



# Just Harvest News

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUST HARVEST EDUCATION FUND

## Tax Season Help Reaches Record Numbers

**VICTORY!!**

**W**e've finished our seventh successful year of free tax assistance. This year, with our largest ever group of 28 tax preparers, we helped 1635 households receive a total federal refund of \$2.9

million! *Fifty-two percent of our tax clients were eligible for the Earned Income Credit (EIC) worth a total of \$1.4 million.*

The United Way recruited volunteers this year and helped us find 18 skilled volunteer tax preparers to work with our 10 paid preparers. We also added two reviewer-supervisors – one for our site and one for the City County Building site to support their volunteers.

Tax Campaign Coordinator **Kristie Weiland Stagno** and Co-Director **Ken Regal** provided technical assistance to other free tax sites in the Money in Your Pocket Coalition: the Parental Stress Center, the City County Building and a brand new site at Goodwill in McKeesport. United Way support has helped us strengthen the Coalition and improve coordination, capacity and quality at the sites.

Now that we've finished preparing all those returns, we're focusing our efforts on state and federal policies that affect low-income taxpayers. We're working with the National Community Tax Coalition to support anti-predatory lending bills including the Credit Card Bill of Rights and a 36% interest rate cap for Refund Anticipation Loans and all consumer loans.

Tax fairness is an issue at the state level as well. The budget is being hotly contested in Harrisburg now. As state lawmakers consider ways to fill a huge budget gap, we will be working to ensure that low-income workers don't bear too much of the burden in either tax increases or service cuts. A new report from the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center shows that low-income Pennsylvanians already pay a higher portion of their income in state and local taxes, with the poor paying 12.3 cents in taxes out of every \$1 of income, while the wealthy pay only 4.3 cents.

One way to make our state taxes less regressive is to add a state Earned Income Credit based on the federal Earned Income Credit. The PA Joint State Government Commission is currently studying a Pennsylvania EIC and is due to issue a report in August. We'll be working with advocates across the state and friendly lawmakers to work toward a state EIC in next year's budget.

*Thank You*

**2009 Tax Season**

*Tax Preparers:*

Kelly Ariosto, Tom Beal, Sara Bennett, Jordan Dagen, Kate Foster, Mary Gallagher, Kate Healy, Ed Heath, Marrison Johnson, Mark Kamyk, Jessica Kiser, Tim Loos, Pat O'Malley, Chris Mason, Sara Mochnick, David Mooney, Hal Morris, Meghan Owens, Natalia Paich, Cathy Palmisano, Brad Ruthers, Ann Sanders, Kathleen Sheehan, Sharon Stockey, Kay Tanney, Eileen Tong, Janet Willoughby and Caitlin Wykoff

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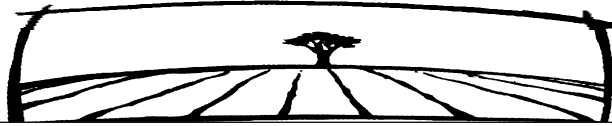
Many **Duquesne Business Ethics students** helped with greeting clients, sending appointment reminders, data entry and many other tasks!



*Left: At the Just Harvest Annual Meeting May 5, the membership elected a new Board of Directors. They are pictured left to right, first row: **Mary Elizabeth McCarthy, Ken Munz, Betty Sundry** (no longer a board members), **Sara Bennett, Theresa Orlando**. 2nd row: **Kathleen Sheehan, Anna Redmond, Maureen Coyne, Ann Sanders, Fran Gruden**. Not pictured: **DeWitt Walton, Barbara Coffee, John Becker, Sr. Barb Finch, Alexander Carlisle**.*

*Right: Vice President DeWitt Walton describes Just Harvest's successes over the last year, at the May 5th Annual Meeting.*





## Welfare's Work Programs Don't Help Clients

Since reauthorization of TANF (cash assistance) in 2005, Pennsylvania has struggled to meet the federal work participation rate: to have 50% of the state's total TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) caseload participating in a "work activity." Prior to that, PA was exempt because we received credit for having started reducing our caseload prior to the 1996 welfare reform. A state's penalty for not meeting the work participation rate is loss of millions of federal dollars which help run the TANF program.

Why is Pennsylvania struggling? Despite advice from advocates across the state, most of Pennsylvania's welfare-to-work programs have major problems. They don't meet the needs of the populations they serve; they don't help people get jobs. Case in point: **Work Support Component (WSC)**. In 2007 the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) created the WSC. It provides benefits to new or returning applicants for a short period of time without them being officially counted for TANF. They're expected to find employment quickly so they won't need to go onto traditional TANF, thereby not factoring into the state's numbers.

In spite of the fact that these consumers don't affect the numbers and that there are fewer people on TANF now than there were in 1996, DPW has unrealistic and unfair requirements for WSC.

When a person completes an application for cash assistance they are scheduled for an interview — which begins their benefits — at which time they are immediately referred to the WSC program. This is usually between 1 and 7 days after the interview.

Often a consumer comes to DPW for an interview and is told that she/he needs to make immediate child care arrangements because she/he must report to WSC for orientation by 8 am the

very next day. Most mothers would have a challenging time pulling this off. But consider a single mom with no family and four children she has to make arrangements for. If she can't find child care and does not show up to the program the following day, her benefits are immediately suspended — with no questions asked.

You may think: why doesn't he/she call the program or the caseworker and reschedule the appointment? Often the client is only provided with the WSC assignment address, but no contact person or phone number. If the applicant calls her caseworker and leaves a voicemail message, by the time the caseworker gets the message the benefits have already been suspended.

WSC is the only contracted program that immediately suspends benefits when the client doesn't show up. WSC has a no-show rate of about 52%. Is this success? I guess that depends on how you look at it. Like other welfare-to-work programs WSC was clearly designed to benefit DPW and their need to meet the work participation rate, so from that perspective it might seem somewhat successful. But ask any client in the program. Most will tell you that there are few benefits to them, as indicated by the high no-show rate. In that regard it is clearly unsuccessful.

*Rochelle Jackson is Just Harvest's Welfare Advocate and Organizer. She is a member of DPW's Income Maintenance Advisory Committee and a former recipient of welfare herself.*

*(Note: DPW contracts out its local welfare-to-work programs to the Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services (DHS) which often sub-contracts yet again to other agencies).*

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**Just Harvest Board of Directors:** John Becker, Sara Bennett, Alexander Carlisle, Barbara Coffee, Maureen Coyne, Sr. Barbara Finch, Fran Gruden, Mary Elizabeth McCarthy, Ken Munz, Theresa Orlando, Anna Redmond, Ann Sanders, Kathleen Sheehan, Mike Stout, DeWitt Walton.

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Staff and Interns: Sara Bennett, Brian Gilmore, Lou Hanson, Rochelle Jackson, Eugenia Mosby, Shauna Ponton, Joni Rabinowitz, Ken Regal, Ann Sanders, Heather Seiders, Kristie Weiland Stagno.

**Just Harvest News** is published by the **Just Harvest Education Fund** four times each year and is sent to all members. We hope you will join **Just Harvest** by sending in membership dues: \$25, or \$5 for low-income.

A copy of Just Harvest's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Just Harvest  
A Center for Action  
Against Hunger**

### Our Mission Statement

Just Harvest is a membership organization which promotes economic justice and works to influence public policy and to educate, empower, and mobilize the citizens of our community toward the elimination of hunger and poverty.

# National News

## Congress Begins to Address Child Nutrition



**W**ith a lot on their plate this year, Congress appears to have Child Nutrition Reauthorization on the back burner. But President Obama's pledge to end childhood hunger by 2015 is still on the minds of many activists and members of Congress. We were glad that Obama included a \$1 billion commitment to

critical new hunger programs in his May 4th budget proposal, but it will take much more money to fulfill his pledge.

At a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing in March, **Sen. Casey** called for a quick passage of reauthorization, especially for increased funding for school meals.

Two issues have surfaced so far. S. 990, the AFTERSchool Meals Act of 2009 would authorize a nationwide expansion of the AFTERSchool Meal Program. Currently the program only operates in ten states (including PA). The bill only has 5 sponsors.

Also an on-again-off-again effort by the US Dept. of Agriculture to eliminate Philadelphia's successful Universal Meals Program (school meals are offered to all children in the schools) got **Senators Casey** and **Specter**, **Gov. Rendell**, and Congresspeople from eastern PA to convince USDA to halt this plan. As a result, a bill for nationwide universal free school meals will probably surface soon in Congress.

Each of the relevant Congressional Committees has a sympathetic chair, and members from W. PA on them. The chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee is **Sen. Tom Harkin** (D-Iowa). **Sen. Casey** is on its Nutrition Subcommittee. **Rep. Jason Altmire** (D-North Hills) is a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, whose chair is **Rep. George Miller** (D-Ca).

**ACTION:** Call your Congress person and Senators. Tell them to get Child Nutrition Reauthorization moving soon. Tell your senators to co-sponsor SB 990 and all your Congresspeople to weigh in on universal meals.

## Obama's Stimulus will Help Pennsylvania's Poor



**I**mmediately after taking office, Pres. **Obama** began advocating for the economic stimulus package he'd been preparing for months. When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) finally passed (with a time limit of 2 years) it included \$20 billion for food stamps. PA will receive \$779 million for benefits plus \$11.5 million administration. On April 1, food stamp participants saw a 13% increase in their benefits and the minimum monthly benefit rose from \$14 to \$16.

The PA Legislative Hunger Caucus (see article p.4), in a letter to Gov. Rendell, urged him to use the food stamp administrative monies to improve service delivery, not to absorb it into the state's budget deficit. The Caucus supported several specific requests, spelled out in a letter by the Greater Philadelphia Coalition against Hunger, Just Harvest and several other groups.

Among the key items advocates are seeking: coordinating food stamps and LIHEAP (low income energy assistance), raising the gross income limit for eligibility, and hiring more caseworkers (there's a freeze on state hiring). Welfare administrators have responded positively to some of these ideas.

Other nutrition programs will also receive funding from the stimulus.

For the TANF (cash assistance) stimulus monies, advocates in PA want expansion and improvement of programs which help TANF recipients move into the workforce, and expansion of the Emergency Shelter Allowance.



As part of the March 12 National Day of Action to support Obama's budget, 15 Pittsburghers braved the freezing cold at the Regional Enterprise Tower to call for a hand-up. We distributed information to the public about the proposed budget, which includes major new funding for programs that help low-income people. Pictured back row, l to r: **Kenny Miller, Joni Rabinowitz, Mary Ellen Hayden.** Front row: **Wanda Guthrie, Bill Belt, John May.**

### Corrections from last issue:

\* Anti-hunger advocates in PA are asking the General Assembly to increase the State Food Purchase Program to \$24 million, not \$22 million.

\* The number of individuals registered to vote at the county jail was 200, not 24.

# State News



## State Budget Should Serve the Needy

Soon, the PA General Assembly will decide how PA will spend our tax dollars for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. When Gov. Rendell introduced his \$28.9 billion spending plan in February, he anticipated a \$2.3 billion shortfall in revenues. He predicted deep cuts in public services and worker layoffs to keep the budget balanced. He has frozen hiring and now the expected shortfall is over \$3 billion. Observers are predicting the budget discussions go into August (June 30 is the last day of the fiscal year). But keep reminding them that, with the economic downturn, it's more critical than ever that serving people with low incomes be put at the top of their agenda.

**ACTION:** Call your state representative and senator. Tell them to fund the State Food Purchase Program at \$24 million, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program at \$3.5 million, PA Agricultural Surplus System \$1 million, and Healthy Farms/Healthy Schools, \$1 million.

## Just Harvest Members Visit State Legislators

During the spring, intern **Lou Hansen** took on the task of organizing 4 legislative visits — with Just Harvest members—to voice our opinion on three main topics: stimulus money, membership in the PA Legislative Hunger Caucus, and Senate Bill 9, which would create additional barriers to low-income individuals in need of public benefits (see article below). Sen. **John Pippy (R-North Hills)**, who supports hunger issues, was less responsive to the discussion of SB 9. He stuck with the approach that the bill would help weed out immigrants from the welfare rolls (even though there's no indication that there are any). Mr. **Berlin**, Sen. Orié's staff person, did not have the authority to speak on any of the Senator's positions, so he listened politely and took information to pass on.

Rep. **Paul Costa** was generally in support of bolstering programs for low-income individuals, but seemed much less sure about SB 9. Rep. **Harry Readshaw** showed on-going support for improving low-income programs and made a real commitment to speak with key leaders about the need to vote down SB 9.

Note: SB 9 was sold as a measure to prevent undocumented persons from illegally receiving public benefits by requiring photo ID's from all applicants. But all public programs already have effective provisions to prevent ineligible people from receiving benefits! SB 9 would create further barriers to many citizens. This bill passed the Senate resoundingly! **Why did local Senators Pippy, Orié, and Logan sponsor this bill, and Costa vote YES for SB 9?**

**ACTION:** Thank Sens. Ferlo and Fontana for voting NO! SB 9 is now in the House State Government Committee. Call your PA Representative and urge them to vote NO on SB 9.

**VICTORY!!**

## Other Legislation We're Watching

**SB 514** - sponsored by **Sen. Joan Orié (D-North Hills)** would have required voters to show photo ID at every election. After advocates educated her about the harm this would cause to women and to low-income people, and mobilized calls across the state, she withdrew the bill.

**HB 1072**- Just Harvest supports this bill which would require correctional facilities to provide newly released inmates with voter registration materials.

**ACTION:** Call your state Representative. Urge him/her to pass HB 1072.

## Legislators form Bi-Partisan Hunger Caucus

Initiated by freshman Sen. **Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster County)**, a new Legislative Hunger Caucus in the Pennsylvania General Assembly describes a moral and fiscal obligation to decrease hunger in PA in a bi-partisan way. Their website, <http://senatorbrubaker.com/hungercaucus.htm> calls for legislation to help low-wage families purchase more of their food, such as indexing the minimum wage and improving access to food stamps. They want to create consensus on effective strategies to combat both the causes and effects of hunger. The website has links to important news and studies which can help people understand the problems. So far the Hunger Caucus has 42 members in the House and 45 Senate members of both parties.

## Food Stamps Make a Difference

With a few part-time temporary food stamp specialists added to our staff, we've done lots of food stamp applications over the phone on-line this spring through our contract with the Department of Welfare. In the first 5 months of 2009, we completed 442 applications — compared to 334 in all of 2008! We are actively following up with the applicants to help them with problems they encounter. Some of these are: premature denial (before DPW receives the verification documents) caseworkers requiring too much verification; poorly-worded notification documents which confuse clients.

**ACTION:** We're looking for opportunities to go out and do applications in the community. Do you know of any agencies we can visit with this service?

**Good News:** A food stamp recipient recently wrote this note to **Eugenia Mosby**, our food stamp specialist: *"Thank you for your kindness and support throughout my DPW process. You made it possible for me to maintain my dignity and my health. ... If there were more people like you in this world, it would be a better and kinder place."*

**Bad News:** On the other side, one person applying for food stamps through Just Harvest ventured the opinion that "the problem with this country is the rich people and the Jews!" Our worker was much more polite than some of us might have been, asking him not to say such things. He didn't seem too embarrassed about it.

## Local News



*Dillner's farm sells fresh beets at the Farmers Market.*

### Sandra Martin- she works but has no income

*A food stamp vignette.*

*A Just Harvest worker interviewed Sandra Martin. Here is his report.*

Sandra Martin (not her real name), a recent food stamp applicant, has been hit particularly hard by the current economic downturn. When I asked Sandra, a single woman in her thirties, whether she was working now, she said she works 35 hours a week as a real estate agent. But she's been unable to finalize any sales in 5 months. This means no commission, her only source of income. When I called Sandra about a week after her application she happily reported that everything had gone smoothly and she had received her benefits and her Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. And she shared an experience that illuminates the impact that food stamps can have for a person who has been living on little to no income for months. Sandra had no idea what to buy when she arrived at the grocery store. She had become so accustomed to scrounging up whatever she had in the house, eating a limited diet of pasta, that the freedom to buy a broader range of foods was overwhelming. She realized she would need to sit down and plan for her next shopping trip. Sandra's experience is an example of what people can lose and how they can adapt to that loss in times of economic or personal crisis, and the profound effect a social safety can have for that person. Sandra was very grateful for the assistance of Just Harvest and the Department of Public Welfare, and we hope her story inspires us all to look out for each other in these difficult times.

### Anti-Hunger Activist & Author Visits Pittsburgh

**J**oel Berg, executive director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, visited Pittsburgh in April to spread the activist message that strong government action is needed to end hunger and poverty. This message is at the core of *All You Can Eat: How Hungry is America?* Berg's recently published book. Hosted by Just Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Berg gave a rousing call to action to about 50 guests at a community forum at the WPXI-TV Community Room on the Northside. He also got the word out at a book-signing at the Monroeville Barnes and Noble and in numerous media interviews including KQV Radio, Saturday Light Brigade, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, KDKA-TV's Pittsburgh Today, and a front page article in the Pittsburgh Catholic. Visit [www.joelberg.net](http://www.joelberg.net) to learn more about his ideas.



*Anti-hunger activist Joel Berg fervently explains how hunger can be eliminated.*

### Farmers Markets in Full Swing

**F**armers markets are up and running. Increasing interest in eating locally, the superior nutrition of fresh foods, and the desire to know who grows your food, have resulted in new markets popping up all over the country. There are about 80 of them in the Pittsburgh region.

Worried about the low redemption rate by WIC recipients of their farmers market coupons, North Hills resident **Richard O'Toole** has teamed up with Kaelin's Farm to open a new market in McKees Rocks in the FOR Center near the WIC office, and one in the downtown WIC office." Everyone is excited to see if we can improve the redemption rate on the vouchers," says Mr. O'Toole.

Twenty-dollar vouchers are available to WIC recipients and seniors through the federal-state Farmers Market Nutrition Program, but the seniors redeem them more than the young moms do.

Check the Post Gazette for Farmers Markets every Thursday. And they have an interactive map where you can find out where the markets are and what days and hours they are open. Go to our website: [www.justharvest.org](http://www.justharvest.org) for the link.

### Finding Free Summer Food Sites Becomes Easier

**A**t a lively downtown meeting downtown of local summer food sponsors, representatives from the City of Pittsburgh and from Allegheny County (the 2 largest sponsors), and two other sponsors, shared their problems and best practices. They also agreed to actively invite public officials to their sites in the summer, so decision-makers can observe the programs in operation. County Administrator **Bob Rebholz** asked **Shauna Ponton**, Just Harvest's Child Nutrition Advocate (who organized the meeting) to help with outreach in the county housing communities. Shauna has been out talking to residents and managers of the communities about expanding their summer food sites.

Free Food is available for children at sites throughout the city and the county during the summer. Go to [www.justharvest.org](http://www.justharvest.org) to find a site on our Google map, or call 412-244-3911 if you live in the city, or 1-800-851-3838 in the county to find a site nearby.



# In the Community



## 14<sup>th</sup> Empty Bowls Smashes Records

**J**ust Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank shared a record \$55,141 from the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls Dinner, held on March 15 at Rodef Shalom Congregation. Attended by more than 1,600 guests, and featuring at least that many handmade ceramic bowls to choose from, Empty Bowls has become a signature event for Pittsburgh's anti-hunger community. Corporate sponsors, leading restaurants, media partners, schools, artists, entertainers, volunteers, elected officials, and celebrities all join in the fun. This year's event featured an auction of bowls signed by local and national celebrities from Super Bowl winning coach Mike Tomlin to the stars of NBC's sit-com "30 Rock." Hundreds of gallons of delicious soups filled the Empty Bowls thanks to nearly two dozen restaurants and caterers. Special thanks to our planning committee: Ann Roth, Louisa Rudolph, Katie Vargo, Steve Bodner, Pat Murphy, Amanda Shapira, Colleen Wolfson, Margy Whitmer, along with food bank staffers Anne Hawkins, Iris Valanti, Patty Van Dillen, and Dierdre Gross and Just Harvest's Ken Regal.

Thanks to our terrific bowl makers: Norm Brown; Be Carter; Kim Dinges; Don Fisher; The Fowkes Family; Keith Herchenroether; Tod Herchenroether; Michael Lisieski; Carly Neal; Pat Rampolla; Justin Rothshank; Sabina Rosenfeld; Denise Schiller; Willi Singleton; Bethel Park High School; Bishop Canevin Catholic High School; Brashear High School; Carlow University Art Department; Carrick High School; Chartiers Valley High ; Edinboro University Art Department; Ellis School; F.O.R. Fr. Ryan Arts Center; Fireborn Studios; Manchester Craftsmen's Guild; Northgate Middle/High School; Peabody High School; Pittsburgh CAPA High School; Art Students of Pittsburgh Gifted Center; Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; Pressley Ridge School; Shadyside Academy; St. Edmund's Academy; Sweetwater Art Center; Union Project; Upper St. Clair High School; and Winchester Thurston School.

## Bruce Springsteen – Working on a Dream for Just Harvest

**W**hen **Bruce Springsteen** and the E Street Band roared into Pittsburgh as part of their "Working On A Dream" tour, his long-standing commitment to the fight against hunger was part of the show. Partnering with anti-hunger groups in each tour city, Springsteen once again chose Just Harvest Education Fund and the Rainbow Kitchen for his generosity. He not only donated a



*Joni Rabinowitz holds up the collection bucket for eager Springsteen attendees to make their generous donations.*

set of premier tickets for us to auction off – which sold for \$4,000 – but matched that high bid with his own personal donation. "The Boss" also spoke about Just Harvest from the stage, encouraging fans to give generously. And of course, the crowd at the sold-out concert was most generous, enabling our team at the concert – **Joni Rabinowitz, Shauna Ponton, Heather Seiders, and Kristie Weiland** – to collect a total of \$5,016.

*"Wherever a hungry newborn baby cries  
Where there's a fight 'gainst the blood and hatred in the air  
Look for me Mom I'll be there"  
– Bruce Springsteen, The Ghost of Tom Joad  
© 1995 (ASCAP)*

## Comings and Goings

**W**e're fortunate this spring-summer to have three part-time Food Stamp Specialists join the Just Harvest team. **Sara Bennett, Lou Hanson** and **Ann Sanders** are helping us keep up with the ever-increasing demand for food stamp applications. All three are previous interns at Just Harvest. Lou just completed her internship and graduated with her MSW in April, and Sara and Ann are both board members and tax preparers. Their strong relationship with Just Harvest has allowed them to jump right in and help us complete record numbers of applications.

**Paul Shetler Fast** is working on several important projects for Just Harvest including updates to our website, a media contact database and preparing our Food Stamp Barriers report for publication. He came to Pittsburgh from Indiana to attend Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and he and his wife enjoy living in Bloomfield.

Two students from Pitt's School of Social Work, **Jonathan Vogel** and **Allysia Hawkins** have completed community service assignments with us. Jonathan worked with Shauna Ponton on Summer Food outreach and expansion, particularly by contacting local school districts. Allysia assisted with our Food Stamp project, doing outreach and making follow-up calls to clients.

**Shauna Ponton** has neither come nor gone, but in addition to her regular work as Child Nutrition Advocate, completed a MSW internship at Just Harvest by assisting with the Food Stamp project this spring.

## Empty Bowls had something for everyone



## Thank You

**J**ust Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger and Just Harvest Education Fund express our thanks to all the individuals and institutions whose generous support has kept us strong so far in 2009.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the Attorneys Against Hunger Campaign of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation for a terrific campaign and their generous gift.

Just Harvest Education Fund is grateful for recent grants from PathwaysPA, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc., Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale, the United Way of Allegheny County, and the Urban Affairs Foundation of the United Jewish Federation.

We are so thankful to these groups for sponsoring fundraising events to benefit our work: St. Andrew Lutheran Church for the mid-winter peace prayer concert, St. Benedict the Abbott Church for their ceramic bowl sale, and the Dan Butler for Judge Campaign for their planning committee's special gift.

Special thanks to Bruce Springsteen for his inspiration and generosity (see related article).

And thank you one and all to our recent donors: Mary Ruth Aull; Milton & Myrna Backal; Sara Bennett; Fran Bertonaschi; Art & Mary Bittner; Joel Bloom & Jody Shapiro; Joel Bloom & Jody Shapiro *In Memory Of Harry Chase*; Kelly Blow; Kenneth Boas; W. Dennis & Pandora Bossick *In Memory Of Edith Scherb*; Glenrose Bradford; Susan Brandt; Suzanne Broughton & Richard Margerum; Daniel & Nina Butler; M. Christine Byrne; David & Betsy Caldwell; Carol Caliendo; Timothy Carr; Anthony Catania; Stephanie Christian; Leona Ciniciripini; David Cohen; Kathryn Davidson; Toni DiGiorno; Steffi Domike; Garrett Dorsey; Ellen Doyle; Mary Eckle; Freda Ellis; James & Kathryn English; Barb Finch; James & Katheryn Flannery; Stephanie Flom; Rosalia Floria; Robert Foley; Florence Gaskill; Hilda & Lynne Giordano; Herman & Rose Glass; Lois Goldstein; Allen Goodman; David Greenberg; Fran Gruden; John Haer; Richard Halpern; A.C. Handler; Anne Handler; Jane Harter; Anne Hawkins; Gunther & Klara Heilbrunn; Lori Hudak; Braden Hunsaker; Jenny John; Judith Johnson; Monique Johnson; Anne Rose Jones; Fred Just; Dora Knox; Jacqueline Krake; Daniel & Gayle Kraut; Sr Maria Kruszerwski; James & Anne Kuhn; Sandy & Bill Ladebue; Barbara Lapcevic & Thomas Onical; Todd Laurent; Paul Lepus; James Levandosky; Sally Levin; Maria Magone; Louise & Michael Malakoff; Marc. Marks, Jeffrey Martinelli; Ann Mason; Frederick & Carol McCullough; Bette McDevitt; Gale McGloin; Howard & Shirley McIlvried; Shirley McIntyre; Martha McKenney; Robert McMahan; Bob McNamara *On Behalf Of The Brother Of Elaine Smith*; Nathan & Dorothy Melamed; Dr. Milton Michaels; Richard Michaels; Patricia Miller; David Mooney & Maxine Heller; James Morrow; John Mosley; James Mroz; Pamela & Richard Oestreicher; Theresa Orlando; Elliott Oshry; Leone Paradise; Nicholas Parrendo; John Pateer; Suzanne Perkins; Lee Perlman; Karen Peterson; Eugene & Susan Pochapsky; Suzanne Polen; Cecilia Pollock; Maggie Qualters; Joni Rabinowitz; Anna Redmond; Ken Regal; Judith Rivas; Ross Rosen; Ann Roth; Joyce Rothermel & Michael Drohan; James Ruck; Herman & Marian Rushofsky; Regis Ryan; Ann Sanders; H.D. Sanders; Lorraine Sauchin; Joyce Scott-Smith; Barry & Shelley Segal; Anna Jane Shally; Amanda & Josh Shapira; Albert Sharenko; Kathleen Sheehan; Suelynn Shiller; Robert Siket; David Simon; John Singleton; Brenda Smith; Peggy Smith; Jeri Spann; Marjorie Spenser; Kenneth Spruill; Brian Stagno; Thomas Surdyk; Rachel & Lowell Swartz; Julia Swartzentruber; James & Barbara Syphers; Jean Szoeh; April Thomson; Shirley Tucker; Robert Vavrek; Charles Vukotich; Dewitt Walton; George & Bernice Weber; Ruth Weinberger *In Honor Of David Mooney's 60th Birthday*; Arlene Weiner; Louis Weiss; Bill Wekselman; Nancy Welfer; Ramonda Wigginton; Gina Wilson; Sylvia Wilson; Gemma Winnen Peters; Philip & Marianne Wion; Christine Wolfe & Howard Aikens; Milton Wolfson; Bill Wood; Diane Wuycheck; William Yund; Laura & Ronald Zinski; Nancy & Leon Zions; Anonymous; Christ United Methodist Church; Committee To Elect Bill Mullen Sheriff; EQT Corporation; Maurice Falk Fund; National Association of Letter Carriers; Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart; Religious Society Of Friends Of Pittsburgh; Sisters of St. Joseph; St. Brendan's Episcopal Church Cries Advocacy Committee; Tree Of Life Congregation; and Verona United Methodist Church.

## In Memoriam



### Dorothy Kolodner

Dorothy Kolodner, local advocate whose zealous initiative resulted in a national program which now feeds almost 9 million women, infants and young children, passed away on March 10, 2009. Dorothy dedicated her life to ensuring that women at risk and their babies had nutritious food. By the time Congress got around to authorizing federal funding for the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) in 1974, Dorothy, who was a nutritionist at the County Health Department, had already started the program here in Allegheny County. She retired from the Health Dept. in 1992.

Dorothy was a great fan of Just Harvest and our advocacy work. She would be thrilled to know that, because of our advocacy, the McKees Rocks WIC office (one of the 10 offices in Allegheny County) is now open 3 days every week, and serves almost 800 mothers and children. Dorothy Chiavetta Kolodner was truly a "Mother of WIC."



### Jim Stephenson

Just Harvest mourns the passing of Jim Stephenson, founder of what is now the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center, and a leading light in our state's fight against hunger. He later served in Gov. Bob Casey's administration as a special advisor on Food and Nutrition. Jim was the guest speaker at Just Harvest's very first membership meeting, and helped guide our advocacy work on state issues for many issues. In recent years, he was the policy director for an environmental advocacy group in North Carolina, until his sudden death on May 28 at the age of 57.

## Just Harvest Kicks Off New Grassroots Program Committee



**W**ant to plan a party or film showing for Just Harvest? The Grassroots Program Committee is open to anybody who wants to get together to organize new fun events for Just Harvest. You don't even have to be a Just Harvest member, but we hope that you will be. Tentative plans include a Party for a Cause, a bowling event, a Roller Derby, and a band benefit. This is your chance to organize your friends, family, peers to have fun and help us. Anything goes! The next meeting is Wednesday, June 24. Call Brian to join, 412-431-8960.

# Mark Your Calendar

## Harvest Celebration Dinner

### Wednesday, October 21



**Raj Patel, global food journalist and activist** will be the guest speaker at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Harvest Celebration Dinner, returning to the Omni William Penn Hotel on **Wednesday, October 21**. Raj Patel is author of *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System*. Patel is also a Fellow at the Institute of Food and Development Policy and a visiting scholar at Berkeley.

Our 2009 Seeds of Just Harvest Award will be presented to our long-time partners at the East End Food Cooperative, Pittsburgh's only member-owned grocery store.

Tickets will go on sale in early August.

**ACTION: You can help us make the Harvest Celebration Dinner a success:**

- Sell ads in our program book
- Donate a unique item or service for our Silent Auction
- Help us with publicity and ticket sales
- Join our planning committee

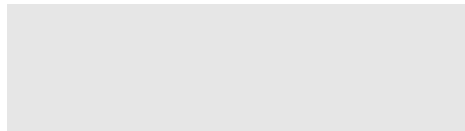
Call us at 412-431-8960 to volunteer.

## Track their Votes!!!

WANT TO FIND OUT HOW YOUR CONGRESS PERSON VOTED ON LOTS OF DIFFERENT VOTES?

Visit [www.Govtrack.us](http://www.Govtrack.us) or [www.Vote Smart.org](http://www.Vote Smart.org).

They're both more user-friendly than Congress' THOMAS.



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*Some of our tax team celebrate the end of a successful tax season. See their names on page one.*

## Tax Assistance Program

### a Huge Success

### See page 1

