

Midlands CROP Walk FAQs

(Frequently Asked Questions)

What is CROP? In 1947, after World War II, Church World Service began a relief and development program called CROP. CROP is now the name given to community, interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by 22 CWS/CROP regional offices across the United States.

When and why was the very first CROP WALK held? The very first CROP WALK was on October 17, 1969, in Bismark, North Dakota. That walk's theme, "We walk because they walk," raised awareness that many people around the world walk an average of 10 miles daily just to obtain basic necessities such as water, fuel and food.

How many CROP WALKs are there? In 2007 there were more than 2,000 CROP WALKS around the country that supported the grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts of partner agencies in more than 80 countries, including the United States.

How much of each dollar contributed goes toward overhead at the national CROP level? Over the past several years, on average just more than 18.5 percent of the funds contributed to Church World Service has gone to management, fund-raising, and information sharing.

When was the first CROP WALK in the Midlands? The first walk was held in 1979.

How much has been raised? In 1979 the Midlands CROP WALK Against Hunger raised \$1,340. In 28 years the Midlands walk has raised more than \$730,000.

How much of each dollar raised in the Midlands CROP WALK goes to international and local programming? Every dollar raised by walkers goes to the national CROP level. Expenses such as police protection and mailings are paid by donations from local corporate sponsors.

What is CROP's "local funding option"? CROP WALKs nationwide have the option of returning up to 25 percent of what they raise to hunger-fighting programs in their own local communities.

How has it changed over the years? Through 1995, Harvest Hope Food Bank was the recipient of the local portion. Beginning in 1996 the CROP WALK organizers expanded the number of local agencies, allowing walk teams the option to designate the 25 percent of funds they raised to one or two of numerous soup kitchens and food pantries serving Richland and Lexington counties. In 2007, the walk moved from Finlay Park back to the S.C. State House, which marked the end of the walk in its early years in 1979 and the early 1980s.

How has the local funding changed since the 2003 Walk? The all-volunteer Midlands CROP WALK board has decided to simplify the local funding process and make it consistent with CROP WALKS around the country. Emergency Food Pantry programs in Richland and Lexington Counties who have received funding in the past have been invited to participate. Those who have chosen to participate are the food pantry program at Harvest Hope Food Bank and the food pantry program at Lexington Interfaith Community Services (LICS).

How will the local 25 percent be distributed among the emergency food pantry programs? The programs will receive funds according to the number of people served in each pantry program in 2006. If, for example, Harvest Hope serves 7,500 people, and LICS serves 2,500 people, Harvest Hope will receive 75 percent of the available funds, and 25 percent will go to LICS.

Will CROP WALK teams have to designate as in past years? No, there is no need to designate since the programs will automatically receive funding according to numbers served in 2006.

Why are there only emergency food pantries receiving local funding this year? In order to be fair, the new, simplified funding procedure needs all programs to be of the same kind.

Questions? Call the Midlands CROP Walk Chair, Bob Williams, at (803) 782-4238 or e-mail him at midlandscrop@yahoo.com.