



Making Change at Walmart: Our Communities. Our Future.

Over the years, the UFCW has been a consistent and powerful voice in support of Walmart associates and in the effort to make Walmart a more responsible corporation. Walmart has largely responded to our efforts by spending billions of dollars on their public relations efforts, but the company has also been forced to take incremental steps in the right direction.



The time is right to launch a new phase of our Walmart work. “*Making Change at Walmart: Our Communities. Our Future.*” is the new campaign representing the many ways in which the UFCW will engage Walmart associates and the company. Through *Making Change at Walmart*, UFCW members are standing with Walmart Associates in their quest for respect from their employer and supporting the standards UFCW members expect from retail and grocery careers.

The website for this effort can be found at www.ufcw.org/makingchange along with a toolkit for UFCW local unions.

We have also relaunched “Walmart Watch,” www.walmart-watch.org, as a UFCW brand and have taken down the Wake Up Walmart site. Walmart Watch will continue to hold Walmart accountable in a public way. **OP**

Making Change at Walmart Responds to Walmart’s Healthy Food Initiative

In response to Walmart’s announcement that they will begin offering more healthy foods and lower the costs of their fruits and vegetables over the next five years, *Making Change at Walmart* responded by asking, “has it occurred to Walmart that, if it treated and paid its workers better and provided quality health insurance, hundreds of thousands of families would

be lifted from poverty and the malnutrition it causes?”

Walmart’s announcement on a healthy-food initiative with First Lady Michelle Obama does not make amends for the company’s well-documented mistreatment of working families. Nor does it justify irresponsible employment practices. The UFCW called on the Obama administration to challenge Walmart and other corporations to be more responsible employers. For the full UFCW response, see our blog: www.ufcwblog.com.

Global Labor Coalition Challenges Walmart’s Bid to Acquire South African Retailer Massmart

The UFCW, together with the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (SACCAWU), and the Geneva-based UNI Global Union attended Massmart’s shareholders meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa earlier this week. Walmart has made a bid to acquire the South African retailer.

The union leaders spoke at the shareholders’ meeting in order to tell the story of the devastating effect that Walmart’s business model has on communities, small businesses, and companies in the supply chain in communities and countries around the world. After the meeting, there was a worker demonstration outside where speakers encouraged the people of South Africa to demand strong standards that protect workers, local suppliers and community interests now, while the company is making its initial bid. **OP**



A Year After Earthquake, UFCW Generosity is Rebuilding Schools and Lives in Haiti

Just over a year has passed since the January 12, 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti and since UFCW committed to helping with reconstruction at the January, 2010 winter board meeting.

Since then, the UFCW has been working with Hope for Haiti and the Mortel Family Foundation to rebuild the computer resource center and library for the St. Francois de Sales primary and secondary school in Riviere Froide and the computer center and library at the James Stine College in Saint Marc.



Sister Giselle who is responsible for the St. Francois de Sales school with students



Workers build the 3rd story of the James Stine College with a concrete assembly line.

In Riviere Froide, the St. Francois de Sales school is located on a mountainside which makes the plans and construction challenging. Hope for Haiti is working with a Chilean architect and Haitian engineers who have reached a final draft and construction will begin soon. Once constructed, the computer resource center and library will be located on the first level of the building. The two rooms will cover 1,000 square feet, have 26 computer stations, a reading area, and adequate space for book storage.

Construction on the James Stine College in St. Marc is well underway. By November, 2010 work had begun on the third story of the building. Doors and other finishes were being hung on completed floors of the building. They are planning to welcome their first students in September 2011, offering quality secondary education to youth from the area that would have otherwise had to travel to Port-au-Prince to complete high school. **OP**

2011 Union Plus Scholarship Deadline This Month - Let Your Members Know!

The 2011 Union Plus Scholarship deadline is fast approaching! Union members and their children may apply for the scholarship. The deadline is January 31, 2011. For information, visit <http://www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship>. Last year, 121 union members and union family members were awarded \$150,000 in scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$4,000.

