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Roger Darrigrand / The Star

Danny Garcia, center, leads the way down Marion Street for the Shelby leg of his Global Walk on Saturday. **Read more** in the story about how long the international hike will take him.

# A walk around the world

## THE STORY

### Danny Garcia begins global trek in Shelby

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SHELBY — Danny Garcia can't put the word Jesus on his T-shirt. There are parts of the world, he said, that wouldn't be open to him if he did that.

"But the word 'hallelujah' is allowed," said Carol Smith, director of customer service at Hallelujah Acres, Garcia's sponsors for his Global Walk.

Garcia walked back into

nant," Miss Causey laughed.

In reality, Miss Causey will be a link between the mission of the Global Walk and the children it hopes to serve.

Paul Malkmus, president of Hallelujah Acres, accompanied Garcia in his walk through Laurel. They were presented with a plaque from the Red Cross in appreciation for Shelby's help in the past year.

As walkers assembled yesterday at Central United

[www.walkwithdanny.org](http://www.walkwithdanny.org), will chronicle his travels and provide a way to donate to the cause.

"The funds can be used when Danny sees a need," said Malkmus. As Garcia travels the world, donations will be used for the specific needs of the people he meets.

Garcia said the toughest part of walking all over the world is always walking out of town.

"You form relationships and

Garcia walked back into Shelby yesterday as the Global Walk gets into full swing. Garcia is recently returned from New Orleans, La., and Laurel, Miss., — Shelby's adopted Katrina-ravaged city.

In the coming months, Garcia will travel to Washington, D.C., and then head to New York City. From there, his travels will take him all over the world until ending in China in 2008.

Shelby Mayor Ted Alexander said he was excited that the city is the kickoff for a walk like Garcia's.

"Danny will be taking Shelby everywhere he goes," Alexander said.

Alexander went on to announce a proclamation extending Garcia recognition for his efforts and honorary citizenship to the city.

"They asked me on the radio yesterday where (Danny) was from," Alexander said. "I had to say, I don't know, he just walked into town."

It may be hard to figure out where Garcia is from. He hasn't had an address since he started walking 10 years ago. It's also difficult to know exactly where Garcia is going.

Jackie Charsagua, who planned the route Garcia will take, said she knows plans will change along the journey.

"Whatever my plan is, it's nothing compared to God's plan," Ms. Charsagua said.

Jackie Causey, youth ambassador for the Global Walk, said it was difficult keeping her plans to walk with Garcia a secret until the right time.

The 14-year-old could only tell her friends she would be homeschooled in the coming school year.

"People thought I was preg-

As walkers assembled yesterday at Central United Methodist Church, the plaque was presented to the mayor.

The walk's Web site,

always walking out of town.

"You form relationships and the bonding is so quick," Garcia said. "The hardest thing is to say, I have to go now."