

**SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENTS for your Congregational Bulletin**  
CROP Hunger Walk 2012

Join the 38th Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday afternoon, October 14, 2012. Register at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Ann Arbor, from 1 pm; the Walk starts at 2 pm. "We walk because they walk" - in solidarity and in unity - "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty". Some 2,000 communities across the country participate in CROP events each year, raising funds for local hunger-fighting agencies as well as for the international relief and development efforts of Church World Service.

More than a year after a devastating tornado struck Joplin, Missouri CWS is still supporting the Joplin Long Term Recovery Committee; the committee is committed to bringing the community together by offering house repairs, case management, and spiritual counseling for survivors. This long term commitment to recovery ensures that nothing is overlooked and the community can recuperate and move on from this horrific event.

CWS is also already raising money to help victims of severe weather in Minnesota and Florida, and anticipating the needs of communities affected by fires in the southwest. They have already shipped 400 Hygiene Kits and 390 School Kits to the Fort Collins Donation Center near the High Park fire in Colorado Springs and 864 Clean-Up Buckets to the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services Warehouse in Tampa.

75% of money raised by CROP supports CWS in its mission to fight hunger, poverty, and disasters around the world and in the United States. Please join the Walk, or sponsor a walker in your congregation. Or visit [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net) and click on the CROP icon to register or make a credit-card pledge. Sponsors can support Church World Service or designate donations to an alternative charity. Many small gifts make a big difference!

For more information on Church World Service emergency response and programs, visit the CWS website: "[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)".

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In July 2011, Church World Service celebrated 65 years as a global humanitarian agency responding to disasters, offering refugee assistance and working to alleviate hunger. Since 1946, CWS has helped resettle 500,000 refugees into the US and changed countless lives abroad. Its annual operating budget is over 80 million dollars, of which 85.4% is used in service activities.

After severe monsoon conditions and dangerous flooding in 2010 and 2011 left millions of people in Pakistan devastated, Church World Service has led the effort to rebuild and avoid similar tragedies in 2012. To date, CWS has distributed more than 600 metric tons of food in flood affected areas and has provided mobile health services in four districts. Along with that, they have staff in the country sharing first aid training and knowledge, and teaching techniques for how to stay safe during a disaster using locally available materials as basic as bamboo and leaves.

As more countries cut their foreign aid, CWS is playing a critical role in emergency relief and providing education to avoid or lessen the impacts of natural disasters. You can obtain a walker envelope from your church recruiter. Or visit [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net) and click on the CROP icon to register or make a credit-card pledge. Thank you for helping the hungry - one step at a time!

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CWS started the "Giving Hope" program, supporting more than 30,000 child headed households orphaned by genocide or HIV/AIDS in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, and Mozambique. This program focuses on empowerment rather than sustained funding from CWS, teaching kids to make items to sell, give small business loans, or giving them grants to go back to school. \$150 in Rwanda orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) can be assisted with partial tuition for secondary school or university. And, \$95 will help a youth gain income skills in fields as diverse as carpentry, barbering, welding, sewing, and hotel trades.

Please support CROP by walking or supporting a walker in your community! You can obtain a walker envelope from your church recruiter. Or visit [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net) and click on the CROP icon to register or make a credit-card pledge. Thank you for helping the hungry - one step at a time! 75% of money raised goes to CWS to support their work abroad. 25% stays in the Ann Arbor community, supporting local organizations and non-profits.

For more information on Church World Service's Giving Hope program, visit the CWS website: "[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)".

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On Sunday afternoon, October 14, 2012, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, many Ann Arbor congregations will join the CROP Hunger Walk. Registration is from 1 pm; the Walk starts at 2 pm. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, and this is an opportunity to help fight hunger and poverty, aid refugees, and support the vital self-help developmental programs for which Church World Service has been known for over 60 years. Church World Service is working in some 80 countries around the world. 25 percent of what we raise by walking will help local agencies in Washtenaw County.

The 235,000 square-mile Gran Chaco region of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay is a fragile ecosystem containing the last unexplored wilderness in South America, and including areas of almost impenetrable thorny forests and cactus. Now the region's limited natural resources are being depleted, mainly through deforestation by large agricultural companies cultivating soy and sugar cane.

The Chaco initiative, a long-term multinational effort, aims to improve the quality of life of about 15000 indigenous people by strengthening communities, helping them assert their land rights and live free of hunger and oppression. CWS-led initiatives range from securing basic infrastructure (roads, water, education, food production) to offering training in sustainable forestry to promoting community mobilization. The program supports local youth pursuing degrees in areas such as bilingual education, nursing, law, political sciences, rural economics and business.

For recent news, visit [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

Your CROP Walk donations help people such as these. You can obtain a walker envelope from your church recruiter. Or visit [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net) and click on the CROP icon to register or make a credit-card pledge. Many small gifts make a big difference!

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Join the 38th Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk at 2 pm, Sunday October 14, 2012! Register at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Ann Arbor, from 1 pm. Our goal is to raise \$55,000. The proceeds will benefit worldwide development projects of Church World Service, and 25 percent of the funds will go to agencies helping the poor in Washtenaw County.

This year money raised during the CROP Walk will benefit 14 organizations! AID in Milan, Avalon, Catholic Social Services, Community Action Network, Emmanuel House, Full Circle, Growing Hope, Hope Clinic, LOVE Thy Neighbor, Muslim Social Services/Backdoor Pantry, Northfield Human Services, Packard Health, SOS Community Services, and the Breakfast program at St Andrews will all receive money. The more money CROP raises, the more is put right back into fighting hunger in Washtenaw County by helping these great organizations. Additionally, Brown AME Chapel, LOVE Thy Neighbor, and Northfield will split the non-perishable foods donated on the day of the walk.

Sign up and ask parents and friends to sponsor you with a contribution. You can obtain a walker envelope from your church recruiter. Or use our own web-site and follow the "CROP Walk" link to register to walk or make a credit-card pledge: [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net). Many small gifts make a big difference!

Thank you for helping the hungry - one step at a time!

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TODAY after church, join friends and neighbors at Bethlehem UCC Church to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk! Registration begins at 1pm and the walk at 2pm. Do not miss this opportunity to fight hunger and poverty in Washtenaw County and around the world! You can donate online at [icpj.net](http://icpj.net) or bring non-perishable food items to donate! Make sure that everyone has enough to eat and support CROP!

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The CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>! Money raised during CROP goes directly to fight hunger and devastating poverty through the world and in Washtenaw County. Support CROP and see that everyone has ENOUGH to create a future for themselves. Enough might mean enough seeds to plant a garden, enough clean water to drink, or enough money to start a small business. Church World Services uses money from CROP to see that everyone has a chance at a future, because the world produces enough food and has enough resources to provide for us all!

Sign up and ask parents and friends to sponsor you with a contribution. You can obtain a walker envelope from your church recruiter. Or visit [icpj.net](http://icpj.net) and follow the "CROP Walk" link to register to walk or make a credit-card pledge: Many small gifts make a big difference!

Thank you for helping to see that everyone has enough - one step at a time!

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Join the 38th Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk at 2 pm, Sunday October 14, 2012! Register at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Ann Arbor, from 1 pm. Our goal is to raise \$60,000. The proceeds will benefit worldwide development projects of Church World Service, and 25 percent of the funds will go to agencies helping the poor in Washtenaw County.

25% of sponsor donations will be shared among the following local agencies:

AID in Milan 2%  
Avalon Housing 1%  
Brown Chapel (African Methodist Episcopal) 1/3 of the food donations  
Catholic Social Services 2%  
Community Action Network 3%  
Emmanuel House 1%  
Full Circle Community Center, Ypsilanti 1%  
Growing Hope 1%

Hope Clinic 3%  
LOVE Thy Neighbor (First United Methodist) 1% and 1/3 of the food donations  
Muslim Social Services/Backdoor Pantry 2%  
Northfield Human Resources 1% and 1/3 of the food donations  
Packard Health 3%  
SOS Community Services 2%  
The Breakfast at St Andrews 2%

We are collecting non-perishable food for Northfield Human Services, L.O.V.E. Thy Neighbor, and Brown Chapel AME. Please bring donations of canned or packaged food to the Walk on October 14.

Sign up and ask parents and friends to sponsor you with a contribution. You can obtain a walker envelope from your church recruiter. Or use our own web-site and find the "CROP Walk" banner to walk or make a credit-card pledge: [www.icpj.net](http://www.icpj.net). Many small gifts make a big difference!

Thank you for helping the hungry - one step at a time!