

August 12 is International Youth Day, an opportunity both to advocate for the protection of children at home and abroad and to honor young people as partners in the work toward the Sustainable Development Goals. We need only say the names-- Congo, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar, Haiti, Ukraine—and the principles of International Youth Day become tough realities calling on our resolve.

JCUNA historian Jim Olson reminds us that our chapter has a distinguished history of stepping up for children. From the 1960s through 2000s, the chapter—adults and children alike— campaigned for UNICEF raising over \$400,000 in those decades and earning recognition from national UNA for this contribution.

Today we are no less committed to feeding, educating, and providing health care for young people, but we no longer enjoy the support of Iowa's congressional delegation or the US administration. On July 17, 2025, Congress, including all of Iowa's members, narrowly approved so-called rescissions submitted by the White House, taking back 2025 funding that Congress had already allotted to aid programs like UNICEF. In that vote UNICEF lost \$142 million for core resources. This vote opposes the American people's majority support for the United Nations generally and UNICEF in particular. It is contrary to the long-standing support of UNICEF by the US government and the US public.

While we continue to advocate for UN and UNICEF support from Congress and from our neighbors, we can also donate as individuals whatever we are able: www.UNICEF.org.

I look forward to a new school year, renewed Model UN programs at our local high schools, a renewed University of Iowa UNA chapter, and a JCUNA fall membership campaign focused on youth and commemorating the 80th anniversary of the UN—all opportunities to partner with young people in our midst. And I look forward to the UI Homecoming parade where we march with our UN flag and human rights posters. Put September 26 on your calendar. I'd love to see a swarm of UN blue!

In 1969, in the halftime performance by the UI band at that year's homecoming game, they formed the letters UN on Kinnick's field as they played the UN anthem and flew UN flags. This image reminds me that our work for the UN's humanitarian aid, peacekeeping, international justice, and sustainable development goals is right on the fifty-yard line, as central as ever.