

Planting Hope, Feeding Futures

Reporting from Bread for the World's 2026 Advocacy Summit

In June, hundreds of advocates from across the country came together in Washington, D.C. for Bread for the World's 2026 Advocacy Summit. They shared a unified message with lawmakers: ***We believe a world without hunger is possible.***

Advocates met with 168 congressional offices to share their stories and to urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that address hunger in the United States and around the world. Along the way, they deepened their understanding of key policy issues, strengthened their advocacy skills, and built meaningful connections with fellow advocates.

We're grateful to all the Bread members who made our Advocacy Summit a success — before, during, and now. While the Advocacy Summit takes place over two days, it is part of a larger effort that joins our voices and actions together throughout the year.

Preparation begins in the spring with advocates organizing Offerings of Letters in their churches and communities. Advocacy Summit participants are then encouraged to bring letters from those events to hand-deliver to their members of Congress in the summer. As a follow-up to the Advocacy Summit, members are encouraged to meet with their representatives in August at their home district offices.

Then, as we move into fall, Bread members like you can celebrate your impact and begin planning for more powerful action next year. As long as there is hunger, our advocacy will persist, grounded in hope.

Let's hear from one of the voices at our 2026 Advocacy Summit:



PHOTO © BREAD FOR THE WORLD
Freida Graves attended Bread's Advocacy Summit in June 2026.

If you don't have food, your mental health suffers. Your physical health suffers.

Freida Graves serves as the FAITH CDC Director of the Food is Medicine Program and the FAITH Farms Administrator in Gary, Indiana. This year, she shared her story and her powerful commitment to ending hunger:

"I grew up food insecure. Our family faced several challenges. There were times when we ate white kidney beans for three days in a row."

"If you don't have food, your mental health suffers. Your physical health suffers."

"As I grew into gardening and became a farmer, I saw that food is medicine. I saw how people were suffering in the neighborhood without food, and we were growing food. I grew in a vision and a mission of God to get people fed, to humbly serve, and just feed our community."

"What Bread represents touched my heart. I first got involved with Bread for the World about three years ago. We did a letter-writing campaign with our youth. We have a youth group that we teach every year at the farm."

"I believe a world without hunger is possible because of all of us coming together, having a voice, advocating and serving people for our communities. I believe if we continue to push and be resilient in these areas, then we're going to make changes in the world."

Advocates like Freida and those who joined our 2026 Advocacy Summit are taking powerful steps toward achieving a world without hunger. **And with your continued support, we can make even greater strides toward ending hunger!**

Need Support With Your Monthly Giving?

Kate Is Here to Help!



PHOTO © BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Kate Lawson-Hedger serves as Bread's Monthly Giving Manager.

We're very grateful to you for being a monthly donor. As a member of our monthly donor community, your reliable generosity provides the sustaining resources needed to power our advocacy, encourage others to take action, and mobilize fellow advocates across the nation, month after month.

Throughout your journey with Bread for the World, you may wish to contact us about your monthly gift. That's why we'd like to introduce you to **Kate Lawson-Hedger**, our Monthly Giving Manager.

Kate has been with Bread for the World for nearly three years, and she shares your commitment to achieving an end to hunger. "I care about helping people flourish," she says.

Kate wants you to know that the impact of your monthly support is real and powerful. "I see what doesn't make the headlines. I see what's going on behind the scenes, and the great things our amazing team is doing. **And I know how vital your monthly support is fueling our collective advocacy to end hunger.**"

Of course, Kate shares the frustration that many of us feel when food assistance programs face cuts, even as hunger continues to impact families here in the U.S. and around the world. We asked her what helps her stay positive, and she quoted the beloved children's television show host Fred Rogers, who liked to say, ***"Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."***

"That's what I do," she said. "I look for people who are helping. And I see it every day at Bread for the World. Our donors and members inspire me and give me hope for the future."

Thank you for being a helper and a monthly donor. If Kate can ever be helpful to you, just give her a call or send her an email!

"I'm here to answer your questions, to provide any help I can, and to make sure you feel connected — because *you're a vital part of our mission.*"

**You can reach out to Kate by
phone at 202-688-1119, or by email at
KLawson-Hedger@bread.org.**

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Practicing What We Preach and Believe

As Christians, we are called by our faith to offer acts of charity to help those struggling with hunger and poverty.

Longtime Bread member and monthly donor Donald Heinz hears this call as well, but he also believes charity alone is not enough to heal economic inequities.

Donald is a Lutheran minister and professor of Religious Studies who has striven to help his students and congregants understand that charity is no substitute for advocating for justice. “I always insisted that when one learned to glimpse Christ among the outcasts, it was also time to change the structures of the economic system.”

“Individual charity, while commendable,” he adds, “is not nearly as effective as advocacy for a just social system.”

Just like you, Donald has been a loyal monthly sustainer. He believes monthly giving is the best way to fuel Bread for the World’s powerful advocacy because it provides consistent and sustainable support. “Monthly giving to organizations that are determined to lobby governmental institutions in favor of the poor is much more likely to keep one’s eye on the prize than an occasional gift,” he believes.

“My monthly gifts to Bread for the World also remind me of the fact that this organization is constantly active in lobbying Congress to do the right thing with the economic system.”

Donald has recently made the decision to increase his monthly gift. “I am not wealthy, but I am comfortable,” he says. “In my nightly prayers, I talked to God about the good works toward the poor to which we are called, and felt this was the right decision for me.

We’re very grateful for the generous monthly support from people like Donald, as well as you. If you’d like to increase your monthly gift, as Donald has done, you can do so quickly and easily by contacting **Kate Lawson-Hedger by phone at 202-688-1119, or by email at KLawson-Hedger@bread.org**. Thank you.



PHOTO © DONALD HEINZ

Donald Heinz is a longtime Bread member and monthly donor.

“My monthly gifts to Bread for the World also remind me of the fact that this organization is constantly active in lobbying Congress to do the right thing with the economic system.”

- Donald Heinz”

Your Support in Action

Thanks to you, our collective advocacy is making a difference. Together, Bread for the World members have worked alongside communities experiencing hunger and urged policymakers to take meaningful action to pursue a world without hunger.

The impact of your support is measurable. So far this year, Bread members have taken **15,455** actions aimed at ending hunger. These actions have transformed into **34,445** letters sent to Congress.

A key component of this ongoing work is our Nourish Our Future campaign. This two-year strategy is designed specifically to address child hunger in the United States and around the world through meaningful policy solutions.

With your support, this campaign has helped to inform and achieve recent wins, including:

- Increasing the Child Tax Credit (CTC) per-child benefit from \$2,000 to \$2,200.
- Supporting the resolution that ended the government shutdown in November 2025 and fully funded the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at \$8.2 billion for FY2026.
- Global nutrition funded at \$168 million, Feed the Future at \$960 million, Food for Peace at \$1.619 billion, and McGovern-Dole Food for Education at \$240 million.



Photo Credit: Kamaji Ogino

Still, our progress cannot be measured in numbers alone. Every family that is nourished, every program that is funded, speaks to your impact — and to the importance of your support as a Bread for the World member. **Thank you for all that you do to help achieve a world without hunger.**

Christmas Cards

DESIGN A:

Light Has Dawned



DESIGN B:

Merry & Bright



Bread for the World's 2026 specially designed Christmas cards are now available! For just \$27, you'll receive a pack of ten cards and envelopes, including shipping. It's a great way to spread joy and support our work to end hunger. Place your order today at Bread.org/Cards.