

# Oakland Tribune

## **Feb. 5 Letters to the editor**

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February 5, 2015

### **Vaccines can help put stop to poverty**

Three good things regarding ending poverty:

First, I thank reporter Chris De Benedetti for the excellent article announcing some great news: Alameda County has committed itself to end hunger by 2020. And contact information to join in this worthy goal.

Second, I was pleased to read the editorial that this paper supports vaccination in the U.S. When I became an anti-hunger activist in Results, I learned that more than 40,000 children died every day around the world, mostly from preventable causes mainly due to lack of immunization and malnutrition. Today the international figure has been cut to less than half. We know some things work to reduce, if not end, poverty and hunger. One of those is immunization.

Third, I was delighted to learn that President Barack Obama pledged U.S. support for the Global Vaccine Alliance in the amount of \$1 billion over four years. Because of the U.S. leadership, the pledging partners met the \$7.5 billion goal to vaccinate hundreds of millions more children. This will save an additional 5 million lives over the 6 million lives saved since 2000 when GAVI began.

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