



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Recognizing Champions of Change: Strengthening Food Security at Home and Abroad

Posted by Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan in [Food and Nutrition](#)
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Earlier today, I had the pleasure of congratulating 11 extraordinary individuals being recognized through the White House [Champions of Change](#) program for their work to tackle hunger in the United States and abroad.

The Champions recognized today are making improved access to healthy food a reality for millions of individuals in need. Innovative programs like the Community Food Advocates in New York City, [Parents United for Healthy Schools/Padres Unidos para Escuelas Saludables](#) in Chicago, and the [Mandela Marketplace](#) in Oakland, California are helping to empower families and communities and reducing the depth and severity of hunger in America. And the work of organizations like [Thrive](#), [Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology](#), and [Catholic Medical Mission Board](#) are taking on the fight against hunger worldwide.

USDA is no stranger to this important work. Our nutrition assistance programs are America's first line of defense against hunger and touch the lives of 1 in 4 Americans during the course of a year. They have never been more critical than they are today.

But we can't do it alone. Federal, state and local governments, elected officials, community leaders, schools, citizen volunteers, businesses, faith and community-based organizations and agricultural producers must work together with persistence and creativity to help those less fortunate get the food they need.

We applaud the Champions for their groundbreaking efforts to improve access to affordable, healthy food here at home and around the world. Read their stories in their own words on the White House Champions of Change blog:

[Kathy Goldman, Co-Founder, Community Food Advocates](#)

[Reverend Sally Allocca, Executive Director, Promoting Empowerment and Enrichment Resources](#)

[Jovita Flores, Manager, Parents United for Healthy Schools/Padres Unidos para Escuelas Saludables](#)

[Terrol Johnson, Co-Founder and President, Tohono O'odham Community Action](#)

[Dana Harvey, Executive Director, Mandela Marketplace](#)

[Joshua Williams, Founder, Joshua's Heart Foundation](#)

[Dr. June M. Henton, Dean, Auburn University College of Human Sciences](#)

[Dr. Claudia Llantén, Catholic Medical Mission Board](#)

[Erik Schultz, Executive Director, Thrive](#)

[Dr. Govind Kannan, Dean, Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology](#)

[Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President, World Food Prize Foundation](#)

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