



GREATER RICHMOND INTERFAITH PROGRAM

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GREATER RICHMOND INTERFAITH PROGRAM HOSTS 30TH ANNUAL HARMONY WALK/5K RUN TO END HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

RICHMOND, CA: The Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)—a homeless service provider, serving West Contra Costa County—is excited to announce its 30th Annual Harmony Walk/5K Run to End Hunger and Homelessness presented by Chevron. The Harmony Walk is GRIP's signature annual fundraising event to benefit its primary purpose of housing and feeding the homeless and hungry citizens in its community.

The event will take place Saturday, October 29, 2016 at Richmond's Nicholl Park (Macdonald and 31st Street). The day's schedule begins with Registration & Check-in (9:00 a.m.); the Run starts at 10:30 a.m. and the Walk at 10:45 a.m. Prizes will go to the top male and female finishers for the 5K run in each of three age categories. [Registration](#) for individual walk and 5K run participants is \$30.00; youth (ages 7-17) walk and 5K run is \$25.00.

The day-long affair will end with the Harmony Walk Finish Line Festival, which will include activities and entertainment for all ages: community fair, exhibitions, music, food trucks, an elaborate kid's zone, pumpkin carving contest, trick or treats, Halloween costume parade and more.

GRIP Executive Director, Arthur J. Hatchett, looks back in awe at the event's remarkable growth during the 25 years he's participated in the Richmond GRIP Harmony Walk. "It once was a simple event involving about 100 people showing unity among the community's faith organization," he said. "It has matured to include more than 500 participants and a growing number of sponsors and supporters."

The 30th Annual Harmony Walk event director, Danielle Franklin, reminds the community, donors and participants of the event's purpose. "GRIP operates a Family Housing Shelter, which houses an average of 100 homeless families each year," she remarked. "The coalition also operates a soup kitchen that we refer to as the Souper Center. It serves an average of 130,000 meals annually to the community's homeless and hungry."

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"We hope Chevron's participation can be a catalyst for other local companies to sponsor and participate in this unifying effort to support our community members who are in need," said Andrea Bailey, community engagement manager for Chevron Richmond.

GRIP is grateful to its partners and supporters for their generous contributions to this important event, including presenting sponsor Chevron, along with Kaiser Permanente, Safeway Foundation, Home Depot Mechanics Bank, Clif Bar, Sims Metal and MA Hays, among others. "Unlike some other races," Franklin commented, "Our sponsors are not taking part for profit, but for the shared goal of enriching programs that benefit community members who are in need."

About Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)

The Greater Richmond Interfaith Program is an interfaith, multiracial collaboration founded in the late 1960s' that started providing services to the Greater Richmond community with the opening of our first food pantry in 1971. Many more organizations and initiatives followed, from farmer's markets to land trusts, rape crisis centers to economic development agencies, all with the common goal of helping those in need. Meanwhile, new congregations continued to join the coalition.

Today GRIP is a vibrant and robust community outreach, advocacy and homelessness prevention organization encompassing over 41 Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist member congregations and individuals. Together, the coalition works to address critical issues of human dignity and social justice that affect the poor, the homeless and the disenfranchised. gripcommunity.org

[2016 Harmony Walk artwork](#)

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