

# 2,500 expected at Saturday walk

By Ron Wylie

More than 2,500 people are expected to demonstrate their version of "sole power" Saturday during the Lincoln Walk for Development.

"If the weather holds up and all the people turn out, we can raise about \$25,000," estimated UNL student coordinator Mike Jank.

Those who do turn out will be faced with an 18-mile course which leads west from the UNL stadium, turns south to let marchers pass through Pioneers Park at lunchtime, and finally winds its way back to the university campus.

## Walk for poverty

The walk has been organized locally as a fund raising project to help overcome problems in domestic and international poverty, according to Al Norden, pastor at the Lutheran Student Center.

For the fifth year, under the slogan "Put a little heart in your sole," walkers are asked to find sponsors who will contribute a set amount of money per mile walked. Contributions are made to the American Freedom From Hunger Foundation.

Such contributions are tax deductible, Norden said, adding that the breakdown of funding distributions shows 42 per cent of the money received remains for community projects, another 42 per cent is used for overseas projects and the remaining 16 per cent is spent for educational programs by the national office of the foundation.

Norden said the Lincoln walk is being organized by the local chapter of the Community Hunger Appeal of Church World Service (CROP).

## Most students

Any interested person can participate, Norden said, adding that most walkers in past years have been students.

A campus organization, the Lincoln Walk for Development Committee, is also sponsoring the project and hopes to better the 1974 collection by more than \$10,000.

Committee members have been distributing 'walk cards' in the Nebraska Union, according to committee president Jank and enthusiasm has run high for the project.

"Many people who are interested are a little scared to ask someone to sponsor them," he said, adding that Lincoln's Sertoma Club has offered to sponsor any walker who cannot find a sponsor.

Sponsors may be friends, neighbors, businessmen or organizations. Each walker is expected to return to the sponsor in the week after the walk to collect the money the sponsor pledged.

## Not a race

Jank urged prospective walkers to remember that the event is not a race, but "a symbol of our commitment to join with the poor in understanding and eliminating hunger and poverty from our world."

"Walkers demonstrate their concern to fight hunger," he said, "but since each must have at least one sponsor, the walker is also raising money. All walkers must have a 'walk card' to participate."

Organizers said the walk will start at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the south end of the UNL stadium. The walk will be preceded by a brief ceremony after registration, they said.

Walkers are asked to bring sunglasses, suntan oil or anything else they might want for personal convenience. But walkers need not bring food or water for the 18-mile jaunt, according to organizers, because sandwiches and water will be provided.

## Weather doesn't matter

Organizers also advise prospective walkers to dress for comfort and safety. The walk will be held regardless of weather, they said.

'Walk cards' are still available in any UNL residence hall cafeteria or at the Walk for Development office in the Union, they said.

The project will use money collected from the walk to purchase a van, Jank explained, which will help low-income, handicapped and elderly people in Lancaster County with such things as grocery shopping, medical appointments and trips to government agencies.

Another portion of the money collected for local use will go to help support the People's City Mission, he said. The Mission's Family Shelter Program needs to hire someone to help needy families secure food, clothing, shelter and employment. Walk for Development funds will be used to find a qualified caseworker, Jank said.

The idea of walking to raise funds for hunger-relief projects gained recognition in the early 1960s, Jank said, at the suggestion of the late president John F. Kennedy.

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