



Just Harvest News

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUST HARVEST EDUCATION FUND

Stop Congress' Raid on Food Stamp Benefits

The Federal Medical Assistance Percentages bill (FMAP) was passed by the House on August 10, and signed into law by President Obama the following day. This bill provides critical aid to states for funding for teachers' salaries and Medicaid, and was essential to Pennsylvania's state budget-balancing act. But anti-poverty advocates were horrified to learn that some of the \$11.9 billion to pay for the FMAP funds for states was coming directly from substantial cuts in Food Stamp benefits to our poorest neighbors.

According to the Food Research and Action Center, a significant number of Members of Congress have pledged to restore these cuts. The cuts would begin in 2014 by rolling back the 2009 benefit increases passed as part of the economic stimulus act. Just Harvest and other anti-hunger advocates have vowed to work to hold them to this promise.

Leaders of both parties and the Obama Administration supported the food stamp cuts to keep the FMAP bill revenue neutral. So we need your help! Contact your Representative and tell him or her to restore the cuts!

Making matters worse, the Senate passed even deeper cuts in food stamps in their version of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which reauthorizes the child nutrition programs. This bill further reduces SNAP benefits to generate \$2.2 billion for child nutrition programs by moving up the rollback date to 2013. After that, the average family of four will lose about \$59 a month in benefits. The goal of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is to reduce childhood hunger, so cutting food stamps to pay for it makes a mockery of any hoped-for improvements. A version of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization without any Food Stamp cuts is pending in the House. (*see related story page 3*).

ACTION: Tell Congress to reject any further cuts in SNAP and pass its more robust version of Child Nutrition Reauthorization (H.R.5504).

City Council Passes Capital Budget Reform

A coalition of social justice groups including Just Harvest persuaded Pittsburgh City Council this summer to adopt key reforms to the city's Capital Budget process to protect low-income neighborhoods and strengthen community input. With key support from Councilpeople **Rev. Ricky Burgess** and **Natalia Rudiak**, the measures passed unanimously. Congratulations to all the coalition participants, including the Black Political Empowerment Project, the

Disabilities Rights Network, the Northside Coalition for Fair Housing, Regional Housing Legal Services, Pittsburgh UNITED, and the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group.



New and seasoned Just Harvest members came out for the Annual Meeting and Candidates' Forum on May 4. (*see article p. 7*)

Unprecedented Food Stamp Growth Continues

Food Stamp Participation continues to hit record after record, reaching 1.6 million Pennsylvanians for the first time ever in May, and adding 35,000 more people by July. Enrollment within Allegheny County is also at record levels, reaching the 150,000 mark in July after 32 consecutive months of increases. The food stamp rolls have grown by a shocking 16% in the past year in Allegheny County.

Just Harvest's help for people applying for Food Stamp benefits also continues to increase by leaps and bounds. Applications processed by our food stamp specialists more than quadrupled from 334 in 2008 to 1,520 in 2009. And with more than 1,100 applications so far this year, we're expecting an even higher total again in 2010. Tell your friends and neighbors – for help applying for food stamps, call Just Harvest at 412-431-8963.



A State of Emergency: We Need to Address Rising Poverty Now

Newly released Census Bureau poverty data make it clear that our country is facing a state of emergency. In just one year, 3.7 million more people, including 1.4 million children, fell into poverty. Today, more than one in five children is poor.

The depth of poverty created by the Great Recession is shocking. But it should not come as a surprise. With 15 million people out of work last year and many millions more with earnings too low to make ends meet, economists told us we should expect epidemic poverty.

It is not an exaggeration to say that our country is facing a state of emergency. Poverty hits hardest where it will do the most damage. Children are disproportionately poor, and the youngest children are the poorest of all (more than one in four children younger than five is poor). These children are the most vulnerable to harm from inadequate nutrition – their brain development is threatened and they are more likely to become sick or require hospitalization.

Even before the recession took hold, 32 percent of Americans were living very modestly above the poverty line — with little protection from lay-offs or lost work hours. The new Census data shows not only huge growth in the number of Americans living below the poverty line, but another increase in the “near poor.” In 2009 more than 100 million people lived below 200 percent of the poverty line (about \$34,000 for a three-person family), up from 96 million in 2008. At twice the poverty level, more than one-third of families have a tough time affording food or housing, according to the Urban Institute.

If a flood, fire or disease threatened even a fraction of the number of people living in or near poverty, we would not hesitate to declare a national emergency. We would do so both out of our sense of obligation to protect our neighbors and to prevent permanent economic loss, which affects us all. Our response to the income emergency facing our country should be no less immediate and far-reaching. The stakes are at least as great.

Calling for hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the top two percent of earners while one-quarter of our children are poor is morally and economically wrong. Pretending that tax cuts of more than \$100,000 a year for the wealthiest Americans will do as much for the economy as providing jobs and income support for the bottom 40 percent is wrong. Framing these cuts as aid to small business doesn't erase the truth. The Main Street Alliance, a group of small business people, has said loudly and often that its members don't earn enough to benefit from these breaks.

Some of those claiming that tax breaks for the top will trickle down are also brazen enough to blame the Obama Administration for the steep rise in poverty. The Administration proposed the policies that have helped. These include: Unemployment Insurance expansions; the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Fund, which has created more than 250,000 short-term jobs for low-income parents; improvements in the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, which helped millions of families stay out of poverty; and an increase in food stamps, which allowed families to put more nutritious meals on the table.

Normally in this country we do not let political games stand in the way of a quick and humane response to dire emergencies. We can't let that happen now. We need to extend the TANF Emergency Fund for another year; continue the low-income tax credits; extend federal unemployment benefits past November; and support programs that create jobs so parents can protect their children from the damaging effects of poverty. This is a national crisis. We need to start acting that way.

Deborah Weinstein is the Executive Director of the Washington DC based Coalition on Human Needs. A longer version of this article appeared recently in the Huffington Post.

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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.

National News



Child Nutrition Reauthorization (H.R. 5504) Passage of the Child Nutrition Bill This Year is a Must

On July 15th, the House Education and Labor Committee amended and approved the “Improving Nutrition for America’s Children Act” (H.R. 5504). The bi-partisan committee vote included a yes vote from Congressman Jason Altmire (PA4), the only Western Pennsylvanian on the committee. H.R. 5504 would authorize an additional \$8 billion over ten years for Child Nutrition and WIC Programs. Highlights of the bill include:

Expanding the Afterschool Meal Program to all 50 states, which currently provides funds for meals at afterschool community programs in only 13 states (including Pennsylvania) and the District of Columbia;

Providing competitive grant funds to promote the expansion of the School Breakfast Program;

Lowering area eligibility for Summer Food to 40 percent in rural areas; Currently, summer food sites can be open to all children without requiring individual proof of income paperwork if they are in communities where at least 50% of kids are free and reduced-price

school meal eligible. Lowering the threshold to 40 percent would considerably expand low-income children’s access to meals.

Improving direct certification for school meals; Food Stamp and TANF participants are automatically eligible for free school meals by matching data to local school districts enrollment, reducing paperwork for school districts and families. Improving direct certification approach to enrollment ensures that more eligible children are receiving in school meals.

Creating new paperless options for schools to offer free meals to all;

Creating state pilot programs to provide meals to children after school, on weekends, and during school holidays;

Adding, in some states, an additional meal or snack for children who are in child care for over eight hours;

Strengthening policies to prevent overt identification of low-income children in school meal programs;

Reducing paperwork and simplifying program requirements in the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program;

Allowing state WIC agencies the option to certify children for up to one year; Currently WIC agencies need to see a child every six

months until the age of 5 in order to receive WIC checks.

Moving toward national nutrition standards for all foods sold on the school campus throughout the extended school day; and

Enhancing the nutritional quality of food served in school-based and preschool settings.

Financing Child Nutrition Reauthorization

To comply with House budget (“pay-go”) rules H.R. 5504 must be completely financed in order to move to the House floor. Just Harvest is advocating that H.R. 5504 is fully funded with the right mix of funding. The right mix does not include taking money from SNAP benefits. We urge Congress to do the right thing and fully fund H.R. 5504 so that an additional \$8 billion over ten years will be put into Child Nutrition and WIC Programs.

Comings and Goings

In April, **Anne Wachtel** finished her internship as an undergraduate social work intern through the University of Pittsburgh. The internship focused on policy and research issues relevant to Just Harvest and its clients. She worked on several projects, including a research project that involved compiling data on numbers of Just Harvest SNAP applicants. **Aubrey Stock-Bratina**, placed by Life’s Work of Southwestern PA, is currently helping with administrative support. **Stacy Fultz** is also new to our team, as a Paid Work Experience placement from Catholic Educational Programs. Longtime Board of Directors member **Mike Stout** resigned from his position just prior to the board elections in the spring. Just Harvest said farewell and good luck to Communications Coordinator **Jessica Burgan**, who has accepted a position with the AFL-CIO in Philadelphia. And we are so grateful to VISTA volunteers **Maria Muzzie** and **Noah Whelan**, who wrapped up their year of outstanding service to us in August. And we welcome our new Social Work interns for the 2010-11 academic year: **Kate Annett** from Pitt and **Selena Marshall** from Carlow University.

ACTION: Please tell US Representatives Altmire, Dahlkamper, Murphy Doyle and Critz to vote YES on H.R. 5504 this year.

Extension Sought for TANF Emergency Fund

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 created a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund to assist states in expanding services during the recession. States that increased spending on assistance, short-term non-recurrent benefits, or subsidized employment last year or during FY 2010 can receive 80 percent reimbursement of the increased costs.

The TANF Emergency Fund is scheduled

to end on September 30, 2010. However, the President’s budget proposal calls for an additional \$2.5 billion for the emergency fund in FY 2011. The proposal would also expand the allowable uses of the emergency fund to include employment-related services and allow subsidized employment to be claimed for 100 percent reimbursement rather than 80 percent.

The emergency fund has been a valuable tool in promoting assistance to vulnerable families, and should be extended.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators and tell them to support the extension of the TANF Emergency Fund contained in HR 4213 as amended, officially named *The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010*.

State News

Progress: State Commission Challenges DPW on Special Allowance Regulations



The PA Department of Public Welfare has proposed changes in the rules that govern “Special Allowances” for welfare consumers – extra funds to help with transportation, books, and similar needs to pursue employment, training, and education. Under these proposed regulations an individual would only be able to receive \$2,000 in a lifetime to spend on books and school supplies and \$1,500 per year on transportation. These limits could potentially cause an individual to quit education and training, a job or stop looking for a job.

Thanks to Just Harvest and advocates across the state, the state’s Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) has taken action to delay implementation of these changes. After getting input from the Attorney General, the PA House of Representatives Health & Human Services Committee, the PA Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee and the general public, DPW submitted their final proposal to IRRC for approval. Critical comments provided by Just Harvest, Community Legal Services, and other allies helped persuade the IRRC to return the challenge DPW officials for further clarification, rather than approve them immediately. Among IRRC’s comments:

1. Not enough was done to justify DPW’s determination to impose the lifetime limit on books and school supplies or the annual transportation allowance. DPW must explain how they took into account availability, costs and the number of consumers needing services within a geographic area in determining these proposed limits.
2. DPW must provide more detail on their claim that changes are necessary to provide services to the greatest number of individuals. Opponents of the regulations had commented that DPW’s spending in Employment and Training programs has decreased because the caseloads have decreased, calling into question DPW’s budget-related justification of the rules.
3. Following comments opposing the regulations that contended that the limits will undercut consumers’ efforts to obtain better employment defeating the purpose of the allowances and costing taxpayers more in the long run, IRRC insisted that DPW explain its methods for determining each of the annual and lifetime limits.

We consider this action by IRRC a victory, but the battle is far from over! DPW has made some minor revisions to the proposed regulations but they will still cause a hardship for consumers who are trying to achieve self-sufficiency. We need your help to make sure that these changes are not implemented!

Action: Call the Candidates for Governor Dan Onorato (Democrat) - 412-281-5678 and ask them where they stand on this issue: Tom Corbett (Republican) – 717-238-4009

JH Presents Concerns at State WIC Hearing

Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health holds a hearing to receive public comments on the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program, to inform the development of the plan for the following year. Just Harvest’s Child Nutrition Advocate **Shauna Ponton** testified at the April 8 hearing, and then worked to ensure that participants who could not attend submitted written comments. Shauna collected more than fifteen such testimonies. Common concerns about the program included poor education around the new food packages, the unavailability of certain food package items at individual grocery stores, and the inability to use the fruit and vegetable voucher at the farmers’ market.

Legislative Visits Press Anti-Poverty Priorities



Just Harvest’s Welfare Advocate **Rochelle Jackson**, Co-director **Tara Marks** and several food stamp clients met with State Senator **Wayne Fontana** and an aide to State Senator **Sean Logan**.

During these visits, the group stressed the importance of ensuring that Governor Rendell’s budgeted amount for the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) remains uncut. The Governor’s budget includes a \$388 million increase over last year’s spending for DPW. This increase preserves funding for the majority of critical programs that the DPW provides to over 2 million vulnerable citizens. Specifically, they pushed the Senators to urge the governor to increase DPW’s staff and to oppose the cap on the Special Allowance program.

The meetings also served as an opportunity to introduce the Senators with a diverse group of folks who currently benefit from many of DPW’s programs. Rochelle, for example, brought insight regarding the reality of living on cash assistance: “One of the things that is important for a single mom is to map out a self-sufficiency pattern for herself. A great majority of people on cash assistance have no GED, no training of any type, and very little work experience. A lot of people struggle. They need supportive services from DPW.”

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.

Local News

Ingredients for Change: Food, Inc. Documentary Attracts 200+

Just Harvest was selected to participate in the **Ingredients for Change Campaign**, which includes public screening events of the film *Food, Inc.* in thirty lower income communities around the country in an effort to raise public awareness of the U.S. food system, and to address issues of food access, childhood obesity, and other diet-related health problems. Just Harvest was joined by more than twenty community, urban agriculture, hunger, health, and policy-focused organizations to coordinate a free community screening at the Homewood Library on June 9.

More than 200 folks came to view the film, a feature-length documentary by director **Robert Kenner**, which lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing a system controlled by international corporations that prioritize profit over the health and safety of consumers. Following the screening, a panel addressed the theme of the evening, "What can we do to improve the health of our neighborhoods?" Just Harvest Co-Director **Tara Marks** emphasized the importance of eating locally, highlighting our efforts to make food stamps an accepted form of payment at Citiparks Farmers' Markets. In addition to the organizational representatives and expert panelists, the event was also attended by City Councilman **Ricky Burgess**, Councilwoman **Natalia Rudiak**, and representatives from the offices of State Senator **Jim Ferlo** and US Representative **Mike Doyle**.



City Councilman Ricky Burgess (far left) greets the panel and crowd at Food, Inc. With him onstage from left to right are panelists Celita Hickman, Yejide KMT and son, Juile Pezzino, Dr. Marty Seltman, Tara Marks, Carol Janesko, and Rob Baran.

Summer Food Program Faces Challenges

Summer Food Program participation was disappointing this year, according to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County administrators of the programs locally. The unusually hot weather seemed to diminish participation at many sites. In addition, as a result of funding shortfalls and the bad economy, some planned sites were unable to hire staff. Overall, the number of program locations across the county fell from 260 last year to 237 this summer.

Despite these challenges, Just Harvest continued our extensive community outreach to promote the program. We distributed more than 30,000 promotional flyers across 50 communities during the wide range of school partners. We helped four in West Elizabeth, Liberty and Northside. coordinator of the new site Wilksburg, described Just "blessing" and looks again in 2011.

Other key plans for next year include working Department of Human strategy focused on public and working with local welfare-to-work programs to recruit clients as site coordinators to provide them with hands-on job experience.

Broader trends in Summer Food participation seem to indicate continuing barriers to participation. According to the Food Research and Action Center, nationwide summer food participation has dropped slightly over the past five years, while participation has been essentially flat in Pennsylvania, despite record-setting growth in food stamp participation since the economic crisis began. These trends suggest that the improvements to the program proposed in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization being debated in Congress are needed now more than ever (*see related article page 3*).



summer, working with a districts and community new sites get underway, Wilksburg, East Carolyn Perrin, at Kelly School in Harvest's efforts as a forward to participating

boosting participation with the County Services on an outreach housing communities,

Share the Harvest

Early in this year's local growing season, Just Harvest partnered with PASA, the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, the Kretschmann Organic Farm, and local eatery the Enrico Biscotti Company for the first ever Share the Harvest Dinner.

Just Harvest Co-Director **Tara Marks**, along with **Don Kretschmann** of Kretschmann Organic Farm's, and **Celita Hickman** of the Ujaama Collective spoke about the realities of food inaccessibility to many city residents. Rousing the dinner goers' attention they implored guests to be cognizant of the harsh realities of food deserts in our community.

The event, which featured local and organic fair, was the first ever event at Enrico Biscotti's new location in Highland Park – E². Proceeds from the dinner went towards to the cost of providing two families selected from Just Harvest tax clients with CSA Shares for the 2010 season.

One of the families, a young couple, blogged about their experience at www.weeatwell.wordpress.com, helping others learn more about how the infusion of fresh fruits and vegetables to their diet has an effect on their lives. Log on to learn more about the family's experience with local organic produce.

Tax News and Issues



Just Harvest tax team members gather at a post-season celebration of our more than \$4.4 million in refunds for clients. Pictured, from left: Noah Whelan, Rich Surdyk, David Mooney, MARRISSA JOHNSON, Heather Seiders, Sara Bennett, Tammy Harris, Kristie Weiland Stagno.

Tax Season Help Reaches Record Numbers

Just Harvest's eighth successful year of free tax assistance wrapped up in April, setting new records again. This year, with our largest ever group of volunteer tax preparers and paid staff, we helped 2220 households receive a total federal refund of \$4.48 million! We helped Fifty-five percent of our tax clients access the Earned Income Credit (EIC) worth a total of \$1.78 million. This is the country's largest anti-poverty program.

The United Way recruited volunteers this year and helped us find 36 skilled volunteer tax preparers to work with our nine paid preparers and three supervisors. Additionally, for the first time, we hosted four tax preparer interns at Just Harvest. They all earned University of Pittsburgh academic credits while assisting our clients. We continued our long-time partnership with Duquesne Business Ethics students who assisted the site by greeting clients, mailing appointment reminders, helping with data entry, and a variety of other tasks. In total, our volunteers accounted for 2,255 hours of community service.

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 Family Resource Center (formerly called the Parental Stress Center), Goodwill in McKeesport and a new Just Harvest satellite site on the Boyce Campus of CCAC. Additionally, for the first time we provided tax assistance at the Prospect Park Family Center in Baldwin to serve refugee and immigrant families. United Way support has helped us strengthen the Coalition and improve coordination, capacity and capability at sites.

Expanded Asset Building in 2010

This year Just Harvest expanded our asset building initiatives for tax clients in a variety of ways. We partnered with Advent Financial to offer clients a prepaid debit card onto which their refund could be loaded free of charge. This allowed clients without a bank account to avoid costly check cashers who charge exorbitant fees. Also, we joined with PNC Bank to allow our clients to cash government refund checks at branch locations free of charge. Furthermore, we utilized Asset Building Coaches (ABCs) to help educate clients in terms of financial literacy. These client options helped to infuse the maximum dollar amount possible into their pockets.

Progressive Tax Credits Help Low-Income Families

We saw bigger than ever refunds at our VITA site this year thanks to progressive tax changes included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is meant to help defray the cost of raising children, but until ARRA, many working parents earned too little to benefit from the credit. ARRA lowered the income threshold to \$3000, making the refundable part of the CTC available to most working parents.

At our tax site where the median income is just over \$12,000, this year 70% of our tax clients with dependents received the CTC compared to just 40% last year.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) also helped even more working families this year after the ARRA increased the credit for families with three children and raised the income limits for married couples.

At one time, education tax benefits were mostly off limits to low-income families. ARRA changed this fact by creating a new credit that is available to most families and covers both tuition and books.

The ARRA established these guidelines for 2009 and 2010. Just Harvest is working with local and national partners to make them permanent. Here's just one example of how these credits help families.

A Bhutanese refugee family of five came to our tax site with a translator. The father is a factory worker and earned \$16,000 in 2009 and the mother is a homemaker. The father completed high school and the mother just 8th grade, but their daughter is attending college. Because all 3 children qualified, they received the maximum EITC of \$5,657. They also received a CTC of \$1952, rather than \$1127 they would have received under previous law. Their EITC and CTC boosted their annual income by 48%.

ACTION: Contact Senators Casey and Specter and your representative and ask them to make these tax changes permanent!

In the Community

Spring Annual Meeting/Candidate Forum a Success



The May 4 Annual Meeting was followed by Just Harvest's Primary Candidates' Forum. Candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate, and PA House seats in Allegheny County with contested primaries attended, and responded to questions addressing a wide range of issues related to hunger, poverty and economic justice in our region. Above, Tanya Payne and Mark Brentley, Sr. debate at the event.

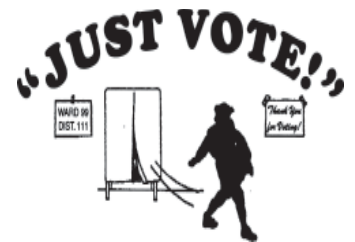
Indie Rockers Support Just Harvest on Tour

Indie rock band **My Morning Jacket** performed at Station Square Amphitheater in Pittsburgh on August 27th and selected Just Harvest as their local charity beneficiary of \$1.00 for every ticket sold. Board members **Fran Gruden** and **Melissa Farabaugh** and staffers **Shauna Ponton** and **Maria Muzzie** distributed Just Harvest handouts to the concert goers at a booth the band set up for us, and fans also donated \$212 to the cause.

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting and Candidates' Forum on May 4. The meeting included the election of our Board of Directors. Congratulations to new Board of Directors members **Aerojean Baughn**, Business Analyst at MEDRAD; **Keith Caldwell**, Director of Career Services and Alumni Affairs – School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh; **Melissa Farabaugh**, full-time student at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania CCAC site; **Marsha Fuge**, Assistant Vice President/Manager at First Commonwealth Bank; **Mary Ann Hvizdos**, Project Manager and Adjunct Instructor – School of Arts and Sciences at Point Park University; and **Paul McKrell**, Government Affairs Manager for the City of Pittsburgh.

Just Harvest's Annual Report was also presented, highlighting our advocacy, organizing, educating, and outreach efforts on issues ranging from usage of federal stimulus funds, to Department of Public Welfare cuts to special allowances, to Pittsburgh City Council's funding of anti-hunger groups. On the service end of our work, the report features our record-breaking free tax-preparation sites and food stamp application assistance. Current and upcoming policy priorities include federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization, federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization, a fair and balanced PA State Budget, and many more issues that affect low-income people.

Please visit our website, www.justharvest.org, to find full bios of the entire Just Harvest Board of Directors, to read the full 2009-2010 Annual Report and to learn more about getting involved in our work.



Thank You

Just Harvest sends our deepest thanks to the **Attorneys Against Hunger campaign of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation**. For more than a decade, Attorneys Against Hunger has been a leading supporter of Just Harvest's work and a powerful ally in the fight against hunger. Thanks also to Bar Louie in Station Square and to the Town Tavern on the Southside for hosting our spring and summer Happy Hour fundraisers, to the Squirrel Hill Branch of First Commonwealth Bank for their employee bake sale and to Active Voice for their underwriting of the Food Inc. documentary screening event.

And thank you to all our recent supporters: Milton & Myrna Backal; Sue Bailey; Phyllis Barber; Jean Bartholomew; Eva Bednar; Sara Bennett; Helen Berman; Glenrose Bradford; Susan Brandt; Keith Caldwell; Dave Candle; Theresa Chalich; Joleen & Kenneth Chiaverni; Stephanie Christian; Barbara Coffee; Rosemary Coffey; Diana Cordova, William Gustavson, and Luz Isidro in memory of Mrs. Jean Gustavson; Virginia Crosby; Michael Crossey; Louis & Ann Cutter; Raymond Daniels; Doris Dick; Dallas Dileo; Michael Drohan & Joyce Rothermel; *Cindy Duch and Friends at the Peal Center in memory of Joseph Healy*; Ruth Egler; Carla Ellard; James English; Melissa Farabaugh; Sr. Barb Finch; Gloria Garcia; John & Melissa Gargani; Florence Gaskill; David & Joan Gauthier; Benedict & Margaret Gessler; Ginny Giles; Herman Glass; Lois Goldstein; Lorraine Grant; Fran & Patti Gruden; Anne Handler; Anne Hawkins; Lucy Hixon; Timothy Hrehocik; Mary Ann Hvizdos; Stephen Jordan; Philip Joyce; Fred & Patricia Just in honor of *Joni Rabinowitz*; Caroline Kostuch; Brian Kruman; Cary Lund; Robert Marin; Joseph Markowski; Frederick & Carol McCullough; Sr. Vivian McElhinny; Paul McKrell; Nathan & Dorothy Melamed in honor of *Joni Rabinowitz*; Patricia Miller; Joan Mizgorski; John Mosley; Fr. Jack O'Malley; Pat O'Malley & Regis Burdelsky; Melanie Organ; Barbara Pavuk Recker & Perry Recker; Carla Pfahler; Eugene Pochapsky; Cecilia Pollock; Joni Rabinowitz & John Haer; Ross Rosen; Lee Rouse; Ann Ruszkowski in memory of *Barbara Krupp*; Lorraine Sauchin; Georgine Scarpino; Harold Scheinman; Irving & Janet Selsley; Frank & Maureen Stagno; Sandra Swetland; James & Barbara Syphers; Sandra Telep; DeWitt Walton; Rebecca Watkins; Bill Wekselman; Virginia Wellman; Ramona Wigginton; M. Kathleen Winter; Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart; School Sisters Of St Francis; Sixth Presbyterian Church; St. Brendan's Episcopal Church Cries Advocacy Committee.

Upcoming Events



National Labor Leader To Speak At 22nd Annual Dinner

Arlene Holt Baker, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO will be the guest speaker at Just Harvest's 22nd Annual Harvest Celebration Dinner, returning to the Omni William Penn Hotel on Tuesday, October 12, 2010.

Tickets are on sale now for \$50 per person or \$75 including a VIP Wine Cheese Reception. The event also features our lively silent auction. Tables of Ten are available for a discounted price of \$450.

Thanks to our sponsors at the United Steelworkers, Holt Baker will receive the George Becker Memorial Award at the Dinner. Recently retired Just Harvest Co-Director and Co-

Founder **Joni Rabinowitz** will be honored with our 2010 Seeds of Justice Award at the event. Other sponsors as of press time include Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc., the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, First Commonwealth Bank, and the Allegheny County Labor Council. Sponsorships and program book advertisements are also available.

Holt Baker has been a union and grassroots organizer for more than three decades, coming up the ranks from organizing city clerical workers in Los Angeles to become the highest ranking African American woman in the nation's labor movement.

KDKA-TV2 Reporter **Lynne Hayes-Freeland** is our MC for the event.

Action: Order your tickets today. Call 412-431-8960 or visit www.justharvest.org.

CD Release Party to Benefit Just Harvest

On Saturday, October 2, 2010 **Mike Stout** with special guest the **NewLanders** will play their music to benefit Just Harvest. Tickets are \$20. Advance ticket purchase includes a free copy of Mike's new CD, **Americana Dreams: Keeping the Promise.**

Join us on October 2, 2010, 7:30pm. At Youth Preservationists, 110 East 8th Avenue Homestead, PA

For ticket information call Mike at 412.461.5650 or send an email to mikestout619@comcastnet Check out www.mikestoutmusic.com to hear Mike sing about economic justice for all!



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