



Our mission: To embody mercy, justice, and love
as diverse faith partners in Washington County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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8th Annual HARC Hike *for Hunger & Hope* to Raise Funds for Community Programs

[Hagerstown, Md.] The Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) will hold its **8th Annual HARC Hike *for Hunger & Hope*** on **Saturday, June 6, 2020**. This event is a guided hike on the C&O Canal Towpath in Maryland and includes 4K, 10K and half-marathon options, as well as a longer Challenge Hike on May 16.

This is HARC's biggest fundraiser of the year. Last year's Hike raised \$16,000 and with 140 participants, attendance nearly doubled from the previous year. Proceeds from the 2020 HARC Hike will benefit HARC programs, including Micah's Backpack, childhood education and programs, a food resources collaboration, work to foster peace, and more.

While its ministry in the community is faith-based, HARC serves all people equally, regardless of beliefs. Impact of our work together includes:

- More than **1,000 children** are currently being served by 50 churches and organizations with weekend food through Micah's Backpack.
- Learning Parties offered, serving families with skills and materials to prepare their preschool-age children to enter school "ready to learn."
- Provide community education to **prevent and heal childhood trauma**, a root cause of many health and social problems in our society.

"Each year, HARC's Hike for Hunger & Hope brings in more participants, volunteers, and funds for our programs," according to Ed Poling, hike director. "Given the setting on the C&O Canal Towpath, and the cause, experienced and novice hikers alike always enjoy themselves."

Registration for the Hike is now open. For those interested in participating, visit www.harccoalition.org/hike or <https://www.runreg.com/Harc-hike>.

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