

4/16/19

For Immediate Release



Hunger Walkathon West  
2019 – Helping to end hunger  
one step at a time.

Contact: Joanne Despotes, 708-209-1377, [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com)  
Martin Colchamiro, 708-705-9112, [imartinc@gmail.com](mailto:imartinc@gmail.com)

## On 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Local CROP Hunger Walk Aims to Raise \$87,000

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the national CROP Hunger Walk, the Hunger Walkathon West CROP Hunger Walk is setting its sights on raising over \$87,000 through walk participants and sponsors for long-term solutions to hunger.

The Hunger Walkathon West CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, May 5th, with registration opening at 1 p.m. and the walk starting at 2 p.m. The walk begins from Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street in Oak Park. Walkers will go through the Austin neighborhood of Chicago with a rest stop at Third Unitarian Church, then continuing back toward the start of the walk.

To participate this year as a walker or sponsor, visit [www.crophungerwalk.org/oakparkil](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/oakparkil)

Hunger Walkathon West and some 800 other groups nationwide are joining together in interfaith CROP Hunger Walks around the theme “Stepping up to end hunger since 1969.” The CROP Hunger Walk was started 50 years ago by a group of energized young people in Bismarck, North Dakota who wanted to mobilize their community to fight global hunger. Today, the CROP Hunger Walk is a national movement raising funds for the global hunger-fighting work of Church World Service (CWS) and local hunger-fighting agencies. Last year, over 800 events raised \$8.3 million.

Last year, participants generated \$82,500 in donations to rate this walk among the top 10 of the 800 Crop Hunger Walks in the country. That was a record-setting sum for the local effort, and volunteers are working to exceed it this year.

One-quarter of the funds raised last year went to the hunger-fighting work of the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry, Forest Park Food Pantry, Pine Avenue Food Pantry and St. Martin de Porres Food Pantry in Chicago, First Baptist Food Pantry and Proviso Food Pantry in Melrose Park, Quinn Center of St. Eulalia Hunger Ministries, Food Pantry and Housing Forward in Maywood, and The Cluster Tutoring Program serving the Austin Community. 75% goes to the work of CWS in 30 countries around the world.

#

#

#