

Sara Brown
Ann Williams



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Jana

Blunder kids
What do
you
think?

Wilma Mankiller
Chief

Food and Nutrition Program, Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Chief Mankiller:

Greetings from our nation's capital. As I write, Congress is poised to reauthorize the child nutrition programs, such as school lunch and school breakfast, and to save The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) from any budget cuts. Hopefully the hungry will not be regarded as an invisible constituency because of their lack of lobbying power.

As you know, Representative Tony Hall has been a champion for the hungry and the poor throughout his time in Congress. Last year, after fasting for 22 days following the elimination of the Select Committee on Hunger, he founded the Congressional Hunger Center and Hunger Caucus to be voices on Capitol Hill for the otherwise voiceless hungry. The Center is a non-profit organization outside of Congress designed to lead, speak and act on behalf of the hungry, the poor and the victims of humanitarian crises, both domestic and international. The Caucus is a legislative service organization within Congress that has over 75 Members of Congress that have joined.

The Congressional Hunger Center has four primary objectives: leadership development, constituency building, grassroots mobilization and defense of vulnerable populations. The flagship of our leadership development efforts is the Mickey Leland Hunger Fellows Program, a living memorial to the founder of the Select Committee on Hunger, the late Representative Mickey Leland of Texas. It is a unique service opportunity for participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the problems of hunger and its solutions. We are teaming with VISTA to be part of President Clinton's initiative on national and community service.

Twenty Fellows will be selected from across the country to spend a year bridging the gap between public service and public policy. They will spend four months in teams of two working with a community organization serving the poor. They will then return to Washington, DC, for eight months to work with the Congressional Hunger Center or another non-profit organization learning about hunger policy. It is our hope that the Fellows will go on to become leaders in the anti-hunger movement, much like yourself.

I am writing to ask if your organization would be willing to host a team of two Fellows. Your organization was selected because of the unique and wonderful work it is doing in serving the hungry. These two committed individuals would be able to work with your organization on various tasks full time for four months, from September through December. Prior to this, they will have had an orientation and training session at the end of August to build necessary skills and learn more about hunger. Their exact date of arrival in the