

This year's Walkathon was a great success! 175 participants from churches all over New England walked to raise more than \$10,000 for the Calumet campership fund. This event will help send many more kids to Calumet who otherwise would not be able to afford it. God blessed us with a beautiful day. It was a wonderful event filled with family fun and excitement for everyone.

This year Tom Schauer's own personal dream came true when we had one hardy walker from Ascension Lutheran Church in South Burlington, VT and her 14-year-old son join us for the walk. That meant that every New England state was represented. A Walkathon first!

After participants walked the scenic five miles, they were treated to a great Calumet barbecue and T-shirts and prizes were awarded. Nancy Eldridge Hess, Executive Director of Calumet Lutheran Ministries, awarded medals to this year's top sponsors. There were two gold medals, five silver medals, and seven bronze medals awarded.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has graciously offered to supplement the funds raised, increasing the days total by several thousand dollars. In addition, donations are still arriving daily from supporters. Thank you to Messiah Lutheran Church in Lynnfield, MA for sponsoring the event and to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Gloucester, MA for hosting the event. A special thank you goes to all the volunteers who helped out the day of the walk who make this event a reality.

This year marked the last year the Schauer family would be organizing the event. A special thank you goes to Martin and Eunice Schauer for organizing the Walkathon and getting this event off the ground nine years ago. Calumet is thankful for their service and wishes to send them a great Boom Chicka Boom for all their love and faithful commitment to this event over the years. We know they will not be able to stay retired for long and hope to continue to see them at Walkathons long into the future.

We should also recognize Judy Armelin and St. Paul Church for taking on the responsibility for organizing next year's Walkathon at Good Harbor Beach in Gloucester, MA. The date for next year is April 18, 2009. Please join us for the tenth annual Walkathon.

Tom Schauer beat his old time with a new time of 43:28 running in this year's Walkathon. He wanted to acknowledge all the support and encouragement from his friends at all the different Calumet programs and retreats over the year. Thank you to all the walkers who came out and supported Calumet. It is events like this that make Calumet memories possible for future campers. Mark your calendars for next year's Walkathon and please join us in making Calumet possible for as many children as we can!