

U.S. and Canadian Workers Confront Target over Corporate Responsibility at Annual Meeting



Over one hundred local union and community members turned out for a rally in support of fair treatment for Target workers.

Shareholders attending Target Corporation's annual meeting last week were greeted by a crowd chanting, "Shame on Target!" Over one hundred local union and community members turned out for a rally in support of fair treatment for Target workers. UFCW Local 7 members from the Denver area rallied to show solidarity for a UFCW Canada member, Angela Rankin. Rankin traveled all the way from Toronto, Canada, to confront Target's executives over unfair treatment.

When Target Corporation signed a deal in 2011 with the Hudson Bay Company to buy 189 Zellers stores across Canada, over 25,000 Zellers retail workers lost their jobs. Rankin, a UFCW steward and 13-year veteran of the company, was one of the workers who lost her job.

"Everybody knows about Walmart's poor track record of disregarding their workers' rights. But when it comes to Target's record on workers' rights in Canada, the company fares way worse than Walmart and that's a pretty scary situation," said Rankin.

Other workers who spoke at the shareholders' meeting included striking janitors from the Twin Cities, who walked off the job after the subcontractors who employ them refused to respect their right to organize without fear of retaliation. The janitors alleged that the contract companies have repeatedly engaged in wage theft, depriving them of millions of dollars in over-time pay.

Minnesota State Representative Raymond Dehn (DFL), who represents the district where Target's headquarters is located, stood

in solidarity with the workers and spoke about the company's refusal to adopt fair hiring practices recommended by the EEOC with shareholders inside the meeting.

Other organizations who came out to support the workers included Jobs With Justice, MoveOn, TakeAction Minnesota, ISIAAH, Northwest Community Collaborative, Minnesotans for a Fair Economy and Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha. **OP**

UFCW Local 400 Members Participate in SNAP Challenge with Members of Congress



UFCW Local 400 members assist 26 members of Congress in the SNAP challenge.

Last week, 26 members of Congress committed to living off of a food stamp budget for a week in order to bring awareness to the House Republican cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The challenge participants stopped at a Washington D.C. Safeway, where UFCW Local 400 members work, to buy a week's worth of groceries for about \$30. In order to keep to the strict budget of the food stamp program, staples like milk and butter were out of the question.

Already, the SNAP program denies eligibility to 50 million "food insecure households." But now, proposed changes to the Farm Bill would strip access to the program from an additional 2 million families.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and the other congress members participating in the SNAP challenge are addressing this alarming issue by attempting to live off of less than \$4.50 a day.



The proposed changes to the Farm bill will send many single parents who are in this position, into a state of utter uncertainty about how to provide food for their families. A large portion of those affected by the cuts will be under the age of 18.

Additional photos of UFCW Local 400 workers and Congressional members participating in the SNAP challenge can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/11vxogE>. **OP**

OUR Walmart Summer for Respect 2013 Program



The OUR Walmart Summer for Respect 2013 program will run throughout the summer leading up to Labor Day.

This summer, a group of labor, student, and community supporters will spend the summer building local OUR Walmart and Making Change at Walmart (MCAW) support teams and calling on Walmart to change. The Summer for Respect program will run from June 15th to Labor Day on September 2nd.

The goals of the program include reaching thousands of Walmart workers and adding activists to the MCAW network. Other goals include mobilizing activists to take part in Labor Day actions in stores nationwide.

Program participants will coach and support the thousands of volunteers who want to support MCAW as the campaign develops. Teams will support existing members of OUR Walmart and connect Walmart employees with others who are supporting OUR Walmart. The teams will also take action against proposed local Walmart growth and organize customer engagement at stores.

For more information or to register for the program, please visit <http://bit.ly/changewmtsummer>. **OP**

UFCW “Union Pride” Facebook Photo Contest



Members can upload their UFCW “union pride” photos at www.ufcwmade.com to enter the Facebook photo contest.

The UFCW International is still collecting photos of members at work and with UFCW-made products for the Seventh Regular UFCW Convention in August. Many have already submitted their photos to the Facebook contest at www.ufcwmade.com.

Spread the word by repeatedly sharing the www.ufcwmade.com link on your local union’s Facebook page and posting the attached break room flyers with contest information.

How to participate:

- 1) Members can go to our Facebook application at www.ufcwmade.com to upload a picture of themselves or their UFCW-member co-workers at work, and/or with a UFCW-made product.
- 2) Members (and staff) can look at the pictures, and vote on the best photos.
- 3) The votes will be tallied on August 16th, and the person whose photo wins the most votes wins a \$500 gift card to a UFCW-represented grocery store. The two runners up get a \$250 gift card to a UFCW grocery store, and the next three finalists get great UFCW gear. **OP**