

# THE BORGEN PROJECT TIMELINE

## THE CONCEPT IS BORN



In 1999, while volunteering in Kosovo refugee camps during the war and genocide, Clint Borgen sees the need for stronger U.S. engagement in addressing humanitarian issues.

**AUG 2003  
THE BEGINNING**



After college, Borgen begins developing the initial concept for a national campaign to focus U.S. political attention on global poverty. Needing funding and time to develop the organization, the former United Nations intern takes a job living on a fishing vessel docked in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. All early funding from The Borgen Project comes from his paychecks.

**JUL 2005**

Building on web-based strategies, The Borgen Project partners with the United Nations Online Volunteer Program. Within four years, individuals in over 70 countries have applied to be online volunteers for The Borgen Project.



Borgen moves to Seattle and runs the organization nightly after work and on weekends. The organization's early focus is on web-based strategies for mobilizing the public and building awareness of the issues.

**SEPT 2004**

**AUG 2005**  
Board of Advisors announced. A small, volunteer group of communication experts, ranging from a former NBC Nightly News producer to a Dow Jones columnist, are assembled to help with issue messaging.

**SEPT 2005**



The Borgen Project opens its first official office. Four desks are crammed into an office designed for two people and 6-10 volunteers rotate in throughout the day.

**APR 2006**



Actor Tom Skerritt becomes the first celebrity involved with The Borgen Project. The former *Top Gun* and *A River Runs Through It* actor records a national public service announcement.

**MAR 2006**



Official meetings with congressional leaders begin. Borgen meets with Congressman Jim McDermott in Seattle.

During Borgen's first trip to Capitol Hill for The Borgen Project, he meets with five congressional offices and sleeps in a hostel. Within a year, Borgen's platform to advocate for the world's poor has grown substantially, averaging 15-25 meetings per day on Capitol Hill.

**2006**



Borgen meets with Sen. Barack Obama's staff for the first time to discuss the Millennium Development Goals. Obama later introduces the Global Poverty Act in the Senate and as President makes cutting global poverty in half and achieving the Millennium Development Goals a component of his foreign policy strategy.

**JAN 2007**



Actress Judith Light, from *Who's the Boss* and *Ugly Betty* records a national public service announcement for The Borgen Project.

**JUN 2008**



The Borgen Project is selected to join Google's nonprofit program.

**BORGEN PROJECT DAY**

**DEC 2008**  
The mayor and city council in Borgen's hometown of Anacortes, WA declare December 6th 2008 Borgen Project Day.

**SEPT 2009**



CapitalOne introduces The Borgen Project Visa Card.

**NOV 2009**



During a trip to Ethiopia and Uganda, Borgen decides the organization will also begin building support for legislation that improves access to clean water.

**MAY 2010**

The Regional Directors Program is launched. Over 50 individuals in cities across the U.S. teleconference weekly and enact strategies for mobilizing public and political support behind poverty-reduction legislation.

**JUL 2010**



Borgen has his 300th Congressional meeting while building support on Capitol Hill for the Newborn, Child and Mother Survival Act, the Global Food Security Act, and the Water for the World Act.

**FEB 2010**



Actor Isaiah Washington joins The Borgen Project's Board of Directors.

**AUG 2009**



Congressman Dave Reichert joins The Borgen Project's Board of Directors. *"This is an exciting project, one that started from the grass roots, and I want to be part of it."*

**NOV 2009**

During the year, Borgen meets with over 100 congressional offices while mobilizing political support for global food security initiatives. Building on the momentum for global food security on Capitol Hill, the Obama Administration establishes the *Feed the Future* Program in 2010 and mobilizes G20 nations to pledge over \$22 billion. The amount allocated will impact over 65 million people living on less than \$2 a day.

**MAY 2008**



The Borgen Project moves into beautiful office space in the heart of downtown Seattle that is donated by Aegis Group.

**SEPT 2007**

With over 100 congressional meetings and thousands of people mobilized behind the Global Poverty Act, The Borgen Project plays a key role in the legislation passing in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill dies in the Senate, but months later Obama adopts the goals of the bill into his foreign policy strategy.

## > THE MAKING OF A MOVEMENT

HOW AN ALLY FOR THE WORLD'S POOR WAS CREATED

> [borgenproject.org](http://borgenproject.org)