

THE BORGEN PROJECT



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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE BORGEN PROJECT HOSTS GALA TO KICK OFF SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Speaker series to cover foreign aid, policy reform and women's rights

WASHINGTON, DC – The Borgen Project is thrilled to announce a partnership with the Council on Foreign Relations to sponsor an educational and inspirational summer speaker series. To celebrate this partnership and to kick off our speaker events, The Borgen Project and the Council on Foreign Relations are hosting a charity gala on May 6, 2017.

The gala event will be held at the Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre, located at 1101 6th St SW, Washington, DC 20024. Tickets start at \$1,000 per attendee, with tables of 10 selling for \$8,500. All proceeds from the gala and speaker series will go directly to foreign aid assistance programs such as UNICEF and other United Nations-backed programs. Celebrity speakers at the gala include George Clooney, Condoleezza Rice and Madeleine Albright.

The Borgen Project, an innovative campaign platform that seeks government reform to aid the world's poor, believes that this partnership will be revolutionary in the field of foreign assistance. "There are over 8,000 charities in Washington," Clint Borgen, founder of The Borgen Project said. "What sets our

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organizations apart is our unwavering commitment to help those in need, and being able to do so by hosting inventive and stimulating events like this gala and our speaker series.”

The summer speaker series marks a shift in the Council on Foreign Relation’s restricted speaker events of the past. “Access to high-profile speaker events is a privilege of membership to the Council on Foreign Relations,” said Lisa Shields, Vice President Communications and Media Relations for the Council on Foreign Relations. “However, we recognize that education is an invaluable asset to policy reform and are excited to share our connections with the world.”

Speakers scheduled for the series include John Ging, Director of Coordination and Response for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Janet Benshoof, President of the Global Justice Center; Samantha Nutt, Executive Director of War Child Canada; and Congressman Dave Reirchert, a member of the Board of Directors at the Borgen Project.

The speaker series will be live streamed for international access on The Borgen Project’s website. YouTube clips of the events will be posted to the Council on Foreign Relation’s channels. Topics are set to include the importance of foreign aid, women's rights around the world and anticorruption in foreign aid programs. “Through these events, we hope to educate anyone who will listen about the importance of helping those who cannot help themselves,” said Borgen.

For more information or to learn how to attend one of our events, please contact Chloe Mansell at media@borgenproject.org or visit us at www.borgenproject.org/summerspeakerseries.

The Borgen Project was founded in 2003 by Clint Borgen while he was interning at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Now located in Seattle, with volunteers in over 405 cities in the United States, The Borgen Project has become an influential campaign platform aimed at reducing global poverty.

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THE BORGEN PROJECT



FACT SHEET

SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES
KICK OFF GALA

CONTACT



(206)-471-4148



borgenproject.org/summerspeakerseries
media@borgenproject.org



4818 14th Ave NW, Suite 7
Seattle, WA 98107

OFFICERS

Founder/President, Clint Borgen
Chief of Staff, Lynsey Alexander
Political Director, Kim Thelwell
Program Manager, Kelly Gilmour

ABOUT

The Borgen Project believes that the United States, as one of the most powerful nations in the world, should be doing more to address global poverty in politics. This summer, we are co-sponsoring a summer speaker series with The Council on Foreign Relations. Topics such as the importance of foreign aid, women's rights around the world, anticorruption in foreign aid programs and many more will be covered in these exciting events. To kick off the series, we are hosting a gala in D.C. to raise money and educate about the status of our foreign assistance. We would love for you to join us for this distinguished event.

THE EVENT

Hosted at: Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre

Saturday, May 6th

Cocktails 7:00, Dinner 8:30

FACTS

- Celebrity attendance: George Clooney, Katie Couric, Condoleezza Rice
- Reception speech by Clint Borgen
- Other speakers include George Clooney, Condoleezza Rice and Madeleine Albright
- All funds raised will go to foreign assistance programs for refugees
- Tickets cost \$1,000 or \$8,500 for a table of 10

MEDIA COVERAGE

The media entrance is located to the left of the main doors. There will be a table for check-in and to collect press passes. Media check-in will begin two hours prior to the event. Please feel free to enjoy the event and mingle with guests. Photo opportunities will be limited to the entrance hall so as not to disturb the events of the evening. Photos of the event will be provided upon request.

CO-SPONSOR CONTACT

The Council on Foreign Relations
Lisa Shields, Vice President Communications and Media Relations
212.434.9888
communications@cfr.org

THE BORGEN PROJECT



Mission Statement:

The Borgen Project believes that the United States, as one of the most powerful nations in the world, should be doing more to address global poverty in politics. We are a groundbreaking, national campaign that seeks to be an ally for the world's poor.

BACKGROUNDER

In 1999, while working as a young volunteer in refugee camps during the Kosovo War and genocide, Clint Borgen recognized the need for an organization that could bring political attention to issues of poverty.

In 2003, after graduating from Washington State University and interning at the United Nations in Geneva, Borgen began developing his project. Borgen needed a source of startup funding before he could begin his journey. To remedy this, he took a job living on a fishing vessel docked in Dutch Harbor, Alaska (the same location as *The Deadliest Catch*).

Now located in Seattle, The Borgen Project has become an influential campaign platform aimed at reducing global poverty. Through public mobilization and political advocacy, the project serves as a testament that one man can change the world.

Starting from humble roots, the project has grown over the past 10 years into an influential ally for the world's poor. In 2016, The Borgen Project was able to meet with the majority of congressional members on key committees that shape U.S. foreign policy. Our commitment to personal connection to effect change allowed us to help pass three bills into law last year.

- The Electrify Africa Act, passed Feb. 1, 2016
- Global Food Security Act, passed April 20, 2016
- Foreign Aid Transparency & Accountability Act, passed July 7, 2016

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BACKGROUND CONTINUED

The Borgen Project is able to network across the U.S. in support of poverty reduction bills through a dedicated team of volunteers that work to advocate for bills identified by the project as viable opportunities for poverty reduction. We accomplish all of this through four key steps carried out by our over 1,200 volunteers who strive to make a difference in U.S. foreign policy every day.

- **Congressional Relations:** We meet with U.S. leaders to build support for effective poverty-reduction programs
- **Mobilize:** We empower people across the globe to make poverty a political priority
- **Educate:** We teach basic advocacy skills that allow citizens to communicate with their government effectively.
- **Issue Message:** We build awareness of global issues and innovations in poverty-reduction through our online and community presence.

There are four key criteria a poverty reduction bill must meet before we identify it as a bill we want to advocate for. These criteria are in place to ensure a direct impact on poverty reduction as well as ensuring bipartisan support. After a bill meets all four steps, we begin the long process of education, mobilization, awareness and Congressional relations. We have already begun the process on our bills of focus for 2017. They are listed below.

READ ACT

Reach Every Mother and Child Act

Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act

Food for Peace Reform Act

Global Health Innovation Act

Digital Gap Act

Our contacts are listed below for clarification or expansion on any of these statements.

Leadership

Founder/President, Clint Borgen

Chief of Staff, Lynsey Alexander

Political Director, Kim Thelwell

Program Manager, Kelly Gilmour

Contact

Media and Marketing Coordinator

Chloe Mansell

Contact: (555) 555-0680

media@borgenproject.org

Board of Directors

Donald Girskis

Congressman Dave Reichert

Congressman Adam Smith

Christian Thwaites

Ryika Hooshangi

Frank Novosel

Rachel Bell

Chris Borgen

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STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



Clint Borgen, Founder and President

“Clint Borgen is widely regarded as one of the leading poverty-reduction campaigners in the United States.” – The Huffington Post

The story of The Borgen Project is the story of its founder and president, Clint Borgen. Borgen's career in foreign policy started when he was working as a young volunteer in refugee camps during the Kosovo War and genocide. In those refugee camps, Borgen recognized the need for an organization that could bring political attention to poverty around the globe. The Borgen Project was then born. Borgen has devoted his life to the project, even taking a second night job to make ends meet during the recession of the late 2000s. Through it all, Borgen has been able to make poverty reduction a focal point of U.S. foreign policy- a goal he has now spread to the thousands of volunteers and politicians that lean on The Borgen Project's mission to accomplish their goals.



Congressman Dave Reichert, Board Member

Prior to being elected to Congress, Reichert was recognized for his role as the lead detective on the Green River Task Force and bringing to justice one of the most notorious serial killers in U.S. history. In 2004, Reichert was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Now serving his fifth term, Reichert is a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources

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STAFF BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED



and a member of the President's Export Council. Reichert joined The Borgen Project's Board of Directors in 2009. He has been a strong ally for the world's poor in Congress through his support of numerous project backed bills and has helped our team identify promising bills over his past eight years of service.



Donald Girskis, Board Member

Don Girskis is the former head of Boost Mobile. He joined Boost Mobile as Chief Operating Officer when it was just forming. He was promoted to run the entire operation as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Boost Mobile after one year, and developed the business from an idea to \$1.8B in revenue in just 5 years. Girskis' expertise in business then led him into the position of Senior Vice President, World Wide Sales, at ShoreTel, where he stayed until 2012. Girskis joined The Borgen Project's Board of Directors in early 2013. Girskis believes that The Borgen Project is important to the global humanitarian cause and he has been a passionate member of the team for the past four years.

Contact

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Chloe Mansell

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A CASE FOR FOREIGN AID

The Borgen Project, its donors, volunteers and constituents are among those leading the U.S. political climate in support of poverty reduction and foreign aid legislature. Since President Trump's controversial election, many in the humanitarian community have been waiting for the time where foreign aid would be targeted by his new administration. In early March, this fear became a reality when President Trump's proposed budget reform sought to cut foreign assistance spending by 28 percent. These cuts come as famine ravages Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan, sounding the alarm in the United Nations as well as throughout global aid organizations.

Americans drastically overestimate the level of funding going to assisting the world's poor and consequently there hasn't been much public outrage over minuscule funding levels. In 1970, the world's richest countries came together and set a goal to allocate 0.7 percent of their gross national income to development aid. While the United States is always high on the list of donor countries by dollar amount, according to a study done by the Millennium Project, our country has only averaged an investment of 0.14 percent of our gross national income over these past 40 years. In 2016, we only invested 0.24 percent of our gross national income equaling about \$37 billion. This number is staggeringly small when compared to expenditures like the annual \$283 billion interest payment on the U.S. outstanding debt.

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At The Borgen Project, we believe that the main reason the general public supports defunding foreign aid programs is because there is a lack of education about how these programs work. Development aid is not a gift that is just given and left in a developing or in-need country. It is not the sole driver of economic development, nor is it automatically effective in creating lasting change. It is a tool in the toolbox of humanitarians that seek to improve the lives of those living in poverty. Used in conjunction with sound economic policies, transparency, good governance, and the effective deployment of new technologies, development aid can make a very real difference in countries in need.

A large portion of the legislation efforts we back depend on foreign aid resources to function. Many of these bills are hands-on programs located where aid is needed most. These programs usually require only a marginal amount of funding and are designed to become self-sufficient within a few years. Other bills work by providing a structure for private companies to invest in developing nations. Most of these bills require no government funding at all once established. However, we, as a country, are not at a point where we can cut spending on these projects. Many of our investments in developing countries are still in beginning stages and it would be detrimental to the people they impact if they were defunded.

Philanthropy isn't a business, there are no profits or wins and losses to show. There are very real people in countries around the world who die by the thousands from problems that are completely preventable. The United States may even see the day where we are asking for foreign aid ourselves. In fact, during Hurricane Katrina 95 countries did offer foreign aid to the United States. Putting this in perspective and understanding the impact aid has on countries in need is integral to conserving foreign developmental aid programs.

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You can call Congress and take action on this serious issue. Please stand with leaders from both parties to support foreign aid spending and those in need of our help.

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SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES
KICK OFF

Gala

SATURDAY, MAY 6

ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER
FOR AMERICAN THEATER

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

COCKTAILS 7:00

DINNER 8:30

BLACK TIE

RSVP

KINDLY REPLY BY APRIL 22 TO
summerspeakerseries@borgenproject.org