

Walkers aim to help others

By Ron Wylie

Standing in the chilly dawn waiting for the start signal, UNL student Phil Bailey explained why he was participating in the Lincoln Walk for Development.

"I thought it would be a nice comment on mankind," he said, "to do our little bit to help other people."

Bailey was one of 1,100 walkers trying to earn money for domestic and international programs aimed at reducing hunger and poverty.

"A lot of college students just go their own way all the time," said Bailey, "and don't do that much for other people. Today, I'm here to show that some of us care."

Walkers raised money for hunger relief by signing up sponsors who pledged a certain amount per mile walked. Saturday's Walk for Development encompassed an 18-mile course, which began at UNL's Memorial stadium, led west on A St. turned south to Pioneer Park and returned to the stadium.

Running

One group of fraternity men was not only walking for the project, they were running.

Tau Kappa Epsilon pledges Bud Skinner and Joel Garret said their group planned to run the 18 miles as part of a public relations project, donating all the money to the American Freedom From Hunger Foundation.

They said TKE members had each pledged \$2 per mile for their effort.

Another UNL student, Dennis Hunt said he turned out for the walk because "local projects like this are a good part of living in a community. I like what this thing stands for."

Lincoln police motorcycle officers were on hand to lead the walkers down 9th Street and out of the business district.

During the first mile moving south, UNL coed Gayle Gothier told why she was walking.

"Basically, it is something fun that is also useful to help somebody."

Concern

Jerry Markin, education director at a local church and instructor of public health classes at UNL, added, "I'm out here this morning, because I have a real concern for seeing that some monies get to some people who need it."

Along the route officials periodically set up checkpoints and initialed walkers 'walk cards' as a means of validating the amount of miles covered.

Although the walkers were primarily students from local high schools, junior highs, and universities, a contingency of older walkers were easily discernible.

Grocery store employes Everett and Grace Gardiner said they came along because of their interest in their church's sponsorship of the fund-raising project.

During the first few miles, the mob of walkers stretched over a five block line. As the miles added up, the line became longer and thinner, and after seven miles, the walkers were strung out over a mile. They moved along in little knots, 50 to 100 yards separating the groups.

First aid

Police had first aid and communications units stationed along the route to help distressed walkers.

At the 12-mile point, the Pioneer Park picnic area, Lt. Randall Lyons, U.S. Army Reserve, was waiting with a setup that included latrines, first aid treatment for those with blisters or sprains, and transportation for those who could walk no further.

Project organizers were also on hand at the park with sandwiches for the walkers.

At the lunch-break, UNL anthropology major John Murphy said he was enjoying the hike more than he had expected.

'I'll do it again'

"I did this so I could raise money for food for folks who don't have any money," he said. "This is my first time doing this, but I think I'll do it again."

The final six-mile trek back to the stadium took its toll and greater numbers of dropouts were observed being trucked back to the starting point. But, most of those who started kept walking and limped back under their own power.

Walk organizers had expected more than 2,500 participants and forecast about \$25,000 in donations as a result. With the turnout of 1,100, they could not estimate the amount of money pledged.



Two of the Walk for Development walkers who were 'bound' to make it to the finish in Saturday's 18-mile hike.

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