

UFCW Local 222 Tyson Beef Plant Workers Ratify a New Contract

More than 3,500 UFCW Local 222 workers at the Tyson Fresh Meats beef plant in Dakota City, Nebraska have ratified a new contract.

The five year contract takes effect immediately and includes pay increases of \$1.60 per hour for production workers over the term of the agreement. The increases will eventually move the plant's top production pay to \$18.15 per hour in processing and \$16.60 per hour in slaughter. The contract also includes increases for some maintenance positions, moving top maintenance pay by the end of the contract to \$19.95 per hour.

The contract also includes a new program that allows new workers to start at a higher rate of pay as long as they work scheduled hours and comply with work safety requirements. This means that new beef processing workers can start at \$13.93 per hour, while new beef slaughter workers can start at \$14.10. New maintenance workers can quickly progress to a \$17.55 an hour rate if they meet the same requirements. An enhanced maintenance training program is also being implemented at the plant as part of the agreement. **OP**



UFCW Local 222 Tyson Fresh Meats beef plant workers recently ratified a new five year agreement.

UFCW Donations Help Rebuilding Projects Progress in Haiti



UFCW IVP Al Vincent (l) and UFCW Local 888 President Mark Bruny (r) attend the dedication ceremony for the new library and computer lab at the St. Francois de Sales School in Haiti.

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti, causing catastrophic damage in and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Since that time, UFCW local unions from around the country have remained committed to helping the people of Haiti rebuild their communities.

The UFCW collected and distributed more than \$450,000 to bring food, water and technology to Haitian children and their families by partnering with several local foundations to provide earthquake relief.

Generous donations from UFCW local unions to Hope for Haiti helped rebuild the computer lab and library at the St. Francois de Sales School. Donations helped purchase 34 computers outfitted with Microsoft Office software, along with tables, chairs, book shelves, and lockers for the library and computer lab. The school will provide education to more than 1,320 students in the kindergarten, primary, and secondary levels.

UFCW International Vice President Al Vincent and UFCW Local 888 President Max Bruny represented the UFCW International and local unions when they led a delegation to Haiti for the dedication ceremony of the computer lab and library at the St. Francois de Sales School that UFCW donations funded.

“The children were so excited to have the new library and computer lab,” Bruny said. “Many children in Haiti aren’t able to attend school because of poverty and lack of access so these kids feel so proud and blessed. The generosity from the UFCW locals definitely improved the lives of these children and their community.”



UFCW Local 888 president Max Bruny and students celebrate the completion of the new computer lab and library at St. Francois de Sales School.

Donations from UFCW unions have also gone to other foundations including Reviving Haiti, which funds clean water access to Haitian families, High Hopes for Haiti, which supports a project to build computer labs and a library at John Stine College in St. Marc, and God to Haiti, which provides hot meals for children and families.

A great deal of work remains to be done in Haiti—a country of origin for many UFCW members—and the UFCW remains committed to helping our Haitian brothers and sisters recover from this tragedy.

More information and updates on Hope for Haiti and the St. Francois de Sales School can be found at www.hopeforhaiti.com. **OP**

UFCW 7th Regular Convention Panoramic Photo Available



Local unions may order the UFCW Convention panoramic photo online by visiting www.ufcwphoto.com. Alternately, a high resolution .jpg of the photo is available for download on the Local Union SharePoint site at <https://locals.ufcw.org>. **OP**

Walmart Lobbied to Avoid Increased Safety in Bangladesh



Walmart hired lobbyists who were able to help the company avoid being held accountable for increased safety in the Bangladeshi factories producing goods for the company.

Between December 2012 and May 2013, nearly 1,200 Bangladeshi garment workers were killed in preventable factory fires and building collapses while producing goods mostly for U.S. and European markets. Walmart has responded to the tragedies by refusing to sign the broadly supported Bangladesh Safety Accord and instead proposed its own alternative. In contrast with the accord, Walmart's plan is a voluntary arrangement without any meaningful enforcement mechanisms, which has developed without consultation with workers.

Politico broke the news earlier this week that Walmart hired lobbyists to fight a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would have cost the company business. Walmart has refused to sign the binding Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety, in favor of a voluntary alliance it formed with Gap and other retailers.

According to *Politico*, "Retailers like Walmart and Gap have declined to sign on, and Walmart unveiled its own nonbinding safety plan in May of last year for workers at its Bangladeshi factories."

In the case of the NDAA, Walmart's lobbyists were able to help the company avoid being held accountable for increased safety in the Bangladeshi factories producing goods for the company.

The original article can be found at the "Walmart 1 Percent" site at <http://bit.ly/1a45vpI>. **OP**