

Walk

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on CROP Walks, which are held in more than 2,000 communities nationwide every year. Hinds said that hunger kills more people a year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. And with the price of food going up around the world, the need is greater than ever.

The local need is great too, according to Tommy Cole, director of Sunnyside Ministries, which has seen a "tremendous increase" in demand for assistance.

"It's like the perfect storm: the economy goes down, donations go down, the need goes up all at the same time," said Cole.

Sandy McCutchen, chair of the walk's planning committee, said that the turnout was greater this year and it needed to be.

"I really think there is a great need for those of us who have so much to share our resources with those who are suffering," she said. "And this year it's a terrible year internationally in terms of people who are going hungry and who are coming to these organizations for food supplies."

She credited the increased turnout to the aggressive recruitment that was done. Churches that participated in past walks were called upon, and a luncheon with leaders of African-American churches was held to woo them to the cause.

While anyone can take part in the CROP Walk, it's congregations that make up most of



A group of walkers from Forsyth Park Baptist Church.

Photos by Todd Luck



First Baptist members James and Fontiane Graham.

the walking groups. Churches like First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue showed up in force this year.

It has been some time since First Baptist had taken part in the event, but Pastor Darryl Aaron, who has been on the job for just 10 months, has a special connection to Crisis Control: he's a board member.

"Anytime a church can get

involved in something like this, it gives clarity to our mission," said Aaron.

Fifty members of Aaron's flock joined the walk, raising \$2,000.

James and Fontiane Graham were among the First Baptist walkers.

"Our church is about service," said Fontaine Graham. "I love helping people."

Another new pastor also led his congregation at the walk. The Rev. John Krivsky has been pastor of Forsyth Park Baptist Church for less than a year. He was encouraged to join the efforts by members like Dennis Haytt, a Crop Walk veteran who's participated in the event at least 10 times.

Krivsky brought along his wife, Beth, and their children. The couple said the event provided an excellent opportunity for families to bond for a good cause.

More than \$1 million has been raised in the 26 years that the CROP Walk has been held in Forsyth County. This year, the goal was to raise \$66,000. So far only \$53,000 has been pledged, but McCutchen is confident the final tally will be closer to the goal. Next year's walk is already slated for the third Sunday in October.

Civil rights legend Dees will give speech at WSSU

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Successful entrepreneur, civil rights activist and attorney, noted author, and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center Morris Dees will keynote Winston-Salem State University's J. Alston Atkins Memorial Lecture in Constitutional Law on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in Dillard Auditorium of WSSU's Albert H. Anderson Conference Center.

Sponsored by the law firm Kilpatrick Stockton, this year's Jasper Alston Atkins Lecture is free and open to the public. Dees' remarks will be followed by a question and answer forum and a book signing.

In 1967, Dees had achieved extraordinary business and financial success with his book publishing company. The son of an Alabama farmer, he witnessed firsthand the painful consequences of prejudice and racial injustice. He sympathized with the Civil Rights Movement, but had not become actively involved. A night of soul searching at a snowed-in Cincinnati airport changed his life, inspiring Dees to leave his safe, business-as-usual world and undertake a new mission.

Out of this deeply personal moment grew the Southern Poverty Law Center. Dees began taking controversial cases that were highly unpopular in the white community. He filed suit to stop construction of a white university in an Alabama city that already had a predominantly black state college. In 1969, he filed suit to integrate the all-white Montgomery YMCA.



Dees

As he continued to pursue equal opportunities for minorities and the poor, Dees and his law partner Joseph J. Levin, Jr. saw the need for a non-profit organization dedicated to seeking justice. In 1971, the two lawyers and civil rights activist Julian Bond founded the Southern Poverty Law Center.

In his pioneering role at the Center, Dees participated in suing hate groups and mapping new directions for the Center.

In addition to his work for the Center, Dees has authored three books and frequently speaks to colleges and universities, legal associations and other groups throughout the country.

Because seating for the lecture is limited, people interested in attending are urged to go to the WSSU Web site, www.wssu.edu, and click Atkins Lecture to notify the university of their intention to attend.

— Contribution by: Sarah Langdon

Do you need further information or have questions or comments about this article? Please call toll-free 1-877-530-1824. Or, for more information about the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, please visit our website: <http://www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth>.

Advocacy

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second opinion, and change health care providers.

How can I advocate for my community?

There are also many easy ways you can advocate to improve or change things in your community, such as:

- Calling or meeting with policymakers
- Serving as a resource to

policymakers — you can do this by ensuring policymakers have the correct and most up to date information related to your cause

- Writing a letter to your policymaker
- Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper — most newspapers have their instructions for letters to the editor in their paper and on their web site
- Participating in a community forum or town meeting

Developing coalitions of persons who share and support similar interests can be a great advocacy tool. Everyone has different strengths: for example, one person in your group may be great at writing letters, while another person may be great at public speaking. This diversity allows coalitions to advocate in many different ways at the same time.

It is important to know that "policymaker" does not just mean an elected official; a pol-

icy maker is anyone who has a role in developing policy for a certain group of persons. This means that you may advocate to elected officials, but you may also advocate to business leaders, directors of health care organizations (hospitals, clinics, etc.), even groups of people like researchers, doctors, or the community at large.

Remember, influencing change on the community or group level rarely happens

overnight; this means you may need to advocate to many different people/groups of people via many different means over a period of time. The first step to becoming an effective advocate is informing yourself about your issue or cause of interest. You can find specific templates on how to write letters, make visits or call policymakers on the APHA web site at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy>.

**Working together,
on Tuesday,
November 4th,
President Obama
and the Democrats
in Congress
will bring the
change we need
to America.**

Make sure your vote is counted by voting early through November 1.

You can even register and vote all at the same time.

For early voting locations call 1-888-NC-EARLY (877-624-2426)

or visit VoteForChange.com