

Vallejo Crop Walk against hunger April 25

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For the sixth year running, people will be walking along the Vallejo waterfront to take a bite out of hunger on April 25.

While this year's Crop Hunger Walk will be at the same place as previous years, it's being held on Saturday instead of Sunday, organizer Carl Cordes said.

"We changed the day because some of the churches couldn't make it at that time on Sunday and it's cooler in the morning than in the afternoon," he said.

Crop Hunger Walks are community fund-raising events sponsored by Church World Service, Cordes said. Three-quarters of the funds raised by the event nationwide are used to provide food, medical care, disaster relief and self-help development for needy people around world, he said.

In Vallejo, the event includes a 3K walk along the waterfront. Those who can't walk can sponsor someone who can, he added.

Four local nonprofits will benefit from the funds raised at Vallejo's event — the Amador Street Hope Center, the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the American Canyon Family Resource Center, Cordes said.

"It's an honor to be part of that (group)," American Canyon Family Resource Center Director Sherry Tennyson said. "It's a way to help our families, and when they come in, we can help them access other services we offer."

This will be the resource center's fifth year involved with the crop walk, Tennyson said.

"It's an amazing project for us as we partner with our Solano organizations," she said. "The vision is to make sure folks who need food get what they need most. We use the funds to help kids after school who need food. It's a great opportunity to get the word out that we still have folks here who need the basics."

While the resource center's take from the crop walk is not typically a fortune, every little bit helps, Tennyson said.

"I would say we've helped at least 20 to 25 families each year with the \$300 to \$400 (we get)," she said.

Part of the reason for the crop walk is to "put it out there that food is still a major issue locally," Tennyson said. And Cordes said he agrees.

“It’s needed,” he said. “Vallejo is getting much better but there are still people here who are low income and need help with food, utility bills, clothing, and other basics.”

Cordes said he got involved with the crop walk being produced by his church when he first moved to the area in the late 1980s, and when the event floundered, he brought it back himself.

“I started it up again when I realized it was still needed,” he said. “I had the time, and I’m good at organizing, so why not?”

Cordes said it gives him a sense of satisfaction to put this event together, but he’d “really like to do more.”

“It’s a joy to see people come out and help and it is refreshing to see people do what they can to help and do their part, and knowing the money will be used wisely, feels good also,” he said.

For information, call 694-6274, or visit www.cropwalk.org.

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