

H&M Workers at Six New York Stores Say Union Yes with UFCW

Two hundred forty New York City-area H&M workers at six stores have formed a new union at their workplace with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 888. The six newly unionized stores are located in Queens, Brooklyn, West Nyack, White Plains, Yonkers and Staten Island, New York. They join the union for retail workers, the UFCW, and workers at other major retailers across the country, including Macy's, Syms, RiteAid and more.

"I love my job and I've worked there a long time," said Natasha King, a four-year Sales Associate at the H&M in Staten Island, New York, "but there was room for change."

H&M recognized the workers' choice for a real voice on the job after an overwhelming majority of workers at the stores signed cards to show their desire for UFCW representation.

This shows, once again, that when the process is fair and free, retail workers want to and will choose to form a union. Together, retail workers across the country are making retail jobs into good, long-term retail careers in union stores like H&M.

"Retail workers, especially part-time workers like me, need a union for fair treatment, fair pay, affordable health care and equality in the workplace," said King. "We'll stand together and protect each other as a team, as a union."

The UFCW is working across America to build a movement of retail workers that raises standards and ensures that America's fastest-growing profession is also the source of millions of good jobs. **OP**

Locals 22, 271 Vote to Form a Stronger Local 293

Members of Locals 22 and 271, based in Fremont and Omaha, Nebraska, respectively, have voted overwhelmingly to merge and form a bigger, stronger local union, Local 293. President of Local 22 Dan Hoppes and President of Local 271 Brian Schwisow issued a joint statement speaking in favor of the merger, "By standing together in one local, UFCW 293, will strengthen the voice of UFCW members across our state. When we stand together in one union and speak with one

voice - we're stronger than ever." The merger was approved by the International Union and is effective August 1, 2011.

Dan Hoppes will be President of the new Local 293, with Mike Marty as Secretary-Treasurer and Brian Schwisow as Recorder. **OP**

Members of Local 1546 Ratify New Contract with Tyson

Members of Local 1546 have ratified a new five year contract with Tyson Foods. The contract covers about 2,300 members who work in the Tyson beef processing plant in Joslin, Ill.

"Our bargaining committee hung tough to deliver the best possible contract to our members during these challenging economic times," said Amy Hegg, who has worked for Tyson for nine years and was a member of the Local 1546 bargaining committee. "I would hate



Amy Hegg

to think of what our members would have been offered by Tyson if we didn't fight so hard for improved wages and benefits."

The contract includes \$1.50/hour in wage increases over the life of the contract, with \$.45/hour of that in the first year. It also includes a \$1/hour increase in the starting rate. It

preserves the members' affordable health insurance, retirement plans and hour guarantees. It also includes upgrades for nine positions and improved holiday and jury duty language.

"I am proud that we voted overwhelmingly in favor of the new contract," said Diokel Gning, an 11-year veteran of the Tyson plant and a member of the Local 1546 bargaining committee. "As Tyson workers, we won wage increases and extra benefits that could not have happened without all of us raising our collective voices." **OP**



Diokel Gning

UFCW Members, Family Win Union Plus Scholarships

One UFCW member and four family members of UFCW members are recipients of Union Plus Scholarships.

Vera Wolfenbarger of Stockton, Calif., who is a member of UFCW Local Golden State 8, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Vera is a single mother bringing up three boys. She is also a full-time student in college, pursuing a degree in speech and language pathology. "People often ask me how I manage it," Vera says, "and I tell them I am a union member...and have secure benefits for me and my children. I have a guarantee of weekly hours...If I did not have a union job, none of this would be possible." Her days (and nights) can get pretty busy, but Vera keeps her eyes on the prize. "I will be the first in my family to have a college education," she says.

Phuong Luu of Louisville, Ky., whose father, Thao Luu, is a member of UFCW Local 227, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship. "I've only been in America for five years and I've accomplished a lot," says Phuong. It's true, as Phuong is an active community volunteer and excellent student who has



Phuong Luu

won numerous awards for her science projects and other academic endeavors. She also has worked since she was 16 years old, during which she discovered a career path—the study of biology and a future as a pharmacist. Phuong thanks her parents and the UFCW for giving her such opportunities in America. "The labor union ensures my parents receive the benefits and fair treatment they deserve," she says.

Dylan Muschitiello of Levittown, N.Y., whose mother Renee Muschitiello is a member of UFCW Local 1500, has been awarded a \$750 scholarship. Dylan has worked in a nonunion job for more than a year, where he witnessed several employees being "fired on the spot." He compares that with the UFCW job his mother has held for the last five years. "Her union contract assures her representation," he says. Dylan is thankful for the secure employment that unions have provided for his parents, and is also thankful he won't be in that nonunion job for much



Dylan Muschitiello

longer. The first in his family to attend college, Dylan is looking forward to becoming an electrician.

Danielle Felde of Marengo, Ill., whose mother Christine Felde is a member of UFCW Local 1546 and whose father also is a union member, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. "In 2007, my life took a drastic roll downhill," Danielle says. During

gymnastics she suffered a serious spinal cord injury. While the experience was traumatic, it also helped Danielle come to fully appreciate the community of which she was a part, which included her parents' unions. In addition to benefiting directly from union health insurance, Danielle says, "People were always there for me when I needed them, and I want to return the favor in any way I am able to." While Danielle's physical recovery is continuing, her education is still rolling along, and she plans to become an orthodontist, "to bring a new smile to this world day by day."



Danielle Felde

Angelique Hrycko of Southampton, Pa., whose mother Linda Hrycko is a member of UFCW Local 1776, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Angelique is a graduate student studying epidemiology in pursuit of a master's degree in public health. She also works part time at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her career goal is to become a pediatric oncologist. Given her commitment to public health, it isn't surprising that Angelique greatly values the union health insurance that the UFCW fought for to benefit her mother and other union members and their families. Even during tough times, like when her father was unemployed, she says, "I was able to be under my mom's health insurance plan, and did not have to deal with being uninsured."

To learn more about Union Plus Scholarships and how to apply visit UnionPlus.org/Education. **OP**