



Congressional Hunger Center

“Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders”

Representative Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
CHC Board Co-Chair

Senator Byron Dorgan
Member of Congress

Representative Dennis Hertel
Member of Congress (Retired)
Attorney at Law
The Livingston Group, L.L.P.

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Ashley Aakesson
Executive Director
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti

David Beckmann
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Bread for the World

Karen Coble Edwards
Principal
KCE Public Affairs Associates

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The Leger Company, Inc.

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Feeding America

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Kraft Foods

Al Franken
Author/Comedian

Lou Gerber
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Communications Workers of America

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President
Victory Wholesale Group

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The Molpus Advisory Group, L.L.C.

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Edward M. Cooney, J.D.
Executive Director

Dr. Margaret M. Zeigler
Deputy Director

Ambassador Tony P. Hall
Founder

Ambassador Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey
Founding Director

In Memory Of:
Honorable Bill Emerson
Honorable Mickey Leland

Tax Exempt 501 (c) (3) organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIGHTING HUNGER THROUGH FOOD BANK ANTI HUNGER INITIATIVES

Congressional Hunger Center and Victory Wholesale Group Offer Awards to 25 Food Banks for Innovative Anti Hunger Initiatives.

Washington, DC – August 10, 2009 – The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) and Victory Wholesale Group of Springboro, Ohio, and Boca Raton, Florida, announce the 2009 16th Annual "Victory Against Hunger Awards" (VAH Awards). Twenty-five \$1,000 grants will be available to food banks that demonstrate innovative anti-hunger initiatives assisting families and children in their communities. This year's awards program brings the total of unrestricted grants generously provided by Victory Wholesale Group to local groups to \$313,000 since their inception in 1994.

This year's theme showcases the activities of local and state affiliates of Feeding America and allied food banks. A panel of experts will choose awardees based on their success in achieving the goal of fighting hunger through creative outreach targeted to increasing participation in either SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) or Child Hunger programs (such as Summer Food or Backpack Programs). Examples of creative outreach include use of TV, radio or print media and events focused on raising awareness of program availability, or creation of promotional materials.

VAH awards were established by David Kantor, President of Victory Wholesale Group, to recognize outstanding organizations in the United States that work to end hunger and improve nutrition and health at the local level. Fifteen years ago Kantor teamed up with then-Congressional Hunger Center Chairman Rep. Tony Hall because each believed strongly in the value of keeping members of Congress involved in solving the problem of hunger. Today CHC's co-chairs, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Rep. James P. McGovern, carry on this noble tradition.

The application process consists of a one or two page letter from a local or state Food Bank or Food Bank association to the Congressional Hunger Center highlighting the nominee's efforts in fighting hunger through promoting or creating innovative anti hunger initiatives in their community or state. The selection committee will give additional consideration to applications submitted with a letter of support from a Member of Congress. The nomination period is **August 14th through October 2nd**. Awards will be announced on October 16th. Nomination letters should be addressed to Victory Against Hunger, c/o Congressional Hunger Center at the address listed above.

Founded in 1979, Victory Wholesale Group is a wholesale distributor of dry groceries and health and beauty care products. Victory is a national company employing hundreds of people across the country that distributes to wholesalers and retailers across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Established in 1993, CHC's mission is to "fight hunger by developing leaders" who have a shared commitment to a nation and a world free from hunger. It embodies the spirit and goal of the former House Select Committee on Hunger, "to find real solutions to hunger and poverty." CHC administers the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program and the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program.

For additional information about the Congressional Hunger Center, please visit our website at www.hungercenter.org .