

## **Call to the Youth of America: Palms for Life Fund Launches Film Competition to Document Hunger in t**

*Faces of Hunger in America, will award prizes to young filmmakers, 25 years of age and under, who document in their own communities the increasingly widespread problem of hunger in America. Top winners will receive \$5,000, \$3,500 and \$1,500.*

**July 29, 2009** - [PRLog](#) -- New York, NY – In less than one month, on August 24, the youth of America will be able to upload online their creative films on hunger in the United States.

This national film contest, Faces of Hunger in America, is open to all young filmmakers, 25 years of age and under, who document hunger and its devastating effects in their own communities. The top three winners will receive cash prizes of \$5,000, \$3,500 and \$1,500; they will get exposure to a vast audience in a full-length compilation of the prize-winning works.

"Over 36 million Americans are living in food insecurity - 12.4 million being children - and we want to bring this alarming reality to the attention of the public and the nation's leaders," says Hannah Laufer-Rottman, Executive Director and founder of Palms for Life Fund (\*), the main sponsor of the contest.

Laufer-Rottman, who retired from the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) after 30 years, says the effects of domestic hunger are just as pressing as the epidemic of hunger and poverty on a global level. "Everyone knows what hunger looks like in third world countries, but the effects of hunger in America are quite different. Obesity, malnutrition, physical/mental impairments...are all effects of hunger. When people are unable to access consistently sufficient amounts of food for a healthy life, society suffers as a whole."

Friends, families, supporters, hunger advocates, all will partake in the first round of online screening and voting beginning October 16th, World Food Day. "By empowering the public to vote for their favorite films, we are ensuring that the films get viewed and the problem is exposed. Change begins with awareness," says Project Manager, Sandra Ciccone, adding that "awareness to this issue needs to happen now, as the situation has exacerbated amidst the current economic recession."

Twenty finalists will be judged by a noted panel of judges on the clear conveyance of the message, creativity, impact and overall quality of the work.

To find out more about the contest, please visit the official website: <http://www.facesofhunger.org> and register for the mailing list if you are interested in participating in this project.

(\*) Palms for Life Fund is a public charity (501(c)(3)) dedicated to eliminating poverty worldwide by investing in high-quality sustainable health and education projects. Palms for Life works in Africa, Asia and Latin America with reputable local partners to feed, educate and empower those living in impoverished conditions. For more information on Palms for Life Fund, go to <http://www.palmsforlifefund.org>.

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