

Hundreds walk to fight hunger

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BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

About 600 people and at least one dog took to the streets Sunday for the eighth annual Crop Walk Against Hunger in the Farmington area.

The dog, named Jaime and owned by Carol Ford of Orchard Lake, raised \$60 in pledges and earned a T-shirt for his effort. Overall, the total raised was \$24,400 — and they were still counting Tuesday afternoon.

"I think it's going to be \$25,000 by the time we're finished," said Judy Houser, a Farmington Hills resident and the event coordinator. She represented Orchard United Methodist Church.

This year 19 churches from the Farmington area, West Bloomfield and Southfield supported the Crop Walk. The 10-kilometer walk started and finished at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Farmington.

"It was a beautiful day," said Jean Polier of Prince of Peace Catholic Church in West Bloomfield. "We had so many walkers this year that we had to send them out in two groups."

The event had several sponsors including Enterprise Rent-A-Car; Bob Sellers Pontiac; Bob Saks Oldsmobile; and the JH Corp., which sells American flags. For the eighth straight year, Knight



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEKHTMAN

Walking the dog: Jaime (the dog), walked by owner Carol Ford of Orchard Lake and Oscar Roberto of Farmington, got pledges of his own at the Crop Walk Sunday.

Enterprises and Citgo provided T-shirts.

"We gave out water bottles for the first time," said Polier. "We were able to pick up a few sponsors and they were listed on the bottles."

A large group of students from Brother Rice High School walked,



Out for a walk: Jane and Keith Joseph (right) of Farmington are passed on the Crop Walk route by members of the Farmington High track team.

as did members of Girl Scout Troop 3604 from Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington. Also present were members of the Farmington Head Start program and the Farmington Hills Salvation Army.

Some 25 percent of the money raised by the walk will go to the local Salvation Army, Headstart Food Bank, St. Alexander's Food Cupboard, and the Baldwin Avenue Human Services Center.

The remainder will be distributed through Church World Services for Hunger Relief, which includes many religious denominations and delivers aid to more than 70 countries.

Last year, the Crop Walk drew about 450 and raised \$23,256.93.

forming on radio and television as a member and premier soloist of the Andreev Russian Folk Orchestra.

Lekhtman is a mezzo-soprano who came to the United States from Moldova, where she was a soloist with the Moldavian State Opera and performed leading roles in major opera houses in Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and Belgium. She won first prize at the International Festival of Jewish Song and music in the Siberian city of Birobidzhan.

A recording of her Jewish songs will soon be released in Russia. Lekhtman has made numerous local appearances in her short time in this country. Cantors Larry Vieder and Howard Glantz will also perform musical selections.

The event is sponsored by the synagogue's Adult Study Commission. Annette Chajes is chairing the evening. Ellen Bouchard is associate chairman.

The performance is open to the community. There is no charge.

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