



**Event Organizing Resource for
Stand Up Take Action Weekend**

September 17th-19th 2010



Dear Jubilee Supporter,

Thank you for participating in the worldwide Stand Up, Take Action Weekend. As people of conscience we are called to stand on the side of the poor, hungry, oppressed, and vulnerable. Your participation in this critical time will help show our leaders that we want the United States to be a voice for the world's poorest.

Join Jubilee Chapters and activists around the world in dedicating part or all of your time on the weekend of September 17-19, 2010 to work for global economic justice, deepen the community's understanding of the debt issue, and take concrete action for debt cancellation and just economic policies for all impoverished countries. This weekend comes at a particularly important time this year – President Obama and other world leaders will be meeting to discuss the issue of global poverty on September 20-22 at the United Nations Summit in New York City. This is an opportunity for our voices to be heard on these issue that matter so much.

Enclosed you will find educational and activity resources for the Stand Up, Take Action Weekend. Last year over 173 million people, including 3000 Jubilee supporters and 80 Jubilee congregations, took part in the mobilization. This year we continue to link our voices to those in the most impoverished countries, helping to make their own voices heard by our world leaders.

We hope that this resource will help you to plan your Stand Up, Take Action weekend. If you need any assistance in planning your event please feel free to contact Brooke Harper, our National Field Organizer, at 202-783-3566 ext. 103 or email her at brooke@jubileeusa.org. Thank you for all the important work you do on behalf of others and for your continued participation in the worldwide Jubilee movement.

Sincerely,

Eric LeCompte
Jubilee USA Network, Executive Director

Stand Up Against Debt and Global Poverty

Stand Up, Take Action is an annual worldwide mobilization where citizens around the globe spread the message and take action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty by 2015. At each event, participants stand up together, recite the Stand Up pledge to demonstrate their unity with people across the globe to end poverty, and take action.

Jubilee USA has partnered with the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty to mobilize together this year. We understand that we must not only work to reach the Millennium Development Goals, but work to build a system based on right relationships between nations and peoples.

WHY STAND UP? In the year 2000, leaders of 189 countries signed the Millennium Declaration, committing to do everything in their power to end poverty. World leaders also established a roadmap – the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – to significantly alleviate extreme poverty by 2015.

With only five years left, we must urge our leaders to stay true to their commitments. World leaders will meet in New York City for the UN Millennium Development Goals Review Summit on September 20th. President Obama will make a speech outlining his commitments to work on ending global poverty. Throughout 2010, Jubilee USA has been mobilizing to ensure that expanded debt cancellation and responsible lending and borrowing are part of his plan of action. Your participation in Stand Up, Take Action will help world leaders see that their citizens are calling for an end to poverty across the world.

The gap between the rich and the poor is growing – at least 53 million additional people have been forced into poverty due to the global economic crisis. Meanwhile, the world's poorest countries send \$100 million every day in debt repayment to the world's richest countries and financial institutions. We have the power to change this!

How to Stand Up, Take Action, and Make Noise for the MDGs

There are many ways that you can Stand Up, Take Action. If you are already planning a Stand Up, Take Action Weekend you can easily incorporate the pledge into your event. This year, the theme for Stand Up, Take Action is “Make Noise for the MDGs!” This is an idea that came out of the Africa Campaigners Retreat held recently in Malawi. To creatively incorporate this theme of Stand Up, Take Action into your weekend’s scheduled events, you could hold a drum circle in your community or get local musicians together to “Make Noise for the MDGs!”

We encourage you to think creatively about additional Stand Up, Take Action events during the rest of the weekend.

This is a real opportunity to educate and energize your community on the issues of debt and global poverty. This weekend, people all over the world will take part in a common global action designed to grab public, political, and media attention and to make sure that this global movement is seen and heard around the world. From hosting a movie night in your home, to reciting the Stand Up pledge in your class or workplace, to holding an educational event that raises awareness of the growing poverty in the world, your event can be as big or as small as you would like it to be.

Here are some Stand Up, Take Action events that Jubilee activists did last year:

- In Minnesota, the Jubilee Duluth Chapter worked together to have a refugee awareness week, building a refugee camp on their campus at the College of St. Scholastica. The week culminated in students standing up and taking the pledge against poverty.
- In Oregon, 135 people stood up at the Ainsworth United Church of Christ, which was the first congregation to become part of the Jubilee Oregon Chapter.
- In Pennsylvania, community members gathered and did a CROP walk as their event for Stand Up, Take Action weekend.

Jubilee USA has many resources to use for such events. Please email brooke@jubileeusa.org for more materials and ideas or feel free to call her at 202-783-3566 ext. 103.

Hosting a Movie Night for Stand Up, Take Action, Weekend

Before the Meeting:

- A) Reserve a meeting space at a local community center, church, or your home for the weekend of Stand Up, Take Action on September 17th-19th.
- B) Recruit, Recruit, Recruit! Ask your friends, invite your coworkers, or announce your movie night at your church or local community organizations that you belong to. Post your meeting on your facebook, twitter, or myspace page.
- C) If you have a core group of people that are willing to help you, delegate different parts of the movie night.
- D) Send out reminder emails or calls to those who have committed to coming to the movie night.

During the Meeting

Follow some of the helpful tips below help you prepare the day of your meeting.

- Make sure to greet guests as they come and encourage them to sign in so you can follow up with them to thank them for coming as well as engage them in next steps.
- Test your audio visual equipment to make sure that you can play the short film.
- Set out refreshments.
- Make sure you have enough seating for everyone.

Sample Agenda for Stand Up, Take Action Movie Night

1. Gathering (10 minutes)
2. Introductions (15 minutes) - Hosts should have everyone introduce themselves and then give a brief background on the Jubilee Campaign and the film they are about to see.
3. Show Movie (40 minutes) - You and your guests can watch a short film about the debt crisis
4. Discussion about film and the Jubilee Movement (15 minutes) - You and your guests should discuss the film and one thing that you learned. The hosts should lead the discussion and answer questions. (Jubilee Staff will be happy to provide you with talking points and fact sheets. You *do not* need to be an expert on these issues). Hand out copies of the factsheets on Debt and the MDG's that are included in this packet, and briefly go over how it will help to alleviate global poverty by expanding debt relief eligibility and setting up frameworks for responsible lending. If there is a question that arises that you don't know the answer to simply tell them you don't know and the Jubilee Staff will be happy to assist you. This is a great opportunity to follow up with guests.
5. Make Paper Chains to help link our voices and break the chains of debt.

Make a chain today and add your voice to the chorus calling for just policies for the world's most impoverished.

Join Jubilee USA this fall in sending messages to our leaders declaring the importance of debt cancellation and economic justice by making paper chains. Jubilee supporters across the country and from the Global South will be making chains to deliver at a demonstration at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meeting on October 10, 2010. (See enclosed worksheets)

6. Say the Stand Up, Take Action Pledge! (See enclosed worksheet)
7. Take pictures of your event and send an email about how your event went to our National Field Organizer, Brooke Harper brooke@jubileeusa.org.