

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Join the walk for our children's futures**

Thousands of parents, students, educator and taxpayers are lining up to be part of the fourth *Walk on the Child's Side*, an 18-day, 250-mile march for school-finance reform.

The walk will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 7, at the school in Butternut and end with a rally at the state Capitol at noon on June 24. Walkers will follow a route through the central part of the state, along State Highway 13 to USH 51 into Madison.

It has been two years since the last *Walk on the Child's Side*. In that time, more and more children and communities have moved to the brink of educational and fiscal crises because of the state's finance system. Because of the deepening crisis, walk organizers expect more participants than in previous years.

"There appears to be a growing consensus that the system is broken," said Teri Hanson, a teacher in Phillips and a member of the walk's organizing group, Price County Citizens Who CARE. "Despite that consensus, the Legislature still doesn't seem to get it. We need to change the system and we need to change it now."

"We need people from all over Wisconsin to join the *Walk on the Child's Side* in order to send the message loud and clear: The future of too many communities and too many children are being squandered. Wisconsin intends to hold its elected officials responsible."

Co-sponsoring the walk with CARE is the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES). WAES is a statewide, broad-based, diverse coalition of school boards, parent groups, educators, students, faith-based organizations, and communities working to replace the present system with one that links resources to academic standards and the real needs of children.

More information is available at CARE's website at <http://www.nocaps.org> or the WAES website at <http://www.excellentschools.org>. Persons interested in being involved in the *Walk on the Child's Side*—as walkers (no distance is too short), at the rally in Madison, or by donating funding—can contact Teri Hanson at 715-474-2272 or [hansont@centurytel.net](mailto:hansont@centurytel.net) or Tom Beebe at 414-284-9094, 920-650-0525 (cell phone), or [tbeebe@wisconsinsfuture.org](mailto:tbeebe@wisconsinsfuture.org)