

This year's Cicero/Oneida Shores Crop Walk sponsored by Church World Services will take place on Sunday, October 16th. Registration begins at 12:30 at Oneida Shores Park. The 5-mile walk around our beautiful lake will begin at 1:00. Last year's walk yielded \$6,873 with members of BUMC, St, Agnes, Cicero UMC and Sacred Heart churches participating in the event. This year's goal is to raise \$7,500. The proceeds will go to Church World Services in support of their —Ending Hunger One Step at a Time campaign to provide food, resources and education to countries around the world who struggle to survive. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as many as six miles a day to get food, water and fuel and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because we want to end hunger—one step at a time.

In addition, twenty-five percent of the funds raised are donated back to the local pantries – our pantry as well as Anna's Pantry at Sacred Heart in Cicero. With the help of funds raised at our local Crop Walk, we are able to reach out to our neighbors around the world and those in our own back yard.

Donations can really make a difference in the lives of many. For example, a \$25 donation can help a farm family produce nutritious honey by providing hives, training and equipment. Fifty (\$50) dollars can provide up to 400 pounds of food to local food pantries. A \$72 donation can provide emergency food supplies for a family of five for up to a month. A \$100 donation can provide 250 chicks who will grow up to become egg-producing chickens. \$120 can send three women to literacy class for a year, forever changing their lives.

We hope you will consider participating in this year's event to make it the best ever!

YOU can help support our effort in several different ways—we hope you will consider the one that best fits your desire and abilities:

First, you can volunteer to walk with us on October 16th. We will provide you with a donation envelope and ask you to solicit donations from neighbors, friends, families, etc. You can solicit donations in person or by referring people to make their donation online by accessing our website: www.cropwalkonline.org/cicerony. Join us for a light lunch following church on October 16th. We will travel to Oneida Shores as a group to show our solidarity and will join others from faith based, and community based groups. Feel free to bring your favorite —4-legged friend to join you in the walk as well. I hope to have a group from our church as well as local teens from the middle and high school joining us for the afternoon. Students who participate in the walk and solicit donations from at least five (5) people will be eligible to earn at least two hours of community service. It's a beautiful time of year—please consider walking with us.

Secondly, you can sponsor one of our walkers. Beginning October 2nd, we will introduce this year's walkers to you. Simply sign the donation sheet and give what you can in support. Donations can be made up to the walk date. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Thirdly, donation envelopes will be available the first week in October to make a donation in the form of a —special offering. Please make checks payable to CWS/CROP. All donations are tax-deductible.

Lastly, your support can be given in the form of prayer and words of encouragement to our walkers, participants and those people who we walk to help.

Thank you for your continued support of our food pantry mission.

Sincerely,
Deb Lombard, Pantry Coordinator