

WALK-A-THON 2021

Instructions for Our Last Major Fundraiser!

Sunday June 20th – 12pm to 2pm @ Westborough 10K route

What is it? Why do it?

Normally we would have done a Rock-A-Thon in February to raise money for the trip to Appalachia. Last year we raised over \$47,000 with the Rock-A-Thon. We were unable to hold that event this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We decided to have a Walk-A-Thon to get people together, but outdoors. This event gives you an opportunity to earn some volunteer hours and raise funds for the work projects we plan to do in July.

It only works if you do these things:

- 1) **Go out before the Walk-A-Thon and get sponsors.** Go and ask people – Family members as well as parishioners at both First UMC and St. Luke's will practically throw money at you. Ask your relatives. Ask your neighbors. Ask your friends, scout troop, glee club, anyone can be sponsors. Tell them what you're doing, why you're doing it, and ask them to pledge. Use the sample letter to send to folks near and far! See www.westboroughasp.org/Walk-A-Thon to download editable copies of the letter, printable pledge sheets and more information.
- 2) **Collect money.** It's a lot easier if you collect when people pledge and bring the \$\$ with you to the WAT. If your sponsors want you to participate first, then you'll have 1 week to collect the money after the WAT. Donors can send checks to you, to FUMC or donate online in your name.

It's simple, really! This is the easiest money you'll ever make, but you do have to go out and get it. Walkers should use this final fundraising event to reach their \$280 minimum. That amount only covers half our costs, so it would be great if you could exceed the minimum if possible. As a group we need to raise \$560 per youth to cover all costs.

WHAT? CAN'T GO TO THE WALK-A-THON?

If you can't walk at all, you can still use this as an opportunity to get sponsors – you just need to be clear with people what you are doing, so if you're not walking or if you are only walking part of the time, just tell people that. Ask them to support you and our fundraising anyway. Use letters, email, text messages or phone calls to explain your story and why this is important to you.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING??

- **A copy of your sponsor sheets and the money you have already collected,** even if you haven't collected all the \$\$ yet. We will take a phone picture or "scan" if you don't have access to a copier. Checks should be made out to FUMC. Write "*ASP-your name*" in the memo line of each check to make sure you get credit for it. **The money needs to be collected and turned in by June 27th.**
- Water bottle - Please bring a water bottle to stay hydrated while walking. We will have water halfway through the course and at the finish line.

Now get excited and get those pledges! See you there!

SAMPLE LETTER OR EMAIL

Dear Family and Friends,

I am excited to tell you that I have signed up to participate with the Westborough ASP group in the summer of 2021. Our mission teams will rebuild roofs, fix porches, replace windows and provide other work to make homes warmer, safer and drier for folks in need in Westborough and surrounding communities. But more than this, we will provide hope and assure the people we work for of God's love for them.

This will be my __ year participating, and my family has been involved for __ years. I will be volunteering in the Worcester county area this summer from July 11-16. Our group must raise approximately \$560 per youth. This covers costs for building materials and supplies to help local families in need.

Our last major fundraiser is a 10K Walk-A-Thon. I am writing to ask you to sponsor me. I will be walking a 10K route around Westborough, since we were unable to do our normal Rock-A-Thon event in February. I hope you can support my participation in both this service project and the fundraiser with a gift.

Here are some things your generosity would cover:

- \$ 500 buys lumber to build a handicap ramp
- \$ 200 buys a box of vinyl siding
- \$ 100 buys a replacement window
- \$ 25 buys a roll of insulation

Last year, I helped (*your family, what you did for them, why it was important*) _____. **OR**
This is my first year and I am excited to participate in the program because _____.

If you decide to give, you will be helping us in making these family's houses warmer, safer, and drier. You will also help me in my effort to make a difference in the world.

If you would like to make a pledge, please make your tax-deductible check payable to **First United Methodist Church** with "ASP - *my name*" in the memo for tax credit and send it to me in the return envelope enclosed. You can also learn more about ASP and/or make an online gift via our web site: www.westboroughasp.org (be sure to put my name in the "Specific youth to credit" field and "Walk-A-Thon" in the event field).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Your name