At the end of 2015, Congress made permanent the provision for individuals who are 70 ½ years or older to “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 sent directly from the IRA account to the charity.

Those gifts do not qualify as a tax-deductible contribution, but they serve as the required withdrawal from an IRA. In some cases, reducing balances in retirement accounts can provide tax savings and simplify estate processing for heirs.

Before making a contribution from your IRA, please check with

your professional advisor. This information is not intended as legal or financial advice. To request a new brochure about charitable IRA rollovers—free and without obligation—contact Kierra Jackson at kjackson@bread.org or 800-822-7323, ext. 1150.

You may be thinking about including a gift in your will to support long-term efforts to end hunger. There are two alternatives you may want to consider:

1. A residual bequest provides whatever is left over in an estate after all other fixed commitments are fulfilled.
2. A percentage of the estate—rather than a fixed amount—means the size of the charitable bequest will be in reasonable proportion to the size of the estate at the time of death.

For additional information on planned and future gifts, go to www.bread.org/plannedgiving.

Residual Bequest

“I give and bequeath to Bread for the World, Inc. (or Bread for the World Institute, Inc.) of 425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC, 20024, the residue of my estate, to be used as its board of directors determines.”

Percentage Bequest

“I give and bequeath to Bread for the World, Inc. (or Bread for the World Institute, Inc.) of 425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC, 20024, _____% (name a specific percentage) of the total value of my estate to be used as its board of directors determines.”

Noted Author to Participate in Lobby Day

Hundreds of Bread for the World members will once again spend the day meeting with their members of Congress—as part of Bread for the World’s annual Lobby Day on June 7.

This year’s morning briefing will feature Roger Thurow, the award-winning author of *The Hunger Season* and of the soon-to-be-released *The First 1,000 Days*.

Lobby Day concludes with a reception where participants can share the highlights of their visits on Capitol Hill. Selected members of Congress receive awards for their leadership in working to end hunger.

Eric Mitchell, Bread for the World’s director of government relations, notes, “When we meet with members of Congress, we hear again and again that letters, phone calls, and visits from

Bread members have an impact. Senators and representatives listen to Bread for the World because we have a trusted and determined voice—working for change in a positive, bipartisan way.”



Roger Thurow

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Longtime Leaders Honored

As part of the March 7, 2016, celebration of the successful completion of the Bread Rising campaign, the Rev. Arthur Simon Award for Faithful Service to End Hunger was given to three long-time leaders in Bread for the World.

Bread for the World President David Beckmann praised Robert Cahill for his efforts to engage so

many others in Bread for the World, especially those in the financial community of New York City, where Bob has been a leader. Cahill was also among the founders of the Alliance to End Hunger, an affiliate that shares offices with Bread for the World in Washington, D.C.

Patricia Shield Ayres became involved with Bread for the World almost at the beginning and has served as board chair of Bread for the World. She and her husband Robert Ayers, Jr., have been long-time members of the organization’s

**President Emeritus
Art Simon (left)
honors Bob and
Pat Ayres.**



PHOTO © LACEY ANN JOHNSON



Art Simon grants award to Bob Cahill for his “faithful service to end hunger.”

PHOTO © LACEY ANN JOHNSON

development committee. In granting the award to the Ayres, Art said, “Bob and Pat, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity, leadership, and faith. We are all so very grateful for your extraordinary compassion, insight, and planting the seed and nourishing its growth.”

Be Part of Lobby Day – Virtually

If you’re unable to join us in Washington, D.C., on June 7, you can still be part of Lobby Day—and help mothers and children survive and thrive. Please plan to call or email your member of Congress to urge them to support robust funding for maternal and child nutrition in developing countries. To participate, visit www.bread.org/lobbyday.



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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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