

CROP HUNGER WALK 2009

A Report of Milwaukee's CROP Hunger Walk and the Difference We Made

Although Sunday, October 11 was cloudy and chilly, over 800 walkers and volunteers came out to participate in the 24th annual greater Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk. With some hot chocolate for warmth and a little sunshine towards the end, it turned out to be a great day! It also appears that the Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk is somewhat recession-proof because we raised **\$67,716.25** for anti-poverty work and emergency relief! We also collected **14,790 lbs of food** for people in need in the Milwaukee area! Way to go CROP Walkers!!

Money raised for CROP Walk benefits Church World Service, a non-profit organization that provides sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries, including the United States.

Non-perishable food collected at the food drive is donated to the Hunger Task Force which distributes it to Milwaukee area food pantries for free.

Save the date for the next CROP Hunger Walk on 10/10/10 our 25th anniversary!

WHEN WE THINK OF HAITI...

On January 12, 2010 the small, impoverished country of Haiti was hit by a devastating 7.0 earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people. In addition, it literally crushed the country's infrastructure as one of the places hit hard by the quake was the capital city Port Au Prince.

CROP Coordinators and Interfaith Congregation Action Network (I CAN) members with email received an update from Church World Service (CWS) reporting its response to the quake. Here are some highlights from that message:

- Despite considerable logistical challenges, Church World Service emergency supplies consisting of blankets, health and baby kits began reaching survivors the day after the quake!
- CWS and its church and indigenous partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic could react faster than any other domestic and foreign relief provider to save the first lives of earthquake victims in Haiti.
- Also transported from Santo Domingo, purchased with CROP Walk funds raised in 2009, vitally needed water and sanitation equipment that is part of CWS-supported efforts by the ACT Alliance.

This tragedy will not soon leave our hearts and minds because of its indiscriminate and unprecedented devastation and because of the promised support by the U.S. government. Let us use this tragedy as a marker to remind us of the importance of the work done by CWS and similar organizations.

In the months and years ahead we will continue to hear about progress in Haiti's recovery. So, when we think of Haiti and its recovery, let us also think of the recoveries taking place all over the world where people continue to piece together their lives and livelihoods after human disasters like war or genocide or natural disasters like a tsunami, famine, or drought. Organizations like CWS remain in those areas long after the media has left and continue to play a vital role in helping people to survive, rebuild and recover.

This is the reason we do the CROP Hunger Walk. To support ongoing efforts that are helping hundreds of thousands of people in communities all over the world that need help in restoring their livelihood but do not hold the media spotlight. As we prepare for the 25th anniversary of the Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk let us remember that our contributions help people literally all over the world to reclaim their lives.

Peace and Justice, Nicole

2009 CROP HUNGER WALK HONORABLE MENTIONS

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge some coordinators, congregations and individuals who went above and beyond for the 2009 Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk.

Wendy Orthober, Crossroads Presbyterian Church: Wendy received two tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks game for recruiting 30 volunteers from her church help with every volunteer task we needed on the day of the walk. Crossroads chose the Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk as an activity to give their congregants an opportunity to "not just go to church, but to be the church." This is the first time we have had these many volunteers and it was absolutely WONDERFUL! Thank you Wendy! Enjoy the tickets!

Thank you to our big fundraisers. Most raised overall by a congregation: **Grace Presbyterian** (Ralph and Dorothy Babcock) = \$5,304!!! (Whoa Nelly!) Most raised online by a congregation: **Memorial UMC – Greenfield** (Paul Burazin) = \$1,615. Most raised by an individual online: **Jennifer Lemanczyk** (Memorial UMC- Greenfield) = \$1,190 (includes matching funds from her employer. Way to go Jenn!) Most raised in matching funds: **Whitnall Park Lutheran**, (Charles Schoenleber) = \$800!! Thank you all and well done!

Marilyn Schoenleber, Whitnall Park Lutheran: In August the Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk and Church World Service lost a long-time and very active supporter. Marilyn Schoenleber is the mother of Charles Schoenleber, Whitnall Park Lutheran Church's CROP Coordinator. Each year she attended the Recruiter Rallies to pick up CROP materials in his stead and helped recruit congregants to participate in the walk. CROP and CWS were so important to her that her son and brother made large donations in her name to the Milwaukee walk and Lutheran World Relief School Kits which is another program of CWS. We extend our condolences to the Schoenleber family and we are honored that the family chose the Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk as one of the charities to donate in Marilyn's honor.

WELCOME NEW CONGREGATIONS!!

Each year new congregations and groups join the Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk. This year we welcomed: Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, Concordia University, Greenfield Junior Chamber, Islamic Environmental Group, Pentecost Lutheran, Sacred Heart Parish, St. Michael's Parish and St. Augustine. Welcome and please join us again in 2010!



WE ARE ON facebook !!! Become a friend of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee to see photos from the CROP Walk that we were not able to fit on the slideshow online and for some CROP updates. Make sure you have the right organization! To find us you will need to type in the organization's complete name.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking to grow the CROP Walk Committee. CROP Committee members meet about seven times per year and work behind the scenes to prepare for the day of the walk and help ensure the event is successful and runs smoothly.

We are also looking for volunteers help on the day of the event. It is never too early to sign up as a volunteer! For more info visit our webpage at www.interfaithconference.org/CROPWalk.htm

For more information about becoming a CROP Committee member or volunteer contact Nicole Carver at nicolec@interfaithconference.org or 414-276-9050. We would love to have you on our team!

**SAVE THE
DATE**



**Sunday
October 10
2010**

**1:30 pm
McKinley Marina**