

'There is a hope for an end to hunger'

By Dianne Frances D. Powell / Tribune-Star | Posted: Sunday, November 2, 2014 10:51 pm

One group is seeking to end hunger abroad and close to home.

This summer, some community members joined together to form a local chapter of the nonprofit organization Bread for the World. According to the organization's website, "Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger" nationally and internationally.

Today, the Terre Haute Bread for the World chapter is set to welcome a man who has been a hunger activist for over 30 years.

David Miner, an advocate and leader of initiatives to end hunger, is the former National Board Chairman of Bread for the World and a frequent speaker on local and world hunger. Under his board leadership, the Washington, D.C.-based organization grew its membership to more than 100,000, according to a press release.

According to Bread for the World, 805 million people around the world suffer from hunger issues, with Asia having the highest number of hungry people.

Sub-Saharan Africa, however, has the highest percentage of hungry people: one in four. Every year, 2.6 million children die as a result of hunger-related causes.

The Indianapolis resident is scheduled to address members of the Terre Haute chapter at 6 p.m. today at United Campus Ministries, 321 N. Seventh St. in Terre Haute.

Miner earned an undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware and a Ph.D in analytical chemistry from Purdue University. After graduating, he joined Eli Lilly and Company where he worked on scientific assignments and in management positions. He retired in 2008 as a senior executive for Elanco, Lilly's animal health division.

Upon retirement, he devoted himself to the cause of hunger and has since led different organizations in working against hunger. For example, he serves as President of Indy Hunger Network, a collaboration of major food assistance providers in Indianapolis. For the last 30 years, he has supported Bread as an advocate, local organizer, national board member, financial supporter and consultant. He also leads the Bread efforts in Indiana.



Bread for the World:

Dorothy Drummond is a spokesperson for organization to eradicate hunger.

During his visit, Miner will discuss current hunger issues, including those currently before our nation's leaders, event organizers said. He will also discuss the efforts of Bread for the World and its impact so far in addressing food issues worldwide.

In a phone interview on Sunday, Miner said his main message is one of hope.

“That there is a hope for an end to hunger,” he said.

Over the decades, there have been “dramatic progress” around the world in addressing the problem of hunger, Miner said. Some researchers have claimed that “we could realistically end hunger by 2030 around the world,” he added.

But to do that, he said, “we need our government to play its part,” which is going to be the second part of his message to the Chapter members.

Miner expressed his excitement about the visit and meeting the members.

“I’m excited because this group is new,” he said. “There seems to be a lot of energy within the group. I’m excited to talk with them.”

The Terre Haute Bread chapter held its first meeting in August with 36 supporters, organizer Dorothy Drummond said during an interview on Sunday. The group has since decided to meet at 6 p.m. every first Monday of the month at UCM. Monday’s event is the group’s fourth meeting.

Drummond has been an active supporter of Bread for the World for 20 years and she joined with other local community members to form the group.

“Many people in Terre Haute are very concerned about the problem of hunger,” but she felt it was important to establish a local Bread chapter “because Bread for the World addresses hunger in a different way.”

One of the ways is advocacy.

Since most of the food aid actually comes from the government, Drummond said, Bread for the World works to “make sure our taxpayer money is used wisely to benefit those who are hungry.”

According to the nonprofit organization, “14.3 percent of U.S. households—a total of 49.1 million Americans, including 15.8 million children—struggle to put food on the table.”

At the event, the Terre Haute chapter members will be asked to write letters or send emails to their legislators to encourage them to support measures that address hunger issues, Drummond said.

Everyone is welcome, and students in particular may be interested in participating, she added.

Through education and advocacy work, the Terre Haute group seeks to address hunger issues locally and internationally.

“We can’t change the world, but we can make a little difference in that direction,” Drummond said.

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