

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



THE HISTORY OF THE CROP HUNGER WALK

The CROP Hunger Walks are one of the first charity walks in the nation – we often refer to it as the granddaddy of Charity Walks.

George Sturgeon genuinely cared about people around the world, and he wanted the next generation to care, too. That's why, while driving to a youth retreat in Bismarck, North Dakota, he paid special attention to a radio program talking about walking for a cause. George's idea began to take shape: would youth sacrifice their own steps so that someone around the world would have enough food and water? In 1969, that's exactly what happened. Teens and young adults who heard George's idea pioneered this Walk concept in Bismarck, raising funds for families around the world through Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service. The seeds were - quite literally - being planted for the CROP Hunger Walk.

Bismarck's innovative Walk sparked conversations across the nation. But it was Rev. Bill Sowers in York, Pennsylvania who took the next step forward. His congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, was already engaged with CWS' "Friendship Farms" initiative, where farmers volunteered a portion of their produce for families in need. Rev. Bill knew that the York community was hungry to do more...so he invited them to Walk in 1970. Margaret Horn, the youth leader from a neighboring congregation, responded to this invitation with a call to action of her own: "I will walk, will you walk with me?" Her question is repeated every year as new walkers encourage their friends and family to join this movement, this moment to end hunger.



**“I will walk,
will you walk with me?”**

- MARGARET HORN

Because teens and their communities in North Dakota and Pennsylvania cared 50 years ago, the CROP Hunger Walk is now America's main hunger walk. Millions of people around the nation have since responded to the invitation to end hunger. We celebrate this 50-year legacy and challenge ourselves to keeping moving forward until there is enough for all.