

Israel. Congress needs to get more funding to Israel for its David's Sling system, for its Iron Dome system; and we need to do it sooner, rather than later.

Israel is an oasis of freedom in a desert of tyranny, a desert of terror and instability; and it is absolutely vital, Mr. Speaker, that Congress and Israel stand together to face these challenges united. The President won't do it. The Congress must.

#### COMMUNITY VOICES: WHY NUTRITION ASSISTANCE MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of speaking with a group of people involved with Community Voices: Why Nutrition Assistance Matters. It was inspiring to hear about the real and positive impacts our Federal nutrition programs have in the daily lives of Americans all across this country.

Community Voices is a summer-long national campaign launched by the Center for American Progress, the Coalition on Human Needs, Witnesses to Hunger, the Food Research and Action Center, Feeding America, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

It was started to share the personal stories of individuals and service providers who experienced firsthand programs like SNAP or WIC or school meals. These contributors are the real experts when it comes to the importance and effect of our vital nutrition assistance programs.

The Community Voices campaign culminated in this booklet, a compilation of many of these personal stories. I would like to take a moment and share a few of these stories.

Jonetta, from Sacramento, California, says:

"Several years ago, I left an abusive relationship, and now I am raising my daughter by myself. My daughter participates in the school meal program and the after-school snack program. The snack program really helps so that my daughter isn't as hungry when she gets home from school.

"We also receive \$356 a month in SNAP. This money is supposed to supplement my food budget, but it is really all of my food budget because my income barely covers my rent. Right now, I'm homeless, and it is hard to find a place to live for less than \$500 a month.

"Because of SNAP, we are not starving. As a mom, I try to cut out a lot of bad food from my family's diet, but it is a difficult task to buy the healthier food because it is expensive. It's also very difficult because we have been homeless for a couple of months, so I have to use other people's refrigerators.

"I am very thankful for these programs and to all the people who are

trying to make all these programs better. They really helped me and my daughter."

Let me share another story from Linda from the Massachusetts Coalition of the Homeless:

"Several years ago, I volunteered at a summer program at a park in Morgantown, Kentucky, assisting with skill-building activities. Without this nutrition program, the kids who came would not have had lunch, since school was not in session. If the kids didn't come to that park for nutritional food, I'm not sure they would have gotten it anywhere else. None of the food was wasted; and if there was any food left over, the kids would take it back to their families.

"Food is a basic human right, and our government sometimes forgets that and needs to be reminded. This is a moral imperative for our country to make sure that all people, especially children, have the resources needed to develop—even more so for families and children in poverty."

I want to thank Jonetta, Linda, and all of those who took the time to share their stories. They remind us that these programs are helping real families who are trying to do their best in very difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, all too often the discussion around SNAP and our other antihunger programs is punctuated by misinformation, false stereotypes, or downright nasty rhetoric. It is frustrating, and it is wrong.

Community Voices reminds us what a positive difference these programs make for families who are really struggling.

The data backs up just how important these programs are. In 2014 alone, for example, SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty, including 2.1 million children. Ninety-two percent of benefits go to households with incomes below the poverty line, which includes millions of struggling families working hard every day to put food on the table.

Federal investment in our nutrition programs is one of the smartest investments we can make. For example, for every \$1 spent on preventive services for a pregnant woman in WIC, the program saves \$4.21 in Medicaid costs by reducing the risk of preterm birth and associated costs.

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that we need to hear firsthand from the people who are directly touched by SNAP, WIC, or school meals. They are the real experts, and they can guide us, as Members of Congress, as we work to strengthen and improve these programs.

Every Member of Congress should have received a Community Voices booklet. It is a call to action to protect our vital nutrition assistance programs. I encourage you to read the stories about how these programs are helping families who need them most. Without them, hunger would be much, much worse in this country.

I urge you to keep their stories in mind the next time proposals come before Congress to cut funding for WIC or restrict access to SNAP or make it more difficult for kids to get healthy meals in school. Harmful changes like these would hurt real families who are already struggling. We should not make their lives more difficult. We should not be making hunger worse in this country. Mr. Speaker, we can and we should do more to end hunger now.

#### FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize October as National Fire Prevention Month and would like to thank all the firefighters across my district and across the Nation for all that they do to keep our communities safe.

In 2013, departments across the United States responded to nearly 400,000 fires, resulting in \$7 billion in property damage and more than 2,700 deaths. That, unfortunately, amounts to an average of eight people every day.

Of those who lost their lives as a result of fire, one in four was caused by a fire that started in a bedroom. This is one of the reasons why one focus of this year's Fire Prevention Month is to raise awareness that every bedroom needs a working smoke detector.

Mr. Speaker, as a volunteer firefighter with nearly three decades of experience, I know that smoke detectors save lives. The statistics prove this, showing that working smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a fire by half. Smoke detectors are inexpensive and easy to install. I urge everyone to take action to help prevent future tragedies.

#### GOODWILL INDUSTRIES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Goodwill Industries of North Central, located in my district. This organization assists people across a huge portion of north central Pennsylvania, including 13 counties.

Goodwill has been a valuable part of its region since its launch in 1966. Over the years, their service area has grown to cover more than a dozen counties, 20 stores—the most recent addition, our 21st store, which is an online store they operate—and has created jobs for more than 500 people. Last week, I visited Goodwill's distribution center in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, and learned more about the organization's plans to open an additional three stores as well as a donation training center.

Fifty years after its founding, hard work and determination are still the cornerstone to Goodwill of North Central's foundation.

It certainly helps that this great local organization is backed by a highly regarded national network. Across