

## Walk With Us on October 18th!



# Newsletter

The Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk seeks to educate, inspire and empower the Charlotte community to be agents of change in the fight against poverty and hunger through fundraising events with local and international impact. This is Charlotte's original multid denominational multi-generational, multi-cultural event. The Walk is an opportunity for Charlotte residents of all ages, faiths, cultures and circumstances to join together to demonstrate their concern for those who are poor and do not have enough food to eat, both across the globe and in our own backyard. The Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk is the largest CROP Walk in the country in both the number of people who participate and the amount of funds raised. This year, our cumulative total since 1978 will go over \$8 million with over \$2 million staying here in the Charlotte community.

Charlotte is a wonderful place to live. We have great people here. You can see it for yourself on Sunday, October 18th at 2:30pm in Independence Park when thousands of local residents will spend part of the afternoon together for the 37th annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk. The Walk is 3.6 miles winding through the edge of uptown and the Belmont neighborhood. The length represents the average distance people in third world countries must walk to obtain clean water. Some of us walk because our family, friends and or co-workers are walking. Some of us will walk because when we personally experienced tough times, one of the local agencies benefitting from the walk--- Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metro-lina-- helped us out. And some of us will walk as a show of support for people across the globe who don't have access to enough food or clean water because we are grateful to be blessed with enough of both.

Hunger is a serious problem in our world, in our nation, and right here in our own community of Charlotte. It has recently been in the news that Charlotte is the number two city in the nation after Baltimore for children in poverty to remain in poverty as adults. Poverty is the leading cause of hunger. There are over 155,000 people in Mecklenburg County who live at or below the poverty level and are at risk of hunger. Over one third of these individuals are children. The poverty level is \$24,250 for a family of four. A single parent with one child making minimum wage, \$15,080/year, is living below the poverty level of \$15,930 for a two person household.

Access to clean water---something we often take for granted---is at the heart of Church World Service sponsored CROP Walks across the country. CWS believes there is enough food, water and justice for everyone in the world. Their work centers around building alliances among faith groups, advocates and those in need to provide impactful programs and services. In the past year alone, CWS has made a difference in the quality of life for tens of thousands of individuals in over 30 countries.

Poverty and hunger are issues threatening the quality of life for people in our local and global communities. You can help. Join us for the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk. Sign up at [www.charlotte-cropwalk.org](http://www.charlotte-cropwalk.org) today.



# Thank You, Sponsors!

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The Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk has been blessed with a wonderful group of supporters through the years---walkers, volunteers, organizations and sponsors. We thank you all! Here are the sponsors for the 2015 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk.

**Ally Bank** considers it a privilege to support and strengthen the communities where they live and work. Ally encourages employees to volunteer and donate to charitable causes. Ally supports employees' generosity and efforts by matching their contributions.

**Siemens** is a global powerhouse focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. They are one of the world's largest producers of energyefficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of systems for power generation and transmission as well as medical diagnosis.

**Snyder's Lance** has deep roots in the Charlotte community, where Philip Lance created the original peanut butter sandwich cracker. The merger of Lance and Snyder's of Hanover brought together over 200 years of snack making expertise and 14 different brands.

**Coca Cola Bottling Company, Consolidated** is the nation's largest independent Coca Cola bottler. They make, sell and distribute Coca-Cola products along with other unique beverages. CCBC operates in 12 states, primarily in the Southeast, with corporate offices located here in Charlotte, NC.

**Sardis Presbyterian Church** has been home to Mecklenburg County Presbyterians since the late 1700's. "Building God's Kingdom is more than a slogan

for Sardis members. It is a call to action that members of the congregation accept and accomplish by participating in local and global service opportunities.

**Tropical Fruit & Nut** is a food importer, manufacturer and distributor. They have grown to distribute over 3000 different product lines since the Charlotte office opened over 35 years ago. Tropical Fruit & Nut is known for their specially formulated snack mixes, freshly roasted nuts and bulk and packaged spices, candies, grains and specialty foods.

**WBTV3** celebrated 66 years of serving the Carolinas with award winning newscasts and local programming in July of this year. Being "On Your Side" for viewers, clients and community is the station's guiding principle. WBTV's image is built on award winning newscasts, professional journalists and community service. WBTV is a Raycom Media station.

**Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc.** owns and operates 53 radio stations primarily along the East Coast. From Boston to Tampa. The company was founded in 1961 and is headquartered in Naples, Florida. In Charlotte, the Beasley stations are WBAV-FM, WBCN-AM, WFNZ-AM, WKQC-FM, WNKS-FM, WPEG-FM and WSOC-FM.

**Christ Lutheran Church** is a congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We affirm the three ancient creeds of the Church; The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. As a congregation, our mission statement is: We WELCOME all people, CONNECT them to other believers, EQUIP them with God's Word, and SEND

them into all the world.

**Healthy Home Market** opened its doors in 1978 as the Home Economist, a bulk supply store. Today, they have grown to three natural and specialty foods stores, now named Healthy Home Market, at the Galleria and Plaza Midwood in Charlotte with a store also in Davidson. They are proud to be locally owned and locally grown!

**Hilliard Lyons'** long and distinguished history dates back to 1854. The company specializes in planning issues that include retirement, business succession, trust and estate planning and education funding. Hilliard Lyons financial consultants are focused on finding the most appropriate investments for their clients at each life stage.

**Mecklenburg Ministries** is an interfaith organization that strives to build bridges across differences by engaging clergy, encouraging congregations and energizing the community through the inspiration of our shared faith traditions. Community programs include Food for Thought, Can We Talk, Young Adult Interfaith Council and the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service scheduled for November 24th.

**Nothing but Noodles** is the fresh alternative to fast-casual dining with locations at Stonecrest and in Midtown. They are passionate about satisfying customers through value and ease. With knowledgeable staff and friendly service, they are dedicated to providing the highest quality, best tasting, made-to-order dishes around.

**Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church** has a history of being a warm, loving family of faith, open to embracing new people. Located in the historic South

# Thank You, Sponsors!

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End of Charlotte, the church has become a destination church for people from all over Mecklenburg County. Pritchard Memorial focuses on building relationships between members and the community and engaging in hands-on mission opportunities that benefit the community and the world.

**St. John's Baptist Church** is a fellowship of faith bound by a covenant with God and each other and committed to the ideals of community, freedom, service and worship. St. John's is a servant Church with a primary focus on local community outreach and missions and feels a responsibility to seek opportunities that will address the unmet social and spiritual needs of communities and individuals within central Charlotte.

**Novant Health's** 24,400 employees and physician partners care for patients and communities in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia.

The organization was formed in 1997 by the merger of Carolina Medicorp of Winston-Salem and Presbyterian Health Services in Charlotte. Mecklenburg Ministries is an interfaith organization that strives to build bridges across differences by engaging clergy, encouraging congregations and energizing the community through the inspiration of our shared faith traditions. Community programs include Food for Thought, Can We Talk, Young Adult Interfaith Council and the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

**Food Lion LLC**, headquartered in Salisbury, North Carolina, operates over 1,100 supermarkets in 10 states across the Southeast. Food Lion Feeds is a community program dedicated to providing hunger relief across their service area.

**The Kiwanis Club of Charlotte**, chartered in 1919, offers fellowship and networking with people seeking

community-building activities. As a group, the Charlotte Kiwanis Club actively pursues opportunities to serve, motivate and contribute to the children in our community.

**Publix** is committed to being a responsible corporate citizen and happily supports efforts to improve the communities they serve. Publix is particularly passionate about youth, education (specifically literacy), and helping the homeless and hungry.

**Classic Party Rentals** is focused on providing everything you need for special events, anywhere you need it. They have covered from linens to china, from flooring to tents and anything in between. No event is too large or too small for Classic Party Rentals. Your party is their passion!

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## CROP Welcomes Steve Martin and Hugo as Honorary Chairpersons for the 2015 Walk!

The 37th Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk is thrilled to have veteran NBA and Hornet broadcaster Steve Martin as Honorary Chairperson for the 2015 walk. He will be joined by Hugo the Hornet. Maine to follow a broadcasting career in radio and sports and never looked back. The Charlotte Observer says, 'Since the first season in 1988, the one constant to NBA broadcasts in Charlotte has been Steve Martin,' Hornets President Fred Whitfield said in a statement. Steve started in radio and we look forward to having him back in



this role.” And we are proud that Steve will be leading the CROP Walk on October 18th. Come walk with Steve and Hugo!



# Why CROP?

If you were asked: “Why participate in the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk?” what would your answer be? My answer is that the Charlotte CROP Walk is an opportunity to reach out to the most vulnerable regions of the world with hope and help.



*Syrian refugees need your voice.*  
Naomi Steinberg Refugee Council USA

## Why CROP?

Mothers who are forced to flee Syria to save the lives of their children, need food, blankets, water, counseling and resettlement help. CROP Walk funds

use by CWS reaches those mothers in Serbia and Egypt to provide hope and tangible help.

## Why CROP?

Families whose children lack food, water and nutrition need help. CROP funds provide the sustainable help of farming supplies and knowledge, access to clean water systems and the hope of a future where children grow and thrive and whole communities flourish.

## Why CROP?

The generosity and compassion of the people of Charlotte brings together an inspiring group of walkers that spans the divide of religion, age, faith and race. What an opportunity to walk together with Charlotte to impact hunger and poverty locally and globally!

## Why CROP?

CWS has worked for nearly seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. We affirm the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future. We meet them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain – and build on.



*Kenya - Farmer checks his sugar cane growing by earth dam built by CWS.*

*“Reverend Barbara Thomas is the Church World Service representative for the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk.”*

## Yum! Yum! Eat ‘em Up!

Hey, Charlotte CROP Hunger Walkers! Treat yourselves to Chicken Primavera, Shrimp Pesto Florentine, Pear and Balsamic Spinach Salad or good old Mac and Cheese at Nothing but Noodles on October 18th and Nothing but Noodles will treat the CROP Walk to 15% of the proceeds! Nothing but Noodles will be open 11am to 4pm so you can stop in before or after you walk the 3.6 miles. Thank you, Todd Gallinek and Nothing but Noodles!



You can also support the CROP Walk when you shop for groceries and nutrition items at Healthy Home Market! “Buy a foot” to fight hunger and poverty across the globe through



## A Very Special Guest

Reverend John McCullough, CEO of CWS Global, will join us for the 37th Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk. A graduate of Boston University School of Theology, Reverend McCullough was honored with its Distinguished Alumni award. An ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, he has served pastorates in the United States and Kenya and has held leadership positions at the denomination’s global mission agency before joining CWS Global in 2000. In a vision statement written for the search committee, the Rev. McCullough described Church World Service and its mission as “a global ecumenical organization of Christian persons committed to the

transformation of human society and preservation of the environment. . . . CWS is called no less to be a prophetic voice and an agitating presence: a sign of compassion, a bulwark for justice, human rights, dignity, and a source of knowledge contributing to the healing of nations and the building of lasting peace.” Reverend McCullough will speak during the Sunday School hour at St. Stephen Methodist Church on Sardis Road before coming to the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk.



Church World Service and here in our community through Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.



# Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk Presents Checks to Local Agencies

The Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk presented checks to three local human service agencies on Monday, June 8th, at 10am in the Free Store at Crisis Assistance Ministry. Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina each received checks for \$22,000 from the funds raised by the 2014 Walk held last October.

Carol Hardison, CEO of Crisis Assistance Ministry, was especially glad for this year's check. "Crisis Assistance Ministry is a proud, longtime partner with CROP Walk, one of the oldest organizations fighting poverty and hunger in Charlotte-Mecklenburg," she said. "These dollars, arriving right now, are so important for hard working moms and dads who are looking ahead summer with their kids at home. More meals, summer energy costs, additional childcare expenses on top of tight budgets. CROP Walk funds give a financial safety cushion for our neighbors while lifting families back to financial stability."

Shay Merritt, Executive Director for the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk, thanked all three agencies for the work they do to fill the gap for thousands of Mecklenburg County residents who are unable to make ends meet each month without help. "These agencies are there for the people who must choose which bills to pay each month. Do people pay rent or buy food? Do

they pay a utility bill or go see the doctor? Do they walk to the convenience store and buy a can of soup or do they have enough money to take a bus to the grocery store AND buy food? Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina serve the people in our community affected by poverty and hunger every day."



*Carol Hardison – Crisis Assistance Ministry, Tim Klund – Loaves & Fishes, Lucy Mitchell Loaves & Fishes, Shay Merritt - CROP, Kathy Helms –Second Harvest*

## Thank you, Volunteers! We are grateful for everyone who helps us have a safe and happy walk!



Thank you, JCSU Track Team and Coach Larry Moore, for helping CROP Walkers find places to park!



Thank you, Corrine Wallace, Maryland Ferguson and Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church for manning the water stops each year!



Thank you, Charlotte Fire Department, for helping us honor our wonderful flag and country before we start the Walk!

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

Ally

EXTRA MILE:

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WBTV 3

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MeckMin  
Nothing but Noodles  
Pritchard Memorial Baptist  
St. John's Baptist  
Novant Health  
Mecklenburg Ministries

VILLAGE

Food Lion  
Kiwanis Club of Charlotte  
Charlotte CROP Committee  
Classic Party Rentals  
Publix Charities



**LOAVES & FISHES**  
Groceries for Neighbors in Need



Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk  
300 Hawthorne Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28204