

June/2012

Our 15th annual \$1 million spring campaign to fight hunger hit a record, raising \$230,664,187.00 from 1863 anti hunger agencies nationwide.

That brings the total raised from our annual hunger campaign since its beginning in 1997 to over \$1.5 Billion – likely the largest amount of money ever raised by any ongoing campaign to help the needy. How proud I am of the Jr. Scholars and their families who help spearhead this campaign every year as part of our ‘Good Deeds Program’ in our Leadership Schools.

So much has changed since I started that school program twenty years ago, and our national campaign to fight hunger which began just a few years later.

Before that, my efforts to fight hunger first took hold at Brown University, with its then President Howard Swearer and Vice President Sam Babbitt. Those two men shared my vision of fighting hunger and, under their encouragement, the Feinstein Hunger Program was born at Brown. The aim of the Program was to explore the best ways to fight hunger and featured an annual awards event honoring international heroes fighting hunger, chaired by notables such as Audrey Hepburn, Ellie Weisel, Morley Safer and Liv Ullman.

But when President Swearer and Sam Babbitt retired, the Program at Brown began to languish. So, when the President of Tufts University invited me to join his Hunger Center - and there was little or no comparable offer from Brown – I then partnered with Tufts.

Today the Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts is impacting in countless countries. Also, we have a Hunger Center at the University of Rhode Island, which is a great help with our national campaign to fight hunger among their other ongoing efforts to combat hunger.

A salute to you, President Swearer and Sam Babbitt. If not for your early support and inspiration, none of this might ever have come to pass.

ASF