Church-sponsored walk focuses on world hunger

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

P LEDGES ARE still coming in from the 250 walkers who hiked a 10-kilometer route Sunday to help alleviate world hunger.

"We think we'll have about $12,000 when all the money is collected," said Paul Schikora, who recruited walkers for the CROP Walk for Hunger, which started from First United Methodist Church of Farmington.

"It was a good day for walking.

Everything went smoothly for us. No mishaps, not even a blister," he said.

This spring's CROP fund-raiser drew walkers from 13 Farmington-area churches, plus a group from Farmington Hills Mercy High School and another contingent from Farmington Head Start. The weather was warm and sunny.

The walk was coordinated by Judy and Jack Houser, members of Orchard United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills.

OF THE total amount pledged, 25 percent will remain in Farmington/Farmington Hills. The balance will be sent to Church World Services for hunger relief, agriculture education, social and economic development.

This is the second year Farmington-area residents have come together to make a joint contribution to feed the hungry through the non-denominational service.

Other cooperating churches for the CROP walk were Antioch Lutheran, Salem United Church of Salvation Army, West Bloomfield United Methodist, Our Lady of Sorrows, Trinity Episcopal, Hope Lutheran, Nardin Park United Methodist, Universalist-Unitarian and St. Alexander.

Participants of all ages headed out on their 10-kilometer Walk for Hunger from First United Methodist Church of Farmington. More than a dozen churches were represented.

Staff photos
by
Bob Sklar

AT LEFT: Pam Graves, 14, of Farmington Hills, and her dog Scarlett, a 17-month-old Golden Retriever, find a shady spot to take a break at the Oakland Street checkpoint. Both sipped on water and snacked on oranges before heading on to the next checkpoint. She's a member of Orchard United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills.

At the Oakland Street checkpoint, clowns from Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills take time out from snacking to smile for the camera. Standing from left to right are Linda Pfaffmann, 23, of Farmington Hills, Henry Malcki, 17, of West Bloomfield, and Diane Poellet, 22, of Farmington Hills. Kneeling is Mark Abraham, 27, of Auburn Hills.

Megan Guenther (left), 9, of Sylvan Lake, and Halena Kayes, 13, of West Bloomfield, enjoy a cup of water at the Oakland Street checkpoint. Both are members of West Bloomfield United Methodist Church.