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1973 Walk for Mankind may benefit more groups

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Nonprofit groups such as service organizations and charities in Missoula and other Montana communities may receive greater financial support from the proceeds obtained during this spring's "Walk for Mankind," according to Keith A. Maristuen (pronounced Mar-iss-two-n), Malta, a University of Montana sophomore who is publicity chairman for Project Concern, the international sponsor of Walk for Mankind.

Maristuen, who also is UM president-elect of Circle K, a service organization sponsored by local Kiwanis Clubs, said efforts will be made to raise at least $20,000 in Missoula and $100,000 statewide during the 1973 Walk for Mankind on April 28.

Circle K, the coordinating organization for Walk for Mankind in Missoula, is being assisted in preparing for this year's walk by Missoula Kiwanis Clubs and by members of Spurs and Bear Paws, sophomore service honoraries for coeds and men, respectively, at the University.

Maristuen said 20 per cent of the total proceeds earned by walkers during the 1973 Walk for Mankind may go to local charities and other nonprofit service organizations selected by the walkers.

"Any organization that is rated as a tax-exempt group by the Internal Revenue Service or that can obtain tax-exempt status through the IRS before the walk on April 28 may receive a share of the Walk for Mankind proceeds," Maristuen said. "Each walker participating in the 1973 Walk for Mankind may designate on a pledge card the name of the nonprofit organization or organizations he wants to support with a portion of the walk funds he earns."
Each walker with a sponsor or several sponsors earns so much money for each mile he walks during the Walk for Mankind. This year, if a walker earns a total of $10 for participating in the walk, then he can designate that $2 be sent to the nonprofit group of his choice.

Maristuen said each walker is responsible for getting his own sponsor or sponsors and for designating on pledge cards the name or names of the charitable groups he wishes to support with 20 per cent of the funds he earns.

Previously, 20 per cent of the total amount of money earned in Missoula by a walker was returned from Project Concern to Circle K, which then distributed the funds to selected charitable groups.

Maristuen said the new proceed-sharing system is an effort to distribute walk proceeds more equitably among more nonprofit groups.

Last year Missoula walkers earned a total of $18,300 for Project Concern. A total of 80 per cent of the funds was used by Project Concern to support medical programs in such places as Appalachia, New Mexico, Texas and Hong Kong. The other 20 per cent (about $3,200) was distributed to groups in Missoula by Circle K.

Organizations in Missoula receiving funds last year from Circle K through the 1972 Walk for Mankind included Kiwanis Foundation, Community Hospital, Crisis Center, Opportunity Workshop, U of Coordinating Council for the Handicapped, Missoula Hospital Improvement Program, Heart Fund, Big Sisters, Big Brothers and the Youth Guidance Center.

Groups which wish to receive funds from the 1973 walk should contact Walk for Mankind sponsoring organizations in their respective communities.

In Missoula, representatives of groups wishing to receive proceeds from the 1973 walk should contact Maristuen, Room 119, Miller Hall, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59801. His phone number is 243-2465.

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