

Rain doesn't dampen walk as fund-raiser

Police, looking skyward and noticing the flickering lightning bolts, halted the WalkAmerica fund-raiser at about the midway point in Farmington Hills April 24.

But the 1,500 walkers were given credit for the full 20-kilometer hike around the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College and raised \$130,000 for the March of Dimes.

It rained hard at Sunday morning, but "eventually the skies cleared and it became a great day," said Regina Strong, March of Dimes spokeswoman.

OCC-Orchard Ridge was one of 13 WalkAmerica sites in southeastern Michigan where a total of 17,000 people hit the road for fun, exercise, their company team and, of course, for the March of Dimes.

This year's walks raised \$1.4 million for the March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies.

"The people of southeast Michigan have again demonstrated their commitment to helping every child have a healthy start in life. We are thrilled with the success of WalkAmerica '94," said John Marshall, March of Dimes chapter chairman.

"WalkAmerica provides an opportunity for people to help the March of Dimes continue its programs of research, education and advocacy, which aid in the fight against birth defects and the reduction of the infant mortality rate."

More than 1,000 teams representing metro-area companies, clubs and organizations went the distance during Sunday's walk. Kmart, the 1994 WalkAmerica national retail sponsor, is the top-ranked team in the country.

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*John Marshall
March of Dimes
chapter chairman*

Teams walking in Farmington Hills were: Kroger, EDS, Weight Watchers and Fitness Factory. Walkers were asked to secure pledges for each kilometer they walked.

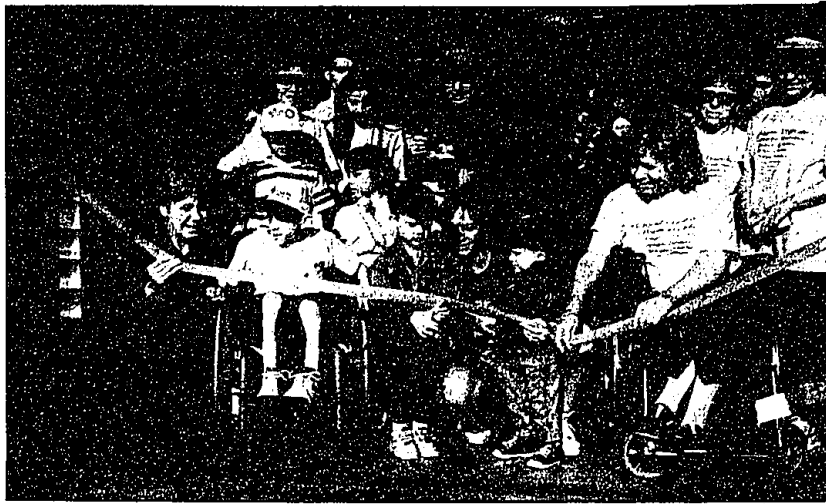
The walk routes were set up with checkpoints offering entertainment, refreshments, snacks and first aid.

Victory Vans were available along the route for walkers who chose not to walk the entire 20 kilometers.

WalkAmerica is the country's original and largest walking event and the March of Dimes' most successful fund-raiser.

This year, 1,450 communities across the country are hosting walk sites and nearly one million people from coast to coast participated in this year's WalkAmerica.

In southeastern/central Michigan, walkers were out in force in Algonac, Ann Arbor, Auburn Hills, Brighton, Detroit, Flint, Metro Beach Metro Park, Monroe, Owosso, Port Huron, Troy and Wyandotte.



They can cut it! Joanne Smith (kneeling, left), Farmington Hills mayor pro-tem, helps cut the ribbon to start the WalkAmerica event at OCC-Orchard Ridge. Also at the ribbon are (from left) Daniel Ellman, 9, March of Dimes goodwill ambassador; Dylan Stec, 3; Joan Stec; Connor Stec, 2; and Sondra Berlin, secretary/treasurer of Weight Watchers.



Taking a walk: Some of the 1,500 walkers sweep through the Farmington Hills campus of Oakland Community College during the recent WalkAmerica, the March of Dimes benefit.

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The Challenge of Infertility

presented by

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This community presentation on infertility will include infertility causes, diagnosis, treatment therapy and a brief overview of human reproduction.

**Tuesday, May 10, 1994
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St. Mary Hospital Auditorium
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Reservations requested by Friday, May 6.
Call 591-2913.

Refreshments served
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