



THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY
WWW.ONE.ORG

ONE NEWSLETTER

for Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin

August 2007

EDITORS' NOTE

Summer is always a great time to hit the streets and spread the word about ONE. Since the last newsletter, we have both volunteered at a Water Rally in Chicago, where ONE volunteers gathered more than 250 signatures on a Petition supporting an increase in funding for the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. You can read more about this event on page 4.

ONE newsletter serves ONE region of the U.S. as a place to share ideas, compare experiences, and inspire ONE another to take action in the fight against extreme poverty.

Sincerely,
Morgan Granata and Leise Grimmer
ONE volunteers, Illinois

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The ONE newsletter represents the views of individual contributing ONE members and does not necessarily reflect the views of the ONE Campaign.

THE FARM BILL – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

By Eileen Hyde, Oxfam America, Illinois

Soloba Mady Keita knows the harsh realities of being a cotton farmer in Mali – he and his four brothers farm a 12.5 acre cotton field to support an extended family of 27 people. Cotton, or “white gold” as Malians refer to it, is an integral part of many Malian’s livelihoods. Unfortunately, current world market cotton prices inhibit Malian cotton farmers from making a profit or even covering production costs. Surprisingly, the reason for Keita’s reality can be found half way around the world in our very own U.S. agriculture programs.

Terry Steinhour, a conventional farmer in central Illinois farms 650 acres of corn, soybeans and a herd of cattle. Being a family farmer in the U.S., Steinhour understands the struggles of family farms, which are slowly disappearing, while big agribusiness controls the food supply. Similar to Keita, Steinhour and many other U.S. farmers see that the root of their problem stems from U.S. agriculture policies. A year ago, Oxfam America provided Steinhour the opportunity to travel to Mali and meet Keita face to face.

Agricultural commodity subsidies are the cornerstone of the U.S. farm policy that has created the situation both Steinhour and Keita face everyday. The U.S. government shells out subsidies to agricultural commodity producers and five crops (corn, soy, wheat, rice and cotton) receive 95 percent of these payments. Because the payments are given out on a per acre basis, the more one produces, the more subsidies one receives. This generates a surplus of commodities like cotton and rice, which are unloaded on the world market, pushing the world market price below the cost of production. Unfortunately, this price distortion translates into lost revenue for developing countries, as farmers there do not receive a fair price for

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SIGN THE ONE DECLARATION TODAY at <http://www.one.org>

WE BELIEVE that in the best American tradition of helping others help themselves, now is the time to join with other countries in a historic pact for compassion and justice to help the poorest people of the world overcome AIDS and extreme poverty.

WE RECOGNIZE that a pact including such measures as fair trade, debt relief, fighting corruption and over time, directing an amount equal to one percent of the U.S. budget toward meeting basic needs - education, health, clean water, food and care for orphans - would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the poorest countries.

WE COMMIT ourselves - one person, one voice, one vote at a time - to make a better, safer world for all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 6-31 – In-district meetings with your Senators and Congressmen. There is still time to plan or attend a meeting!

August 10 – Lutheran Church ONE Event – <http://www.felc.com> – Appleton, WI

Step into Africa with World Vision – Tour dates in IL and IN in August and September – visit <http://www.worldvisionexperience.org> for more information

September 15 and 16 – Tabling at Willy Street Fair – Madison, WI

September 29 – AIDS Walk – Milwaukee, WI. *Is there a walk in your city? Get a ONE group together to walk and collect signatures that day!*

October 17 – Global White Band Day – Host your own Stand Up event as we attempt to break last year's world record!

October 21 – Crop Walk Chicago – Consider leading a ONE group at a Crop walk in your community. More information at <http://www.chicagocropwalk.org>

November 3 – Tabling at Malaria 5K – Chicago, IL

ONE GROUP MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month – Chicago

Third Thursday of each month – Minneapolis

Don't see an event near you? Consider hosting a meet-up of your own! Contact ONE Field Organizer, Annisa Wanat (annisa@one.org) for more information!

VOLUNTEER TIP

Develop a 10-second "elevator speech" so when someone asks you about your white bracelet or if you are tabling for ONE, you have something prepared. Here is an sample to get you started!

ONE is a campaign that lets everyday citizens be life-saving heroes. Its 2.4 million members have joined together to create the political will needed to motivate our elected officials to fight extreme poverty and global disease. By signing the ONE Declaration, you let our leaders know you care about these issues and want Congress to do more for people who live on less than \$1 a day.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bob Bowers, a.k.a. "da Pirate" is our featured ONE volunteer this month. Hailing out of Madison, Bob (*pictured below*) has survived living with HIV/AIDS for more than two decades, and been a tireless educator and advocate to raise understanding and funds to combat this devastating disease. It was through his work at Camp Heartland, a camp for youths affected or infected by HIV, that he first encountered ONE on a staffer's wristband.

Bob quickly jumped on board. ONE's positive message was attractive. "I firmly believe in the power of compassion. ONE person can truly make a lasting impact in this world. We are indeed ONE and when we use our collective consciousness for the greater good of all, we cannot fail," says Bowers.

Since then, Bob has become fully engaged in ONE's efforts. An active motivational speaker, he includes ONE's message in his presentations, gathering Signatures, and taking the fight against HIV/AIDS global.

In April 2007, he and fellow ONE member Scott Andersen met with the offices of Senator Russ Feingold and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin to advocate for an increase in the International Affairs Budget. This September, he and Scott are continuing their collaboration at a ONE table at the Willy Street Fair in Madison.

ONE has been prominently placed on da Pirate's various web pages. To learn more about this truly inspiring spiritual warrior please visit: <http://www.hivictorious.org>, <http://www.onetoughpirate.com>, and <http://www.whatifitwereyou.org>.

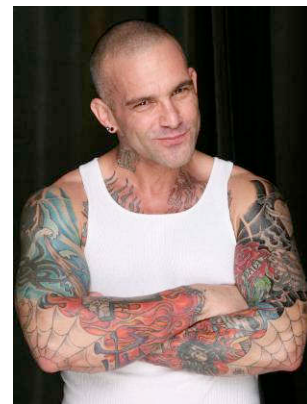


Photo credit: john urban/urbanphotoco.com

Connect with Other ONE Members Near You

Onechicago2015

ONEdecaturIL

ONEIndianapolis

Onebsu

WarsawONECampaign

MadisonONE

MKonecampaign

WhitewaterONE

ONEMinneapolis

ONEFargoMoorhead

Chicago, Illinois

Decatur, Illinois

Indianapolis, Indiana

Muncie, Indiana

Warsaw, Indiana

Madison, Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Whitewater, Wisconsin

Minneapolis, Minnesota

North Dakota

All groups can be found at
[http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/\[insertgroupname\]](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/[insertgroupname])

**If you don't see a group near you,
start ONE in your community!**

FARM BILL *(cont. from page 1)*

their hard work. And families such as Keita's family are forced deeper into extreme poverty.

This same subsidy program also has grave domestic implications. Seventy-five percent of U.S. farmers do not receive these subsidies and most of the payments are actually distributed to big agribusiness because of their capabilities to produce more. Often times, programs that do support U.S. family farmers, such as conservation and rural development initiatives, go under-funded while the government continues to put more taxpayer dollars into the commodity subsidy program. If these policies are not reformed, family farms in the U.S. and countries across the world will cease to exist.

What would you do if you were in Keita's or Steinhour's shoes? Well, both are actively working in their own communities to advocate for reform in U.S. farm policy. Keita, the mayor of his village, is organizing his community to become outspoken on the issue. He has even traveled to the U.S. with Oxfam America to speak directly with Congress about the current situation he and his fellow farmers face every day. Steinhour, also an involved community member, has been working in central Illinois to organize his community to speak out to Congress, pressuring them to reform U.S. farm policy. Both men know this year is an extremely important time in their advocacy work because this year Congress has the task of reauthorizing the most critical piece of agriculture legislation: The 2007 Farm Bill.

The Farm Bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation that governs our federal food, farm and conservation policy and it is reauthorized every five years. The first Farm Bill was written in the 1930s to help farmers deal with the Great Depression. Since then, farming has changed drastically, while many aspects of federal farm programs have not changed to suit the needs of today's rural communities. The 2007 Farm Bill is an opportunity to change U.S. policy, shifting funding away from trade distorting agriculture subsidies and into historically underfunded programs that serve the needs of America's rural communities and urban poor.

You can make a large contribution to this cause with the simple act of writing a letter to your Senator asking him or her to shift funding away from trade distorting agriculture commodity subsidies and into programs that support conservation, nutrition, and rural development. For the future of our food, farms, and families all around the world, let's call upon Congress to reform the 2007 Farm Bill! For more information, visit <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/farmbill>.

Editor's Note: The House of Representatives voted on the Farm bill in July but unfortunately did not make enough of the necessary changes to the commodity subsidy program. But, we still have a chance to affect change on the Senate side. Please visit, write, and call your Senators while they are in their home states during August and ask them to help small farmers both at home and abroad by reducing trade distorting subsidies in the Farm Bill.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

-- Mahatma Gandhi

ONE FOR KIDS

ONEnewsletter would like to have an ongoing column devoted to helping ONE volunteers spread the message of ONE to youth. This month, we share a few links to websites that will help you start the discussion with the children in your life.

Millennium Development Goal Number 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

<http://www.one.org/node/271.html>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/36ah5t>

Cyber School Bus: The Millennium Development Goals

<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/index.asp>

Nickelodeon and the Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.nick2015.com>

We would like to feature the work of children in our region around the ONE Campaign's issues. Please submit art, poems, and volunteer stories involving children to newsfromone@gmail.com.

ONE GROUP TIP

Need ideas for your ONE Group meetings? The Minneapolis ONE group reads a chapter from Jeffrey Sachs' *The End of Poverty* every month to discuss at their meeting. (See page 5 for a review of *The End of Poverty*.)

***We want your ideas and articles** for the newsletter. Share with other volunteers your activities, reviews of movies or books related to the goals of the ONE campaign, articles on ONE issues, information about upcoming ONE events, and any other items that you and other ONE volunteers would like to read about. Please submit these materials (or questions) to newsfromone@gmail.com. Submissions are accepted on a rolling deadline and we hope to have the next issue out in November!*

ONE VOTE '08 REACHES OUT TO CANDIDATES



The next President could feasibly be in office in 2015, which coincides with the timeline for meeting the Millennium Development Goals to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty. She or he could be a leader in the global fight against poverty. In order to make this happen, we need to demonstrate that there are a growing and visible number of Americans who care about extreme poverty and global disease.

ONE recently launched ONE Vote '08 to educate and mobilize voters on these issues. ONE Vote '08 is an unprecedented, nonpartisan campaign to energize presidential candidates and ONE members to make the fight against global poverty a key foreign policy and security issue at the 2008 ballot box. Two former Senate Majority Leaders – Senators Bill Frist and Tom Daschle – are co-chairing ONE Vote '08 and will travel the country talking with candidates and voters about America's role in the world and what the next President can do to save lives and secure our future.

How can you help in this effort? Check out the candidate tracker at <http://www.onevote08.org> to see when the candidates are near you! Then **ask candidates** what kind of leadership they will provide on global poverty when they make public appearances. Afraid to go alone? **Organize a group of ONE members** in ONE t-shirts for a big rally or local forum. If you get a chance, **ask candidates to wear the ONE wrist band** (make sure you bring one) and **get a photo**. And remember, as a nonpartisan campaign ONE does not endorse any one candidate or party. Please be respectful of these guidelines as you reach out to candidates.

WATER FOR LIFE RALLY



ONE and World Vision supporters gathered in Chicago on May 18 for a rally to show support for the 1 billion people in the world who do not have access to clean water. Volunteers gathered over 250 signatures on a petition supporting an increase in funding for the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act while the audience listened to prominent speakers on the issues, including Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, Representative

Jan Schakowsky, Consul General Yusuf Omar of South Africa, World Vision's Emmanuel Opong, and ONE volunteer Morgan Granata.



Several weeks after the rally, Senator Durbin was spotted in New Hampshire wearing the ONE shirt given to him at the rally. He is pictured here with ONE volunteer, Al Kitomari, who is from Tanzania.

ONE TABLES AT SUMMERFEST IN MILWAUKEE



Thanks to volunteers Katie Roberts, Gail Schultz, Melissa McDonald, Jim Wnorowski, Sarah Slagter, Matt Augustine, Robyn Gandt, Dewion Fletcher, Sando Johnson, Brian Neville, Cameron Rodriguez, Angela Kimpel, Beth Simonis, Andrea Walton, Melinda Johnson, Jim Carpenter, and Fred Gillich of *Too Much Rock* for helping out.

ONE IN ACTION!

ONE volunteers throughout the Midwest have been competing in the Summer Volunteer Challenge, resulting in more than 1,100 new signatures on the ONE declaration! The volunteer/group that collects the most signatures between Memorial Day and Labor Day will get a *small* prize. The current standings are below and there is still time to compete! Think about getting your group (or 2-3 friends) together to collect signatures at farmers markets, carnivals, fairs, HIV/AIDS walks, small concerts, in your faith organizations - anywhere you can reach a group of people! Questions about how to make this happen? Check <http://www.one.org/toolkit> to get ideas and email Annisa (annisa@one.org) with other questions, for suggestions, and to find out how to get credit for your signatures!

Volunteer	State	Event	Signups
Celeste Arujo	IN	Indianapolis 500	0-100
Kara Olsen	IL	Summer Camp and Rhythm Assembly Concerts	101-500
Bob Bowers	WI	Block Party	0-100
Fred Gillich/ONE Milwaukee	WI	Summerfest	501+
Jim Carpenter	WI	Private Event	0-100
Becky Boggs	WI	Delevan United Church of Christ	0-100
Karen Roddie	IL	Hyde Park Vineyard Church	0-100

GLOBAL CHILD SURVIVAL ACT

From the *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin
<http://www.lacrossetribune.com>

Each day, almost 30,000 children younger than 5 die from preventable and or treatable diseases such as diarrhea, pneumonia and measles. For those fortunate enough to live, almost 77 million children worldwide lack access to basic education up to the sixth grade. But there's good news. America's leaders have heard from members of the ONE Campaign who have said that this is unacceptable, and as a result, the U.S. Commitment to Global Child Survival Act was introduced in the House and Senate.

This bill promotes the use of effective, affordable preventative measures such as immunization, antibiotics, clean drinking water and vitamin supplements, which would save the lives of those children that are currently dying from preventable, treatable diseases.

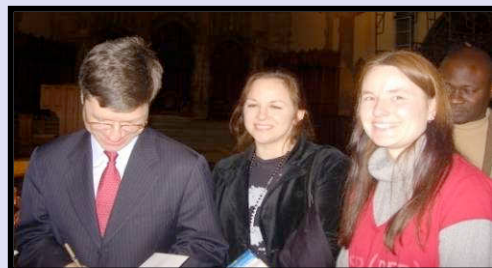
In addition, our leaders introduced the Education for All Act, which would expand access to education by training teachers, building infrastructure, promoting life skills training as well as supporting initiatives that reach the most disadvantaged populations.

Every child deserves to live. Every child deserves an education. Every member of Congress should hear from us on these issues. Visit <http://www.ONE.org> to learn more about why these bills are important, and then write or call your representative and encourage them to support these important bills.

BOOK REVIEW

In his book, *The End of Poverty – Economic Possibilities for our Time*, author and economist Jeffrey Sachs examines cases of extreme poverty and proposes solutions to the crisis. You can read various reviews of Sachs' book at: <http://tinyurl.com/2qlmeh>

In February 2007, Sachs came to the University of Chicago to talk about this organization, Millennium Promise. ONE members Yvonne Parmentier and Steffie Williams of Chicago attended the event and are pictured below with Sachs. The photo was taken by ONE member Sasha Johnson of Park Ridge.



Do you have a favorite book or movie that relates to ONE's issues? Send a review to newsfromone@gmail.com.