



OPINION EDITORIAL

Many people remember the 1960s as a decade of music festivals, protests and a youthful energy driving society towards something better. Part of that “better” meant ending hunger, which is why, in 1969, a group of teens in Bismarck, North Dakota dreamed up what would later be known as the CROP Hunger Walk.

It was a big dream: walk 20 miles to bring awareness to the fact that recent wars and conflicts left families around the world starving. Each mile walked raised funds to create solutions for those families. The first Walk was a huge success, setting the precedent for charity walks around the nation.

50 years later, that legacy continues. Millions of people in hundreds of communities across the United States have picked up the mantle to fight hunger over the years through the CROP Hunger Walk. Sponsored by the international aid organization CWS, the CROP Hunger Walk raises over \$8 million annually, providing nutritious food both in the United States and around the world. The walks are shorter – usually a 5k – but the energy to fight global hunger is still as strong as it was in 1969.

And the need is still great. After years of progress, hunger is on the rise. Roughly one in nine people goes to bed each night on an empty stomach. We’re up against new weather patterns, shifting seasons, armed conflicts and more - all of which makes our collective food systems more vulnerable. It’s not just an international crisis, either; here in the United States, 12 percent of households face food insecurity, and the number is higher for households with children. It’s often a hidden challenge, but the CROP Hunger Walk brings it into full view so that these children won’t face a lifetime of unseen struggles.

It’s still a big dream, but with the help of every person, we can fight for stable and healthy food systems. It’s a future we all want - and the reach of hunger will only increase unless we do something now. We call on the people of *[Name of your community]* to join this fight.

The *[Name of Your CROP Hunger Walk]* will take place on *[Date of your CHW]* at *[Time and location]*. Funds raised will empower vulnerable families around the world - including families in our own community who are helped through *[Name(s) of your local beneficiary agency(ies)]*. For more information, please visit *[local CROP Hunger Walk url]*. Carry on this 50-year legacy of fighting hunger! Join the CROP Hunger Walk!