

## Bread for the World hopes to add Terre Haute voices

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TERRE HAUTE — A faith-based effort to end hunger locally, in the U.S. and abroad could take root in Terre Haute soon.

Bread for the World operates as a collective voice of Christians urging legislators to address hunger issues.

The ecumenical organization includes 75,000 members. One of those members, retired Terre Haute educator Dorothy Drummond, hopes to create a local branch of Bread for the World.

An organizational meeting for anyone interested in a Terre Haute chapter is scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday in Central Presbyterian Church at 125 N. Seventh St.

Drummond has reached out to local churches and individuals in advance of the meeting, seeking support for the cause.

A total of 2,700 Bread for the World members live in Indiana, and 180 Hoosier churches serve as partners to the organization, said Jon Gromek, who represents Bread for the World's central district. Chapters already exist in 13 Indiana communities. Bread members donate time and effort to contact lawmakers in support of wise, efficient use of tax dollars in programs aimed at benefiting the hungry, he explained.

“Terre Haute would certainly be a great addition to a strong voice,” Gromek said Tuesday. Gromek will attend Monday's gathering.

A group of Catholics and Protestants formed Bread for the World in 1974. Each year since, the nonpartisan, nondenominational group has gathered an “Offering of Letters,” sent to members of Congress, calling on those lawmakers to reform U.S. food aid.

Drummond cited a Bread for the World statistic showing that private and faith-based efforts to feed the hungry fill 17 percent of the need in the U.S., with the rest coming from government.

“So it's important that we reach lawmakers, so they enact laws that really benefit the hungry,” Drummond said.

Both Drummond and Gromek emphasized that Bread for the World serves to complement the work done by local hunger relief groups. “We understand that the work our churches do and the work our charities do is so crucial,” Gromek said. “Bread for the World is there really as a complement to the amazing work by churches and other organizations.”