

Update: Hunger Hike Update

Distribution of Hunger Hike Proceeds

On September 16, 2012, over 900 participants helped raise \$83,232.10 to meet the needs of hungry families in the Lafayette-West Lafayette area and overseas. Hunger Hike supports the [Lafayette Urban Ministry's](#) food programs, [Food Finders Food Bank](#) and [St. Thomas Aquinas' Haiti Ministry](#).

This morning, LUM Executive Director, Joe Micon, and Board President, Deb Parent, distributed the checks to the



benefactors. On hand to accept for Food Finder Food Bank was Katie Bunder, Executive Director, and Cheryl Precious, Development Director. Also in attendance were Ron Smith, Hunger Hike director, and Eileen Weiss, LUM business manager. Hunger Hike 2012 had over 1000 organizations, businesses and individuals involved in fundraising and making donations; over 900 hikers, walkers, and runners; and over 200 volunteers engaged before, during and after the event.

Food Finders Food Bank, St. Thomas Aquinas' Haiti Ministry and the food programs at LUM each were presented with a check for \$26,095.72.

Joe Micon stated that LUM will use the money to support the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry which provides emergency food for over 2200 individuals each and every month; meals to feed the homeless in the LUM emergency shelter; and snacks for the students in the LUM After School Program, Achieve! Program and the 5th Quarter Summer Learning Program.



Katie Bunder stated that Food Finder Food Bank will use the money to fund the maintenance costs for storing and delivering food that are not currently covered by other organizations. It currently costs 25 cents per pound to store and distribute food; and other organizations only pay 19 cents. This money will cover the rest. Hunger Hike money also pays for the distribution for ripe produce which is distributed without collecting any maintenance fees. Produce supplies have increased by 400% which is positive but it costs more due to its short shelf-life. Bunder stated that "we (Food Finders) hope we can help all of greater Lafayette eat healthier because we have all of these dollars to spend on healthy, fresh food."

St. Thomas Aquinas will use the money to support their mission work in Haiti. Several times a year St. Thomas Aquinas offers opportunities for individuals including Purdue students to travel to Haiti and to provide needed work especially efforts to purify water for drinking. Joe Micon acknowledged and thanked St. Thomas Aquinas for their work in Haiti as well as their support of Hunger Hike. St. Thomas had the largest group of Hikers and raised the most from donations to Hikers this year.

Joe Micon gave special recognition to the Honorary Chair, Sharon Versyp, coach of the Purdue Women's Basketball and the team for their role in promoting the event and support the day of Hunger Hike. Micon also thanked David Kucik, coach of the Purdue Crew and the teams for their support and for leading Hunger Hike each year. Micon acknowledged the behind the scenes work of the LUM business manager, Eileen Weiss; & the LUM Hunger Hike Program Director, Ron Smith.

2012 Highlights:

Quick Facts:

- 1000 companies, individuals & organizations were involved in fundraising or donations
- 900+ Hikers, runners, walkers
- \$83,232.10 raised
- \$26,095.72 each, distributed to LUM food programs, Food Finders Food Bank & St. Thomas Aquinas' Haiti Ministry

Hunger Hike 5K Winners:

- Women's: 1st Melissa Guissner (21:51); 2nd Anna Busenburg (22:41); 3rd Katelyn Jackson (28:45)
- Men's: 1st Michael Kuhn (21:08); 2nd Davis Kuykendall (21:26); 3rd Kenny McCleary (21:55)

Top Hunger Hike Fundraisers:

- Top Individual: Rob Pahl (\$3480)
- Top Online: Patti O'Callaghan (\$3379)
- Top Team: St. Thomas Aquinas (\$11,033)

"Every Step Makes a Difference in the Fight Against Hunger"

Hunger Hike was a great success this year and will have a tremendous positive impact on our community and the world.

LUM announced that the tradition will continue in 2013 with the **next Hunger Hike on Sunday, September 15, 2013**. Mark your calendars!

Hunger Hike photos & video

- To view photos from **Hunger Hike 2012**, go to our online photo gallery by clicking [HERE](#).
- To view more photos from the **Hunger Hike Check Distribution Ceremony**, click [HERE](#).
- To view the Video of the **Hunger Hike Check Distribution Ceremony**, click [HERE](#).



Subscribe to LUM eNews by clicking [Subscribe](#) button. Please share this e-Newsletter with others as you deem appropriate. Questions or comments? E-mail us at enews@lafayetteurbanministry.org or call (765) 423-2691



Join LUM online –

