

PRESS RELEASE

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10K CROP WALK Fights Hunger

Annual Event Benefits Emergency Food Bank

Charlottesville, VA, September 26, 2005: The 34th Annual Charlottesville-Albemarle CROP WALK takes place Sunday, October 16. Proceeds help support Charlottesville's Emergency Food Bank. Starting at the First Presbyterian Church at 500 Park Street, participants will walk a 10-kilometer loop. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m.; the walk begins at 1:30 p.m.

Last year in Charlottesville, 370 walkers raised almost \$32,000 to fight hunger both locally and globally. The city's Emergency Food Bank received nearly \$4,400 of that—enough to cover its food purchases for approximately three weeks.

This summer was the busiest yet for Charlottesville's Emergency Food Bank, which provides a three-day supply of food to anyone who asks.

Last year, in over 2,000 CROP WALKs across the nation, 250,000 walkers raised approximately \$15 million.

The CROP WALK gives 25% of its proceeds to the Community Meals on Wheels program and the Emergency Food Bank. The remaining 75% supports the international relief and development efforts of Church World Service, a humanitarian agency that helps hungry people become more self-reliant and provides assistance after disasters.

For example, thanks to the support raised by CROP WALKs across the country, Church World Service was able to respond quickly to Hurricane Katrina, sending trained emergency response staff and material assistance to affected areas within hours.

For the Food Bank, the Charlottesville-Albemarle CROP WALK means much-needed annual support. But it's also "a way of letting the community know that there's an international hunger problem and that it's a big issue in our community as well," says Marsha Trimble, chair of the Food Bank.

Walking helps participants relate to the poor and hungry of the world, who have to walk everywhere they go. The program's motto is, "We walk because they walk."

But you don't have to be able to walk to help fight hunger. You or your organization can sponsor a walker. This year's goal is to raise \$35,000.

Refreshments, restrooms, and encouragement will be offered at rest stops along the route.

For more information and pledge envelopes, contact Joyce Kerns (Tu-Fri) at 293-3133, ext. 100.