



Columbia CROP Hunger Walk 2025

Sunday, September 21

Gordon Shelter, Stephens Lake Park

1:00 - Registration begins

1:30 - Walk begins

2:30 - Concert begins (bring your lawn chairs)

Stories of Change: Transformed Lives

Our Food Program Partners at Work

25% of funds raised through the Columbia CROP Hunger Walk fight hunger in and around Columbia through food pantry and meal programs. Each program submits an application to the Columbia CROP Hunger Walk Planning team, who approves applicants and assigns each a percentage of the proceeds according to need and services provided.

See the back of this page for more about our food program partners for 2025.

***Use their stories to tell your friends and neighbors
about the successes - and the needs - of these partners!***

Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen (1509 Ashley Street) - volunteer groups serve a hearty and nutritious meal every night of the year to all who need a dependable meal source.

Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry (108 E. Ash Street) - opens the food pantry on the 2nd and the 4th Saturdays each month from 10-12.

Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry (4914 Prairie Ridge Street) - is open one Saturday per month from 10-12, and 24/7 when needed for a family in crisis.

Fifth Street Christian Church's Feed the Community Meal (401 N. Fifth Street) - provides a free monthly meal on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 11-2; they also have an emergency food pantry and summer meals for children.

Columbia CROP Walk Webpage - Our local webpage, contacts, resources
www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo

Columbia CROP Facebook - Up-to-the-minute news and updates
<https://www.facebook.com/comocrop>

Church World Service resources, project information, Team formation
<https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/>



Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry

Last year, the Pantry served nearly 500 children and 1,200 adults. CROP Walk funds will purchase grocery items, provide meals to homeless persons, and special holiday meals.

Many children are in danger of not having enough nutritious food and most of us might think their most vulnerable time would be during the summer weeks. However, the Pantry is finding that summer food programs are filling the need and the critical time is actually during the time when school is in session because we all think the lunch and breakfast programs fill the need.

While continuing their traditional food outreach, DWC Pantry is beginning a new initiative to train their youngsters to recognize hunger. Many children do not self-identify to an adult as being hungry, but can tell a friend or the friend notices.

The youth of DWC are building a legacy of "showing up" and helping, as they become the ones who will deliver sacks of groceries to families.



Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen

Averaging 140-150 meals per night for 110-120 diners, 26 volunteer groups bring stability to the food needs of L&F guests 365 days a year. The number of meals needed each night to give everyone their fill has increased by 30% since 2024. But the faithful volunteer cooks and servers have risen to the challenge and taken the need in stride.

CROP Walk funds help pay for operating expenses, cleaning supplies, food staples like bread, peanut butter, jelly and bulk needs like salt, pepper, and coffee. AND costs of those meals has increased by at least 3% since last year.

J.S. has been a familiar face at L&F for more than 20 years, always appreciative for the food and hospitality he experienced. Now, he has a permanent place to call home.



For many years, chronically homeless Ms. A, was also a frequent diner. She is now in supportive living and getting healthier.

Where would they have been without a dependable meal for all those years?

Fifth Street Christian Church Community Meals and Food Pantry

In 2024, nearly 2,800 children and adults received meals during Community Meals served February thru November and the food pantry. CROP Walk funds purchase food and supplies for the meals and pantry.

This year Fifth Street had planned to expand their food outreach program, enhance and expand their food pantry, AND provide after-school and summer meals for children.



Then, the unthinkable happened when during a planned renovation of the basement, including the kitchen and dining area, they learned that the flooring contained asbestos - sealed, but nevertheless, once discovered must be dealt with. Suddenly, the ambitious plans came to a stand-still; food can no longer be prepared or served in the basement out of concerns for health. The Community Meals are only serving food that can be prepared and served outdoors. What a blow - not to mention the anticipated expense! Truly, community support and prayers are needed now!

Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry

The Pantry isn't just about distributing food (900 children and 2,500 adults in 2024), it's about building hope, restoring dignity, and showing that no one has to struggle alone. CROP Walk funds purchase food for distribution on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.



"We witness stories of resilience and quiet strength as we serve grandparents raising grandchildren, working families, the unhoused, single parents, and elders living on fixed incomes. Many of the grandparents who come to us never imagined they'd be starting over, raising children again. With limited income and mounting responsibilities, they rely on the Pantry not just for food, but for the reassurance that they can continue to provide for the little ones.

We also serve working families who are holding multiple jobs and juggling responsibilities, but the bills stack up and food prices increase. The Pantry helps them fill the gap and offers a sense of relief and dignity during hard times. It means kids have lunches, parents have a little less stress, and the family can breathe easier, if only for a little while."