

How We Will Win by Zen Honeycutt -Moms Across America
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Earlier this morning I spoke to you about the impact of GMOs and Glyphosate on the American people.

It may have seem unbelievable to you that such damage could be happening to our country and our citizens.

The crisis IS real, and I am here today so this does not happen to your country. I am not here to tell you what to do within your unique system, but I do have some actions that we implemented to share and I love to share stories of things that are working. Maybe you will do something different. What ever you do, I urge you to pick something today and go home with a plan of action that you will own.

Now, I am going to address how I see that we will win.

When I learned about GMOs and how they are in 85-90% of our crops in the USA, how they are in over 70% of our processed foods and that our children are being fed 31 million GMO meals a day, even though I felt betrayed, angry and depressed... I got involved in our labeling initiative in CA.

It was election night, and I was sitting in the back of the room, watching organizer for my county acknowledge everyone for what they had done. I started to think about what I had done and I said to myself, "hmm, why am I back here and she's up there?" Nothing wrong, I just realized I made a choice not to be a leader. I also then realized that my actions would have been different if I had been a leader. I remembered a coach saying to me, "Zen I request you take the lid off your leadership." So in that moment I wondered, what if I took the lid off my leadership? What if I took on that I am the one to transform the food industry, not me by myself, but my actions would contribute to that, it was up to me, not someone else. ME..

After we lost I was crying in the car and my 9 yr old son said to me “ Mom, even Star Wars took six episodes.” I realized it was it was time for a new episode, one of leadership.

This is how we will win, when every single one of us takes on leadership, when we say I am the one to transform the food industry, to transform the cafeteria of my child’s school, to ban toxic chemicals from my neighborhood, to have my county leader block the imports of GMOs. What can you be a leader for?

So the next day I asked myself, how could I let as many people know about GMOs as possible? I thought of joining into our Independence day parades that happen in small towns all across America. 1 parade 3 people deep, for 3 miles = 49,000 people. The port o potties, permits and police were already arranged for by the local organizer. We just needed to join in! We could reach thousands locally and millions nationally in a single day. Our Facebook page grew from 0 to a reach of over 300,000 a week in just 4 months. Over 400 leaders caused over 600 events, parades, movie night, speakers series etc, the past three years and our movement has grown. We put out press releases which have been picked up by over 250 media outlets with a potential reach of 125 million each. We are creating international coalitions now with Mothers Across the World, with New Zealand, Australia, China, Taiwan, the UK and we hope more of Europe. Social media is useful but the opposition is imposing restrictions, they are marking our posts as harassment, harassing us to the point of distraction and turning our leaders against each-other. They have impacted the algorithms, so to continue to expand on social media, we must be ever changing tactics. In person however, they can never stop us from reaching our friends, family and neighbors face to face. Is there a nation wide event, a school, church or sports event, or celebration that you can join into? How can you be somewhere where media cannot ignore you?

This is how we will win, by reaching million of people using existing platforms.

As we reached millions of people we began to get testimonials. We could have thousands but we haven't collected them all. We have hundreds of testimonials explaining how their loved ones got sick, they suspect from GMOs and pesticides and then got better when they went organic.

"I had a team of doctors at the children's hospital that could not figure out what was wrong with my daughter who was getting sick after every meal. The Moms posting on Facebook that their children got better when they got off GMOs saved my daughter's life. That day, I went out and bought organic food and she stopped throwing up." – paraphrased summary from Jennifer Lawrenson

We have brought these testimonials to the people who make decisions about the future of our food. One testimonial is an antidotal coincidence. Hundreds or thousands, however becomes fact. We are expert witnesses of our families health. We have strength in numbers. Do you have a testimonial? Gather them amongst your groups and support lawsuits.

This is how we will win, when we have strength in numbers and come together to hold the chemical companies accountable.

Then the opposition said mom bloggers are using their children to fear monger and deceive the American public. They have testimonials but not evidence.

So we got evidence by starting with glyphosate testing. For the first time in America 2014 a we initiated citizen funded glyphosate testing on water and urine, then for the first time in the world tested breast milk for glyphosate. Our results were shocking. We found glyphosate in levels 3 x higher than what has been shown to destroy gut bacteria 33 ppb in our water and 10X higher in our children's urine than what was found in anyone in Europe. We also found glyphosate in breast milk at levels 1600x higher than allowed in drinking water in the EU. 3000X higher than what has been shown to cause harm in Seralini's study, causing liver and kidney damage and sex hormone changes.

Monsanto has refuted this, but the recent German testing and another batch of testing in PA found glyphosate in breast milk. One in a mother who sprayed Roundup while pregnant, she eats conventional food and her 4 month old infant has neuroblastoma cancer. As tragic as this is, the fact is we need MORE testing. Internationally you can get testing done. Go to our website at www.momsacrossamerica.com/action

This is how we will win. Get your water or urine tested for glyphosate.

When we have thousands of tests, showing proof of glyphosate in our water and bodies, we gather evidence.

We are very fortunate to have some amazing scientist on our side that are accumulating evidence. Mesange, Seralini, DeFarge, Spiroux de Vendomois, Carrusco, Pusztai, Mason, Antoniou, Samsel, Seneff, Huber, Swanson, Cohen, Hanemman, Kruger, Carman, and more have all written studies and papers that have given the public and we mothers, the evidence which supports our findings in our children. Their courage to ask questions and go public about their findings, risking their careers. We mother pay homage to the dedicated scientists that are doing real unfettered inquiries.

This is how we will win, with courage and gratitude. Please support the scientists.

The opposition said we have hundreds of studies showing the safety of GMos and glyphosate, and I said oh really? So I did a Freedom of Information Act request and 6 months later got a handful of actual studies and reports of maybe 30 studies. When I went before the Monsanto shareholder meeting this year I told them about their safety studies. I said the first study I read was a 96 hour toxicology study of oysters and glyphosate, and by the end of the four days of being exposed to 3.9 ppm of glyphosate in the water “most of the oysters were closed and not feeding.” Closed and not feeding, that’s akin to a coma! and what happened on the 5th or 6th day?

Another study White shrimp dies in 4 days if exposed to more than 5.2 ppm.

25 ppm is allowed on our sugar!

An independent study showed glyphosate remained viable in dark salty water for 315 days. I wondered..what's in our womb? Dark salty water. What is the size of six week old fetus? It's the size of a shrimp.

Is there an obvious correlation between the independent pig study that showed that miscarriages of sows increased 30% when fed glyphosate sprayed grain of only 2 ppm?

By the end of the shareholder meeting a farmer got up and asked " If not Roundup what then?" I got them to be in the inquiry and thinking about being responsible. How can you hold your leaders accountable?

This is how we will win, by asking the tough questions and demanding accountability.

Some decision makers hear us but ignore our requests. The Native American Museum of the United States in DC has a display of a big beautiful headdress. Underneath it is a tiny plaque that I just so happened to read. It states " To this day, the Native American Tribal Leaders are elected by the mothers of the tribe. They continue to hold the power to remove a leader based on lack of performance." Why is this...this is because the community trusts that a mother's commitment is in alignment with the communities best interest.

This is how we will win, by empowering the mothers to reclaim their power. The mothers which buy 85% of the food, who are the backbones of our families, school, churches and communities. What mothers do you know that you can share with about GMOs?

Some decision makers are not yet willing to question the safety of GMOs and related pesticides.

They risk political suicide. To make it even harder, in America Monsanto has successfully backed bills to pre empt us from banning chemical use locally. In many states now in the US, counties no longer have the ability to

ban chemicals. The state or federal government can authorize pesticide spraying wherever and whenever they want. Don't be stopped. We simply ask for the city councils, Home Owner's association or schools to "discontinue the use of glyphosate and use organic alternatives or community volunteers instead." It's working. We are 9-1 on GMO free zones and many many schools and community areas have stopped using glyphosate. How can you stop GMOs from getting into Switzerland.

This is how we will win, by being unstoppable.

Another important aspect about going into shareholder meetings. Meet them where they are. Go to your leaders fundraisers, meet with the decision makers at social gathering. Plant seeds of doubt and nourish faith. As I spoke about the harms of glyphosate I made sure to say that "No one is saying there are not good people in this room. I get you want to provide for your families and feed the world. What I am saying is that we simply have faith in our farmers. Farmers have farmed for thousands of years without toxic chemicals and GMOs and they can do it again, even better! Farmers are ingenious, we have faith in our farmers!"

John Kempf, an Amish Farmer, teaches farmers how to grow crops which completely resist pests and weeds, through nutrients in the soil.

Stopping GMos and related pesticides must be just as much about promoting the alternatives.

This is how we will win, by exposing the truth and fostering faith.

It is challenging for us to see GMO farmers, manufacturers and government agencies as people that deserve our faith. This is where we must transcend the anger and frustration, and challenge them to live up to our expectations. Ghandi stood before the British Parliament and they said to him "Little man, do you really expect us just to turn India over to you?" He said "Yes." He saw his government as an entity that would eventually do the right thing. He saw his government as great and that made him a great leader.

I stood before the CEO of Monsanto when I met him at the shareholder meeting and I said “You know Mr. Grant, it takes a big man to make a big and powerful company, but it takes an even bigger man to acknowledge when something is not working and change direction. We mothers look forward to the day when Monsanto makes products which do not harm our children or our planet,”

This is how we will win, by seeing people as able to do great things.

I started out telling you this morning that I am here because of love. I want to tell you another story of love.

It was my first son’s first day of life on our home. I held him wrapped in a blanket. He was tiny, pink and fragile, weighing almost nothing. But suddenly he was everything to me. I looked at him in awe and said to my mother, “Mom, isn’t he amazing? Aren’t all babies amazing?”

She looked me in the eyes, touched my shoulder gently and said, “We all still are.”

She saw me as still amazing. I realized that I thought only babies and children were that amazing, that some how that amazingness sloughed off. She didn’t think so. A mother’s love can be transformative. I got in that moment that it was a choice to think of myself as amazing. A choice. And if we chose to see ourselves as amazing we can accomplish much more than not.

This is how we will win, when you see yourself as amazing, you can do anything and together we will win.

How many of you got an idea while I was speaking about an area that you can take ownership of? Thank you. If not I challenge you to find one by the end of today. That area is yours.

These are our children, these are our countries, and our futures. The future belongs to us.

Thank you for your partnership in making it a healthy future filled with freedom and love.

