

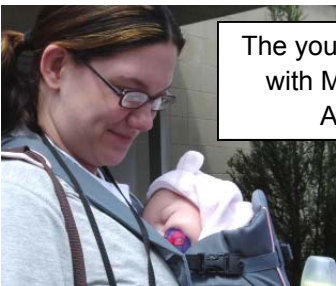
# The Schenectady CROP Walker — 2008



## \$1 Million Mark Passed!

The 25th Annual Crop Walk was, once again, a huge success! Although somewhat inclement weather was forecast, good weather prevailed and the rain stayed away! This was a banner year for the Schenectady Crop Walk, as we surpassed the \$1 million mark for total funds raised since the first year, back in 1984. To date, \$53,000 has been collected.

## And They're Off!



The youngest 'walker' Elaina, with Mom, from Stanford/Albany St. UMC

## Stanford/Albany Street United Methodist Church Receives the Sr. Rachel Award

The **Sister Rachel Award** recognizes a volunteer or group of volunteers who has had a significant impact on the CROP Walk, and who exemplifies the spirit, dedication and philosophy of volunteerism as witnessed by Sister Rachel Ricciardelli.

This year's recipient was Stanford/Albany Street United Methodist Church. Accepting the Award from Reverend Phil Grigsby (far right) are Reverend David Heise (center) and Ruth Smith (far left). Congratulations, Stanford/Albany Street UMC!



## Church World Service's Africa Initiative: Giving Children Hope

In 2004, Church World Service launched a four-year *Africa Initiative*—an intensive commitment to help our neighbors on that vast continent develop innovative and sustainable strategies to address the causes of relentless life-threatening poverty. The *Initiative* has focused on five critical areas of concern: 1) hunger and poverty alleviation; 2) durable solutions



for the displaced; 3) Water for All, Water for Life; 4) peace building and conflict resolution; and 5) HIV and AIDS, particularly the devastating effects on millions of children. Your CROP Walk supports this!



## One Walker's "Steps"

Long-time CROP Walker Jim Miller of Syracuse, NY, discovered how easy it is to raise funds online. In his own words, "I've finally reached the 21st century!"

For 25 years, Jim walked in the Syracuse CROP Hunger Walk. For many of those years he was Coordinator of the Walk. As a Social Studies teacher at Corcoran High School, he also invited his students to get involved. Each year, he sent letters to his family and friends asking for their support.

Now retired, he teaches part-time at the State University of New York in Cortland, where he assigns the CROP Hunger Walk as one of his students' projects. Last year, Jim for the first time reached out to family and friends "the modern way" by asking for sponsorship through the CROP Hunger Walk online option. "It was easy, secure, and it worked! I raised a total of \$220 online. Next year I know I can top \$500!"

—Jim Miller, Syracuse, NY



Walkers from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



### You can be an "E-Walker"

Go online and you've got a great new way to increase the funds you raise for your CROP Hunger Walk. Thanks to the wonders of the Worldwide Web, every Walker can:

- Create a personalized web page seeking donations or sign up with others as a team.
- E-mail requests for sponsorships to friends and family anywhere.
- Receive credit card contributions for their CROP Hunger Walk at our secure site.
- Use the Web to raise funds to combat hunger and poverty at home and around the world.

### PLEASE TURN IN YOUR MONEY & PAPERWORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

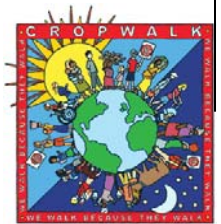
Funds (and paperwork) should be turned in to Lorraine Poirier at KEY BANK, 436 State Street, Schenectady. Checks should be made payable to: CWS/CROP. Lorraine has some Sweatshirts (others are available at the SICM Office, 930 Albany Street, Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm).

**\$500+:** Sweatshirt

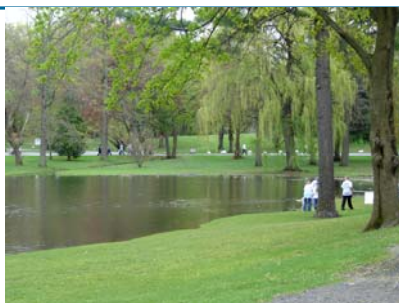
All walkers received a T-shirt (extras at the SICM Office)

## Local Pantry Recipients of CROP Walk Funds

- Sacred Heart/St Columba's Food Pantry
- SICM Food Program
- Schenectady Nutrition Program for the Elderly (Catholic Charities of Schenectady)
- Community Crisis Network
- St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Luke's Church



**Congratulations to Cathy Lewis, member of First Reformed Schenectady, our walker with the highest total of donations, and to Woestina Reformed Church, for our congregation with the highest total of donations! Thank you!**



This year's CROPWalk was "A walk in the park!"



Walking with a friend is always double the fun!



## 2008 Committee

Thank you to all who planned and organized this year's event: Rev. Dana Carroll, Sister Stella Dillon, Rev. Phillip Grigsby, Rev. David and Mrs. Barbara Heise, Mr. Nick and Rev. Victoria Onderdonk-Milne, Rev. Larry Phillips, John Steele, Sister Betsy VanDeusen, Susan Ripley, and Lorraine Poirier (Treasurer).

## \$11,862 Raised by Lutherans

90 volunteers [30 households] from 5 Lutheran churches participated in the 2008 Crop Walk. They raised \$7,862 which Thrivent matched with an additional \$4000. Thrivent is a Lutheran affiliated insurance company that each year provides assistance in local communities where there are members. The local Thrivent chapter has matched local CROP Walk funds for several years. Locally, Thrivent has also supported Habitat for Humanity, SICM, and others.

## Thank You All

### Corporate Sponsors and Friends

We acknowledge and thank the following corporations who have helped this year's Capital Region CROP Walk effort:

Trustco Bank  
Stewart's Shops  
Albany Public School  
Teachers Association (APSTA)  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Screen Designs, Inc.  
Security Supply  
Sodexo  
The Record  
King Brothers  
Building & Remodeling  
Price Chopper  
The Lofgren Agency

### Corporate Friends

Daily Gazette  
Times Union  
The Record

### Individuals and Groups

Schenectady Police and Fire Departments  
Niskayuna Police Department  
City Hall Staff  
All Recruiters  
All Registrars  
Catholic Charities Staff and Volunteers  
Emmanuel/Friedens Church (Rev. Larry Phillips, Mary Lou Chotkowski, and Youth Group)  
St. Helen's Church & School (Rev. Bob Longobucco, Sr. Betsy Van Deusen)  
Key Bank (Downtown)  
Knight's Orchards  
Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
SICM Staff & Volunteers  
Scotia Meal Site Volunteers  
All Senior Meal Sites  
Stanford/Albany Street United Methodist Church  
(Members for Rest Stop)

Fisher United Methodist Church (Clark Cooper & Youth Group .. for signage along the route)  
Onderdonk-Milne Family and all parking volunteers  
Lorraine Poirier Family  
The Sisters of St. Joseph  
Thrivent Financial  
(Mary Gray and Ellen Harris)



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**  
to all who recruited walkers, solicited pledges and made pledges through the Schenectady CROP Walk website!



# The Many CROPWalk Participants

This year's event was a wonderful celebration. While all the tallies are not yet complete, we estimate that this year's walk involved 700 walkers or runners and will raise over \$55,000. We had a number of new groups participating. With counting all the organizers, participants, and supporters, the volunteer hours are at least 4,000 hours of service — and likely more!



Young Letter Writers from EPUMC's Jr. High Youth Group



Central Park  
"Water Stop" Crew



"Finish Line"  
refreshment servers



## 2008 Congregations and Organizations

*Participants in the 2008 walk, as determined by pledge forms turned in the day of the walk.*

- Albany Street U.M.C.
- Bellevue Reformed Church
- Burnt Hills U.M.C.
- Carman U.M.C.
- Catholic Charities of Sch'dy
- Catholic Charities  
(Summit Towers Meal Center)
- Center Glenville U.M.C.
- Christ Church Episcopal
- Eastern Parkway U.M.C.
- Emmanuel-Friedens Church
- Faith U.M.C.
- First Baptist Church, Sch'dy
- First Baptist Church, Scotia
- First Reformed Church, Sch'dy
- First Reformed Church, Scotia
- First Unitarian Society
- First U.M.C.
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



- GE Volunteers
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Lisha Kill Reformed Church
- Lynnwood Reformed Church
- Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons  
High School
- Niskayuna High School
- Niskayuna Reformed Church
- Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Rotterdam U.M.C.
- Sacred Heart/St. Columba's  
Food Pantry
- Schalmont Middle School
- Schenectady Friends Mtg. Society
- Schenectady Inner City Ministry

- Scotia U.M.C.
- St. Anthony's Church
- St. Gabriel the Archangel Church
- St. Helen's Church and School
- St. John the Baptist Church
- St. Joseph's—Scotia
- St. Luke's
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Stanford U.M.C.
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Union College:
  - Multi-Faith Council
  - Sigma Delta Tau
  - Student Association
- Union Presbyterian Church
- Woestina Reformed Church
- Woodlawn Reformed Church

