

300 Families, 60 Miles, 5 Days: Striking Shaw's Workers, Elected Officials, Faith Leaders, Community Allies March from Methuen to Boston for Justice at Shaw's



Marchers set out from Methuen on the first leg of their 60-mile, 5-day march for Justice at Shaw's.

As the strike at the Shaw's distribution center in Methuen, Massachusetts entered its twelfth week, Shaw's and its parent company, Supervalu, continued to refuse to bargain with workers in good faith, so the workers took their fight for good jobs and affordable health care on the road.

Marching more than 60 miles over five days, workers and their families were joined by community allies, faith leaders, and elected officials as they marched from Methuen to the Massachusetts Statehouse and to Shaw's flagship store at the Prudential Center in Boston. Nearly 100 people began the march on Sunday, May 23, stopping along the way in Lawrence, Andover, Reading, Stoneham, Medford, Somerville, and Cambridge.

The marchers set out to spread the word throughout Massachusetts and the northeast about the kind of business practices Shaw's is employing. "I think many customers will think twice about spending their money at Shaw's once they find out that the company wants to force us to accept an unfair deal by cutting health care for our families," said Jose Ortega, a 12-year veteran at the Methuen Distribution Center.

Throughout the march, the strikers enjoyed immense support from the surrounding communities. "I am overwhelmed by the support we are getting from the community," said Kenneth Campbell who has worked at the Methuen warehouse for the last 14 years. "We need to bring more attention to our struggle and bring Shaw's back to the bargaining table so we can work out a deal that is fair for all." Most of the community members who heard about the strike turned away and promised to shop elsewhere until Shaw's gives the Methuen workers a fair deal. Many also helped to spread the word by putting "Don't Shop Shaw's" signs in their yards.



Strikers, along with community, religious and political leaders, rally in front of the Massachusetts Statehouse on the last day of the march.

The march wasn't always easy, but workers and their allies were cheered on along the way by supportive communities and elected officials including Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray. In the end, the fight for a fair deal on the job kept everyone inspired to reach the finish line. "I've got a herniated disk, bad knees, tendonitis and a torn rotator cuff," said Henry Robin, 53, of Lawrence, who has worked at the distribution plant for 15 years. "But I'm having a grand time. I'll be hurting, but I'll make it." To see a video from the last day of the march, and to get the latest news on the strike, visit

www.justiceatshaws.org **OP**

Senator Gillibrand Stands with Mott's Workers, Urges Dr. Pepper Snapple Group to Bargain in Good Faith

After Mott's workers in Williamson, New York were forced out on strike last week, U.S. Senator Kristin E. Gillibrand sent a letter to Larry Young, CEO of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, the parent company of Mott's, urging him to bargain in good faith with Local 220* workers.

In her letter, Senator Gillibrand said, "I ask you and Dr. Pepper Snapple group to do whatever possible to protect good paying jobs and help support the local economy here in New York State." She also stressed the importance of bringing Dr. Pepper Snapple back to the bargaining table and negotiating a contract that protects workers' wages and benefits.

To read the full letter from Senator Gillibrand, visit <http://rwdsu.info/files/Gillibrand%20letter.pdf>.

The Mott's strike continues this week with no sign from the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group that the company, which brought in a record \$555 million in profits last year, intends to come back to the table and bargain in good faith. This financially secure company is shamelessly trying to destroy middle class jobs, and thinks it can force workers to lower their standards because of the recession. Dr. Pepper Snapple has brazenly admitted that it wants to cut Mott's workers pay and benefits because the employment market is weak right now, not because cuts are financially necessary. Meanwhile, Dr. Pepper Snapple Group CEO Larry Young made over \$6.5 million last year and has enjoyed a 113 percent salary increase over the last three years. His compensation doesn't seem to be at all affected by the recession. No, this is not about economics; this is corporate greed at its worst.

UFCW members across the country can expect to see more and more of these kinds of assaults on the middle class, and we must stand strong. We have to fight to protect family-sustaining jobs. Don't purchase Mott's or any Dr. Pepper Snapple product until this strike is resolved and Mott's workers get a fair deal.



Michelle Muoio
 Mott's Worker

Mott's worker Michelle Muoio and her coworkers speak out about their fight to provide for their families as Dr. Pepper Snapple tries to cut their wages and benefits.

To hear first hand from striking Mott's workers about their struggle, visit <http://bit.ly/bMo1bQ>. **OP**

UFCW Local 5, Community Win Victory Against Walmart in Milpitas



Local 5 members participate in the Milpitas City Council hearing on Walmart's proposed expansion.

This week, after months of hard work on the part of UFCW Local 5 and community partners, the Milpitas, Calif. City Council voted 4 to 1 against Walmart's move to expand an existing store to include full grocery sales. Local 5 members, including Art Belangue, Jerry Lee Ruggerio and Tina Mendoza, have been extremely active in the community fight against this expansion. Opposing expansion of existing Walmarts is an important part of fighting Walmart's expansion into urban markets. **OP**

