



UFCW Local 1776 Members Ratify New Five-Year Contract At Cargill

UFCW Local 1776 members working at Cargill Meat Solutions have voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new five-year contract with the company. The contract includes wage increases and health care benefits for the more than 600 workers at the plant in Hazleton, Pa.



Members of the Local 1776 Cargill negotiating committee (standing, from left) Carlos Martinez, Kurt Brandt, John Werkheiser, Manuel Montas, Jorge Moncayo, Rafael Moreta and (sitting, from left) Linda Bello, Michele Kessler, Milagros Cordero, Lourdes Castellano and (not pictured) Walter Lausterer.

Lourdes Castellano of West Hazleton, Pa, a 1776 Shop Steward and Political Action Committee member, said the new contract is important to her coworkers "because in an economy that is still on its way to recovery, it provides for wage increases and quality health care benefits that are affordable for workers and our families." The agreement is the third contract between Local 1776 and Cargill since the company opened its plant in Hazleton in 2002. Members approved it by a 97 percent to three percent margin. **OP**

UFCW Supports Rebuilding Efforts for a School in Haiti

On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, the country of origin of many UFCW members. In total, the earthquake affected more than 3,500,000 people: killing 220,000, injuring 300,000 and destroying or badly damaging 293,383 houses. As a result of the earthquake, 1.5 million people became homeless almost overnight in Haiti. In the aftermath of the tragedy, UFCW made a commitment to help with Haiti's reconstruction efforts by collecting funds and

identifying worthy causes in need of help. In order to channel our resources more efficiently and identify maximum impact projects, the UFCW partnered with several local foundations working to provide earthquake relief.

One of these partners is Hope for Haiti, a foundation working to rebuild the St. Francois de Sales primary and secondary school in the Rivière Froide neighborhood of the Carrefour commune of Port au Prince. This school is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Haiti's capital and serves a student body of over 1,200.



The St. Francois de Sales school educates 1,200 students in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Port au Prince.

During the earthquake, eight of its 11 main buildings were destroyed, and 150 students lost their lives. UFCW members, through their contributions, are supporting Hope for Haiti's work in the reconstruction of the St. Francois de Sales school.

This project has faced some big challenges, but the staff at Hope for Haiti is working with architects and engineers in order to address them. One of these challenges comes from the location of a new site for the school--it is on a mountain--and a second challenge involves accessibility for the many children who suffered the loss of limbs during the earthquake.

While it had been practice to separate children with physical disabilities, the engineers are designing the school, the classrooms, bathrooms and grounds to accommodate children with physical disabilities in the new school. The new building will be a model school, built to international standards, equipped with clean filtered drinking water, and able to withstand earthquakes and hurricanes. Its construction should be completed in approximately 14 months. **OP**