

# Lucero: Getting RESULTS



## Between the Lines

by John Stebbins

According to a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report, "State of the World's Children: 1986," vaccine-preventable diseases kill almost 4 million children every year and permanently disable 4 million more. Coupled with hunger, the total climbs to 15 million child deaths per year, over 40,000 a day.

*"Sometimes an individual can make a difference,"* — Linda Kruse Lucero.

In 1967, Linda Kruse graduated from West Leyden High School. Even then her parents, Margaret and Marvin Kruse of unincorporated Leyden Township, knew there was something special about their daughter. She had "a concern for other people."

From West Leyden she went to the University of Illinois to earn her bachelor of arts in sociology and psychology.

"She's a humanitarian," said Marvin, 65. "She has always been interested in world problems. She wanted to be a social worker."

"In high school," said Margaret, 64, "she would befriend every waif in the world. She would always befriend the underdog. I'm not surprised she is still trying to take care of them."

LINDA KRUSE, 37, is now Linda Lucero, married and living in Denver, Colo. with her husband Frank Lucero and their two children, Alicia (8) and Troy (5).

Still fighting for the underdog, she is on a personal crusade to end world hunger and disease among the world's children.

"Five years ago, I was watching John Denver's movie 'I Want to Live'. It was about world hunger," said Lucero, who was then doing volunteer work for Denver's "Hunger Project." "I tried to imagine what it would be like to watch my two children starve. From talking to people, I saw that it was possible for me as one person to help end hunger."

Two-and-a-half years ago, Lucero met Sam Harris.

Harris is founder and head of RESULTS, a nationwide grass roots citizen's lobby which gathers information on legislation and government programs that address hunger and hunger-related diseases.

The six-year-old national organization's name is an acronym for Responsibility, Ending, Starvation, Using, Legislation, Trim-tabling, Support.

**MOST OF THOSE** words are self-explanatory. But "Legislation" and "Trim-tabling" need explanation. They are also the most important.

"Trim-tabling comes from the world-famous designer, R. Buckminster Fuller," said Lucero. A "trim-tab" is a small, movable part of a rudder on a boat. That small part can be used to turn the boat when you don't want to use the whole rudder.

"That was Fuller's way of saying the individual can make a difference and steer the course of world events, can help put an end to world hunger and disease."

Lucero is now "trim-tabling" local awareness as head of the Denver chapter of RESULTS. She and others nationwide write, call and meet with elected officials, the public and the press to educate and urge action.

The individual can make that difference through the "Legislation" part of RESULTS, said Lucero.

"The purpose of RESULTS is to create the political will to end hunger," said Harris.

**FROM A MODEST BEGINNING**, RESULTS has grown to a nationwide organization of 50 groups in more than 30 states. Local RESULTS groups use self-teaching techniques to master information about government programs and legislation that address hunger and hunger-related diseases throughout the world.

"Millions of children die needlessly," said Harris. "We try to educate legislators and citizens on a state and national level about the things that can be done to stop this."

Harris said that half of the children who die daily in underdeveloped areas do not die from hunger but from hunger-related illnesses: tetanus, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles and tuberculosis. These are preventable through inoculations.

Harris said that a full course of immunizations could save 20,000 children a day and cost as little as \$5 per child. It is the goal of RESULTS to immunize all the world's children by 1990.

**IT JUST MIGHT HAPPEN.** In its brief existence, Harris cites the following accomplishments of his organization:

- Successfully lobbied for \$50 million from Congress for a Global Primary Health Care Initiative.
- Helped the House Select Committee on Hunger receive \$10 million for health and

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Letters



## TS against world hunger



Linda Kruse Lucero and daughter, Alicia.

nutrition.

- Saved the soon-to-be scrapped International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- Gathered support for Bread for the World, an interdenominational citizens' movement which seeks to end hunger through influencing public policy.
- Educated legislators and others about Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT), a technique which protects children against diarrheal dehydration. ORT is saving half a million lives a year. This form of dehydration is the largest single cause of child death in the world.
- Initiated extensive media coverage of the problem of world hunger and performed lobbying efforts to support legislative efforts to eradicate this problem.

**WHILE GLOBAL IN SCOPE**, it's the local level that is most important.

The Chicago chapter of RESULTS is headed by Nancy Taylor, of Taylor Business Equipment.

"We hold a monthly education and action meeting," said Taylor. "On March 22,

we will be co-sponsoring a 'Child Immunization Press Conference.' The keynote speaker will be Senator Paul Simon."

At the conference there will be skills workshops for members such as "Involving Your Church in Hunger Concerns," "Planning Hunger Events," "Public Speaking about Hunger" and others.

"We have the opportunity to do a lot with just a little," said Taylor. "We have the means to straighten-out this planetary mess. This is a critical time to be involved. You can work from your neighborhood; that's where it starts."

"Churches, service organizations and individuals can find out from us how to make a big difference. It can be done."

If you would like to know more about the RESULTS group, call Taylor at 445-6903.

"Our organization is made up of housewives, truck drivers, all kinds of people," said Lucero. "If we educate our legislators and others on what can be done, then each of us can help. Sometimes an individual can make a difference."

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