

Conference Presenters

David Miner, PhD, is chairman of the board of Bread for the World, a non-profit agency that advocates for the interests of hungry people around the world. Active with Bread for the World for more than 25 years he has supported the organization at the local and national levels as an advocate, local organizer, national board member, financial supporter and consultant. He recently retired from his position as a senior executive for Eli Lilly's animal health division in Indianapolis, IN.

Mercy Karanja is a Senior Program Officer in the Agricultural Development division of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to this position, she was a Development Policy Coordinator with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) in Paris. For eight years she was the Chief Executive of the Kenya National Federation of Agricultural producers. She joined the organization from the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture where she had served at different capacities for 12 years, leaving at the level of Director. She pursued her studies at the Nairobi University, Kenya and University of Reading, U.K. Her passion has been to improve the livelihoods of rural people in particular farmers, being a farmer's daughter and having her own family farm.

Rose Hayden Smith, MA Ed., MA, PhD Cand, is Ventura County Director of the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program; 4-H YD; IATP/Kellogg Food and Society Policy Fellow. Hayden-Smith develops programs for youth and adult extenders in agricultural literacy, garden-based learning and youth and community gardening. Hayden-Smith is also a practicing U.S. historian, and is a nationally-recognized expert in the history of youth/school gardening; Victory Gardens; extension education; federal policy relating to agriculture/education; and the American homefront in wartime. Her national advocacy work focuses on encouraging a national effort to promote school, home, and community garden and urban agriculture efforts; public policy relating to food systems, gardening, education and urban agriculture.

Leslie Clark is an artist and founder of The Nomad Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of artistic and cultural traditions of nomads in Niger, and to working with the local population to decide what they need and want to improve their lives. Projects include nomadic schools, wells, women's co-operatives, microcredit, cereal banks, health and nutritional issues for people and animals, and the Tasmesna Center for Nomadic Life, that enables nomads to have access to essential services that require a fixed location.

Nancy Mintie, JD, is the founder of two nonprofit organizations. The first, the Inner City Law Center, has won millions of dollars for the poor and homeless of Los Angeles' Skid Row and other inner city communities. The second, Uncommon Good, supports young doctors and lawyers who serve the poor, and helps disadvantaged children and youth succeed in school and go to college. Uncommon Good is also currently organizing a regional urban agriculture initiative, which will give green jobs to the poor while providing healthy affordable food to dense urban areas.