

Warehouse Workers United Calls on Walmart and Suppliers to be Responsible Contractors

Workers all along Walmart's supply chain are standing up for their rights in the workplace, with support from faith leaders, students, union members, and other community supporters. Last week, warehouse workers based in Mira Loma, in California's Inland Empire, staged a lunchtime walk-out to deliver a petition asserting their fundamental rights.



Warehouse workers and UFCW members rally outside Schneider's logistics to protest working conditions and wage theft at this Walmart contractor.

The warehouse workers are working with Change to Win to gain a voice on the job. The workers are some of the most vulnerable members of Walmart's American supply chain, removed from Walmart's legal liability through the use of the subcontractor Schneider Logistics and temp agencies. They are considered temporary or day laborers, despite often working for years in the same warehouse, moving Walmart products. Workers often make less than minimum wage and work 15-16 hour days without adequate breaks as they fulfill daily quotas of moving 100,000 tons of merchandise.

Local 1428's president, Connie Leyva, rallied the crowd who came to cheer on the workers. Workers had already scored an important victory over Schneider Logistics when a court intervened the previous week to prevent the company from terminating workers in retaliation for a wage-theft lawsuit.

The action was intended to hold Walmart accountable for the actions of its subcontractors and the conditions of the warehouse workers they employ. With Leyva by their side and a crowd of supporters behind them, the workers delivered their petition to the warehouse boss at Schneider's calling on both the warehouse operator and Walmart to adopt a Responsible Contractor Policy. When management refused to even accept their petition, the workers vowed to come back.

This combination of subcontracting and worker exploitation is profitable both for Walmart and contractors like Schneider's, but highly destructive for workers. By paying low wages and evading labor laws, these warehouse subcontractors continue to exercise a downward pressure in salaries and benefits along the retail supply chain. Today, warehouse workers in Mira Loma see hope in uniting together with the support of UFCW members. **OP**

Macy's Members Thank Their Customers for Shopping Union



UFCW Local 21 members distribute flyers during the Valentine's Day action, the first in a long-term unity bargaining project designed to raise the bar on working standards for retail workers.

UFCW members from UFCW Locals 1-S*, 3*, 5, 21, 23, 101*, 367, 400, and 1445 engaged in a simultaneous handbill action at Macy's and Bloomingdale's stores around the country last week on Valentine's Day. Handing customers valentine-themed flyers, the members thanked their customers for shopping at a union retail store. The effort was the first action in a long-term unity bargaining project designed to raise the bar on working standards for retail workers.

“We know that in order to get Macy’s members the contracts they deserve, we need to coordinate our efforts,” said Tom Plumb, Director of UFCW Retail Stores Division. “Retail jobs are the backbone of our service economy; millions of Americans work these jobs. It’s critical that they be good, secure, full time jobs. That’s why our members will be taking these coordinated actions – to reach out to the public, thank their customers for shopping union, and let them know that the reason they get such great service at a place like Macy’s is because of their union contract.”

Macy’s workers make up 77% of the UFCW’s non-grocery retail membership. **OP**

Making Change at Walmart Agrees with Report: Walmart Can’t Fix Food System

Making Change at Walmart is applauding the release of *Why Walmart Can’t Fix the Food System*, a report, issued by Food & Water Watch, which analyzes the rift between the image Walmart markets and the company’s actual impact on the food system.

On Thursday, February 23, Walmart Free NYC (a local coalition that is aligned with Making Change at Walmart) and Food & Water Watch will hold a press conference on the steps of New York City Hall to address Walmart’s role as the largest food retailer in the United States and the company’s potential impact on NYC if it is allowed to open stores. Featured speakers will include Stuart Appelbaum, President of RWDSU.

The full text of *Why Walmart Can’t Fix the Food System* can be found at www.foodandwaterwatch.org. More information about Walmart Free NYC is available at <http://walmartfreenyc.org/> **OP**

UFCW Members in Ohio Organize to Stop Anti-Worker Legislation

Although voters in Ohio overwhelmingly repealed a law that would have stripped public sector workers of their right to bargain collectively, anti-worker activists are circulating petitions to put anti-worker legislation on the ballot in Ohio. In order to counter this initiative, UFCW Local 75 and partners from the Ohio Organizing Collaborative held a Valentine’s Day Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Columbus.



Along with members of faith based and neighborhood organizations, 71 members of UFCW Local 75 met with 26 Ohio legislators. They talked about the negative effects of anti-worker legislation in their communities and their presence was recognized on the floor of the Ohio Senate by Minority Leader Eric Kearney. All of the groups who participated in the lobby day talked about the need for good jobs and strengthening the middle class.

“We’re constantly reminded that politics matter. Who we elect affects us at the bargaining table and at the kitchen table,” said UFCW Local 75 President Lennie Wyatt. “It’s so important for our members to speak with their legislators and talk about issues that are important to them and their families.” **OP**

UFCW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A union is about more than a paycheck and benefits.

That’s why each year the UFCW awards several **SCHOLARSHIPS** of up to \$3,000 each to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents.

The application will be available online from January 16 - April 16, 2012.

www.ufcw.org/scholarship

