

THE PRESIDENTS' PLEDGE AGAINST GLOBAL POVERTY

www.presidentspledge.org

FACT SHEET

THE PRESIDENTS' PLEDGE AGAINST GLOBAL POVERTY College and University Presidents Engaged in Efforts to End Extreme Poverty

BACKGROUND

We stand at an unprecedented moment in history when—in our lifetimes—we have the resources and knowledge to end extreme global poverty. Yet 16,000 to 20,000 children die each day from preventable, poverty-related causes. And measures of poverty in the U.S. and around the world show persistent need and suffering. The UN Millennium Development Goals determine that—with new resolve—we can significantly reduce extreme poverty. We can produce sufficient food. We can provide safe drinking water. We can deliver basic health care. We can foster education and stimulate economic opportunity. Alleviating poverty is enormously complicated. But the evidence is clear: many organizations are doing work that is effective and efficient—and financial contributions to fund their efforts make a critical and positive difference in the movement to end extreme poverty.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The goal of The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty is to enlist and connect current and former university presidents and chancellors in a leadership community that inspires greater awareness and action in the fight against extreme global poverty.

The Presidents' Pledge invites college and university presidents, past presidents, chancellors and presidents emeriti to pledge a percentage of their annual income to combat extreme poverty—a public commitment intended to spark increased focus, giving and resolve across public and private sectors.

PLEDGE PARTICIPANTS

- ❖ Annually pledge a percentage of their personal income to organizations that address the causes or effects of global poverty. At least half of individual contributions focus on international projects; up to half of individual giving may be allocated to causes that alleviate poverty within the U.S. Participants give directly and individually to organizations of their choosing.
- ❖ Join a community of university presidents, past presidents and presidents emeriti committed to alleviating global poverty. Presidents are encouraged to add their names to the list on this [website](#), or, if preferred, presidents may make their pledge anonymously.

Presidents' Pledge participants believe that personal giving to help end extreme poverty is a responsibility consistent with their leadership roles in higher education and society. College and university presidents lead institutions that prepare the next generation of global citizens, public servants, social entrepreneurs and philanthropists. Higher education is at the forefront of forging solutions to alleviate extreme poverty, with faculty and students applying research, teaching and public service across academic disciplines to help communities near their campuses and around the world.

Ann M. Svennungsen, past president of Texas Lutheran University and of The Fund for Theological Education, started the initiative in 2010 in conversation with higher education colleagues. The project received program development funds from a private donor and a special grant from The Henry Luce Foundation. The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty is a fiscally sponsored project of Bolder Giving, a 501(c)(3) organization (www.boldergiving.org). Bolder Giving's mission is to inspire and support people to give at their full lifetime potential.

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