

Walk History



Since 1969, Project Bread's Walk for Hunger has provided critical resources for hungry children and families in Massachusetts. Today, The Walk for Hunger is the oldest continual pledge walk in the country and the largest annual one-day fundraiser to alleviate local hunger. On the first Sunday in May, caring people from every background come together to take part in this wonderful Massachusetts tradition to help feed hungry families in their community. Here's a look back at four decades of concerned citizens feeding people and nourishing hope

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| June 1969 | A group of activists from the Paulist Center, led by Patrick Hughes, establish The Walk for Hunger. Approximately 2,000 people set out on a 29.6-mile trek from Quincy on Sunday, June 8, 1969. Participants raise \$26,000 to fund two hunger projects. |
| May 1970 | The first Walk for Hunger in Boston. 2,000 concerned citizens participate in the shortened 25-mile route, raising \$50,000. |
| May 1974 | The Walk for Hunger route is reduced from 25 miles to nearly 20 miles. Approximately 1,000 people complete the route, which takes them from Government Center through the South End, South Boston, Beacon Hill, and Allston, and finishes at the Boston Common. |
| May 1979 | With nearly 10 percent of the state's citizens living below the poverty line, hunger persists in the Commonwealth. Nearly 3,000 people participate in the tenth anniversary of The Walk for Hunger and help raise funds for 34 emergency food programs. |
| May 1985 | The first million-dollar Walk for Hunger. With the current route mostly established, 11,000 Walkers raise more than \$1 million to help feed hungry families in Massachusetts. |
| May 1999 | Despite a strong economy, hunger continues to rise in Massachusetts. Concerned citizens in the Bay State participate and raise \$3 million to support more than 350 emergency food programs. |
| May 2008 | The 40th Walk for Hunger sets new records when an estimated 40,000 Walkers, 2,000 Volunteers, 50,000 donors, and more than 35 corporate sponsors raise over \$4 million to help feed hungry people in Massachusetts. Walk funding goes to over 400 emergency food programs across the state as well as other community programs that help prevent hunger. |
| May 2011 | The route of the Walk for Hunger changed, weaving its way through Watertown, with a new snack stop at picturesque Arsenal Park in Watertown at mile 11.5. Walk funding continues to support 443 emergency food programs as well as other community hunger prevention programs such as school food, summer food programs, health center SNAP outreach, and many more. |
| May 2013 | Food insecurity affects the lives of over 750,000 people in our state—the highest number recorded in Massachusetts. We know that hunger is a complex problem with multiple solutions that often work best in combination. That's why Project Bread supported more than 430 community food programs last year, ranging from community-based meal programs to early childhood and school nutrition initiatives, to improved access to local food resources. |

By both responding to hunger in an immediate way, as well as through sustainable solutions that can eradicate it, we assure you that your contributions will go further.

Join us and raise funds to support a network of local and sustainable solutions for hungry people. Walk with us and be part of a fresh approach to ending hunger. Pledge with us that the opposite of hungry isn't full, it's *healthy*. Join over 40,000 friends and neighbors for Project Bread's 45th Walk for Hunger on **Sunday, May 5!**

2013 Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 5, 2013