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ROCK HILL, S.C. – Participants in this year’s Eastern York County CROP Walk on Oct. 23 may participate in possibly the largest line dancing gathering ever held in York County.

Registration for the CROP walk will begin at 2 p.m. on the Dinkins lawn at Winthrop University. Music will be provided by Saddle Creek, a new non-alcohol country music entertainment facility located on Cherry Road in Rock Hill.

At 2:45 p.m. participants will be shown how to do the Electric Slide line dance. Then, the participants will line up with the leaders from Saddle Creek, and in unison, will line dance the Electric Slide as a fun way to kick off the CROP walk. The York County CROP walk and Saddle Creek are hoping to have 1,000 people for the line dance and the CROP walk.

This 34th anniversary event in Rock Hill is South Carolina’s oldest CROP Walk to raise money to feed the hungry. York County’s CROP Walk has raised nearly $600,000 in its 34 years, with $150,000 remaining with local agencies.

"The York County Walk raises the eighth largest amount of any walk in the Southeast Region and ranks 71st out of 1,500 walks held all over the country this year in raising money for the hungry," said the Rev. Narcie Jeter, coordinator of the walk and leader of the Wesley Foundation. "As much as York County has been devastated by these hard economic times, people continuously dig deep into their pockets to give to their hungry neighbors and to the poor all over the world. We hope that though it may be more and more difficult to give that people will continue to give sacrificially both in monetary gifts and in cans for our local agencies."

The walk will start and end at Dinkins Hall on the Winthrop University campus. Organizers will go through Winthrop’s main gates, around Byrnes Auditorium, down Scholars Walk and then head to downtown Rock Hill. Once in the downtown, they will be able to visit St. John’s United Methodist Church where they may vote on their favorite Can Creation, which are art projects made of canned goods by area teen groups.

Another change is that three different types of groups could win $100 for raising the most money in the walk. The top Winthrop student group that raises the most money will get $100 to their organization, the top Greek organization will get $100 towards their philanthropy and the top youth group will get $100 to their youth missions.

Jeter said she is providing the bonus money from the Wesley Foundation as an incentive, so CROP Walk money will not be affected.
CROP Walk is the community hunger appeal of Church World Service. The organization represents 36 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches in the United States working with indigenous churches and organizations in more than 80 countries.

Admission to the walk is a canned food item, which will be divided among area food pantries.

For more information, contact the Wesley Foundation at 803/327-5640 or e-mail Jeter at winthropwesley@gmail.com.