

**Congressional Hunger Center:  
Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders**  
The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) was founded in 1993 by former Congressman Tony Hall to train and inspire leaders in the fight to end hunger and to advocate for public policies that lead to a more food secure world.

CHC seeks to fulfill this mission primarily through its leadership development programs: the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program and the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program. These programs are named for and inspired by Rep. Mickey Leland (D-TX) and Rep. Bill Emerson (R-MO), Congressional leaders who worked together in a bi-partisan way to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. They emphasized drawing on the expertise of field practitioners to craft effective policies and legislation. Accordingly, the principal goal of the Leland and Emerson programs is to give fellows significant experience in both field and policy work. Fellows see first-hand how timely information from the field can and should translate into appropriate policies that help create lasting solutions to hunger.



*“From the Leland Fellowship Program, I gained vision, professional and personal wisdom, clarification of my professional goals, and important life experience.”*  
-Stephanie Donley Jackson, 1st Class Fellow



*The Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is a memorial to the late Rep. Mickey Leland, who led the fight against hunger in the U.S. Congress from 1979-1989. He died in a plane crash in Ethiopia while on a famine relief mission.*

**The Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program**  
The mission of the Leland Program is to develop leaders committed to finding lasting solutions to hunger worldwide. It is a unique two-year fellowship that exposes fellows to food security programming and policy while deepening their understanding of global hunger and poverty.

The program begins with a one-year field placement in a developing country in Asia, Africa or Latin America. Fellows spend the second year in a policy environment, usually at the headquarters of the organization they served in the field year. In this way, fellows apply what they learned in the field to help inform the development of sound organizational and governmental food security policies. CHC seeks field and policy assignments that are closely coordinated so that the fellow works on an issue from two different perspectives.

*“The fellowship is an incredible opportunity to develop personally and professionally and gain unique and dynamic experience. Both CHC and my host organization have supported me to go beyond the minimum requirements of project implementation and bring in new ideas that will set a precedent for future food security initiatives.”*  
-Matt Styslinger, 6th Class Fellow

**Partner Organizations**  
CHC places fellows with organizations that make a difference both on the ground and at the policy level. Past host organizations include:

- Catholic Relief Services
- International Food Policy Research Institute
- Helen Keller International
- Land O’Lakes, Inc.
- Mercy Corps
- Concern Worldwide
- Oxfam America
- UN World Food Program

Leland Fellows work on a variety of issues related to food security, including:

- Agricultural development
- Maternal and child nutrition
- Climate change adaptation
- Agribusiness development
- Women’s empowerment

Within these fields, fellows engage in a range of activities during their field and policy placements. Examples include:

- Monitoring and evaluating programs/projects
- Conducting qualitative and quantitative research
- Assisting or leading in the development and implementation of new programs/projects
- Developing technical training resources
- Conducting trainings
- Transforming research into policy documents, briefings and white papers
- Participating in food security advocacy coalitions

*“The people who come out of this program are very capable and they have a very wide view of how to make a difference in the field and within the organization. The experience itself builds confidence and allows them to really stretch themselves.”*  
-Policy Site Supervisor

**Linking Field and Policy**  
A defining component of the Leland Program is its emphasis on exposing fellows to both the field and policy aspects of food security work. Accordingly, CHC seeks partners organizations that emphasize and support the fellow’s opportunity to address this critical link.



**Training and Professional Development**  
CHC is committed to providing fellows with leadership and professional development opportunities throughout the fellowship. The program begins with an intensive orientation in Washington, D.C. where the fellows forge connections with their peers and are trained on the issues and skills that will inform their field work. Between the field and policy years, the fellows return to Washington, D.C. to reconnect with one another and receive a second training that prepares them for their policy-centered work. Each fellow also has access to professional development funds that they can use to attend conferences, workshops and trainings that further their leadership development.

*“As a Leland Fellow I was able to demonstrate that dedication and perserverance are as important as a large budget, and that even small projects can have big implications. The Leland Fellowship provided me with the opportunity to lead and manage my own project. This has helped me hone my analytical as well as management skills in the development sector.”*  
-Curan Bonham, 5th Class Fellow



**Becoming a Leland Fellow**

Fellows are recruited and selected based on their demonstration of the following qualities:

- Strong commitment to fighting hunger
- Leadership qualities and abilities
- Critical thinking skills and a high degree of self-motivation
- One-year of combined work or volunteer experience in a developing country
- Ability to communicate and work across cultural contexts
- Ability to work independently as well as on a team
- Flexibility
- Applicable skills, expertise and educational background

Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States.



Elizabeth Whelan

Prospective Leland Fellows apply to a specific placement. These placements are selected through a competitive application process in which prospective host organizations submit a scope of work to CHC for consideration. Each fellowship placement aims to be a mutually beneficial one in which the fellow gains experience and expertise while the host organization benefits from the fellow’s skills and hard work. In addition to CHC’s general requirements, some placements may require foreign language fluency, a particular graduate degree and/or certain technical skills and experience.



Emily Byers

**Benefits**

During their service, CHC provides the fellows with:

- Monthly stipend
- Comprehensive medical, dental and emergency insurance
- Housing and relocation allowances
- Professional development funds
- Training and advising
- Access to a dynamic fellowship community and alumni network

**A Lasting Community of Anti-Hunger Leaders**

The Leland International Hunger Fellows Program emphasizes service and is designed to build a network of anti-hunger leaders who share a common identity as Leland Fellows. Fellows are encouraged to think of each other, as well as Leland alumni and CHC staff, as long-term personal and professional resources in the fight against hunger and poverty.

**For more information about the Leland Program, please contact:**

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**Visit the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Website at**  
<http://www.hungercenter.org/fellowships/leland/>



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Emily Byers

*“The Leland Fellowship is the best designed, best managed fellowship that I have ever come across.”*  
-Giselle Aris, 6th Class Fellow

CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER

**THE  
MICKEY  
LELAND  
INTERNATIONAL  
HUNGER  
FELLOWS  
PROGRAM**



Elizabeth Whelan



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