Game Changer: The 99 Percent Raise their Voices and Capture the Nation’s Imagination

The now familiar cry, “We are the 99 percent!” first filled Wall Street in the fall of this year but quickly filled public squares in cities across the country. Early in the occupy movement Interfaith Worker Justice recognized the legitimate anger and frustration expressed by the occupiers and affirmed their call for a just economy, a call found in teachings across faith traditions.

IWJ developed congregational study guides and an interfaith prayer service to help congregations talk about and reflect on the issues being raised by the occupy movement. Members of IWJ’s national staff – along with many other religious, labor and community leaders – shared witness on the ground in Chicago, D.C., New York City and 1000 other cities; one of IWJ’s Chicago-based organizers joined those who took arrest for nonviolent civil disobedience as a part of the occupy movement.

In mid-October Kim Bobo, IWJ’s Executive Director, told the National Catholic Register that Occupy Wall Street provides a “teaching moment” to congregations on the issues of social justice and workers’ rights. “The core issues here are the growing inequality in the nation, the lack of responsiveness to that and the job crisis,” Bobo said.

After New York City officials evicted protestors from Zuccotti Park in a violent raid, a national day of action for the 99 percent was called for Nov. 17. IWJ called people of faith to take action in solidarity with the 99 percent.

Previously planned activities for Wage Theft National Days of Action, scheduled for Nov. 17-20, were altered to include occupy actions. IWJ also supported that week’s We Are One bridge actions, Sojourner’s Circle of Protection and the National Council of Churches Prayer Vigil for a Faithful Budget.

The occupy movement is regrouping in this new, post-identitarian reality. But the occupiers are raising issues of economic and social justice that are central to every faith tradition. IWJ is thankful for the way they have helped change the conversation in this country. In the New Year, IWJ and its partners will continue to work for and with the 99 percent, especially those who are most vulnerable, whose voices have too rarely been heard.

“Banks got bailed out! We got sold out! Who’s streets?! Our streets! We Are The 99 Percent!”

Visit www.iwj.org for Occupy resources
Interfaith Worker Justice is a national network that calls upon religious values to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for workers by educating and organizing present and future religious leaders, interfaith coalitions and workers centers.

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**New, Expanded Book on Wage Theft**

An interfaith movement is winning victories and making allies in the effort to end wage theft. Kim Bobo talks about these victories in the second version of Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Americans are Not Getting Paid and What We Can Do About It.

New chapters tell of state and local laws won by coalitions of interfaith religious leaders, worker advocates and worker centers.

Another new chapter tells of ethical business leaders like Stan Marek who operate in an industry notorious for wage theft, and their work supporting workers.

Get your copy at iwj.org.

**Southwest Airlines Sponsors IWJ**

IWJ is proud to announce that Southwest Airlines is our first corporate sponsor.

The airline donated 25 round-trip tickets in support of IWJ’s Summer Internship program.

Because of the airline’s reputation as an ethical employer, Boston College’s Center for Corporate Citizenship named it a “Leader in Corporate Social Responsibility” in 2009.
America’s workers need just jobs—jobs where workers are paid fairly and treated with dignity. Thank-you for partnering in this work, but the challenges we face today are bigger than ever. That’s why, in 2012, we’ll focus on two areas where real change is possible.

First, we will work to change the conversation about jobs. We started Faith Advocates for Jobs as a congregational network to build jobs clubs, recruit and equip faith messengers on jobs and advocate for public investment in creating jobs. This work is hard, because the nation is such a mess. We have to work together to make the jobs deficit—which is the real deficit problem—our nation’s top priority.

Second, we will work with our Workers’ Center Network and Labor-Religion Affiliates to support, nurture and organize groups to fight wage theft. We’ve won huge legislative wage theft victories across the country this year; we’ll see more big wins next year. We’ll also be working to raise core standards. Paid Sick Days legislation has been passed in Seattle and Connecticut, and we came close in Philadelphia and Denver. The opposition is fierce; the Denver Restaurant Association spent $100,000 to defeat our bill (oh really, is it better to have those restaurant workers go to work sick!?). Most core standards, like child labor standards or minimum wage, began as state or local standards, and we need to build momentum at the local level that will create national change.

And we will continue to stand with our courageous union partners when they stand up against attacks on public sector workers and organize new workers—at Wal-Mart, Vanderbilt, First Student (and other bus companies) and elsewhere.

You and your congregation are invited to join with us in the campaign to win just jobs for America’s working families in 2012. Visit iwj.org to find out how.

On the National Stage:

Kim Bobo Testifies Before Congress

On Nov. 3, IWJ’s Executive Director Kim Bobo testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, charged with “Examining Regulatory and Enforcement Actions Under the Fair Labor Standards Act.”

Bobo told the committee of New York State fair workers with cooking burns, bed bug and flea bites, who were malnourished, because their employer wasn’t giving them enough money for food. The IWJ affiliated workers center in Syracuse, NY worked with community leaders to recover $115,000 in back wages.

“This summer, the DOL and community and religious leaders collaborated to make sure that similar abuses didn’t occur at the state fair by reaching out ahead of time to the fair leadership and regularly reaching out to workers about their rights during the season,” she said.

Bobo recommended five things the Education and Workforce Committee, the Department of Labor and its Wage and Hour division should do to strengthen the fight against wage theft:

1) Hold hearings about how wage theft undercuts ethical employers
2) Increase the penalties for violating the law.
3) Put more people on the job, working to recover unpaid wages.
4) Get proposed regulations out the door, such as proposed regulation around transparency and paystubs—helping workers know exactly what they are paid for and discouraging employers from cheating them.
5) Expand partnerships with workers centers, congregations and ethical business groups to broaden the reach and effectiveness of the Wage and Hour Division.
Dismantling Modern Day Slavery

DAMAYAN Migrant Workers Association kicked off a campaign to stop labor trafficking Filipino workers in New York City this fall.

Worker-members in the campaign called “Baklas!” (meaning “dismantle” in the Filipino language Tagalog) are working to dismantle the system of trafficking in the Philippines and the U.S.

Migrant workers are squeezed into modern slavery situations from two sides—the labor export-dependent economy of the Philippines and the under-regulated domestic worker industry in the U.S.

The workers’ center has helped trafficked workers—including some enslaved in the households of Filipino diplomats, including the former ambassador to the United Nations. The workers’ center helped 14 workers escape from the exploitation and abuse.

The campaign is headed right to the steps of the Filipino consulate in New York City, demanding the suspension of diplomatic immunity for the worst perpetrators of trafficked labor, increased protection of immigrant women and the enforcement of current U.S. labor law in the homes of diplomatic and corporate employers.

Join DAMAYAN’s effort to “dismantle” human trafficking. Visit damayanmigrants.org to learn more.

Are you in network yet?

The Faith Advocates for Jobs (FAJ) network is growing and aims to change the conversation in this country making just jobs our first priority.

More than 100 participants called into FAJ’s first national conference call as a representative from the U.S. Department of Labor, a member of St. James Parish in Stratford, Conn., and the founder of the Community Job Club in Stow, Ohio spoke about how the religious community can support jobs efforts.

On this month’s webinar/call Rev. James Forbes and Rev. Abhi Janamanchi speak about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr’s commitment to economic justice and what his support for working people means for us today. FAJ is planning a national celebration of Dr. King’s birthday in D.C. on Jan. 16.

A representative of the National Employment Law Project also speaks about what’s at stake for millions of unemployed Americans if Congress fails to extend Federal unemployment benefits.

To register for the next call/webinar contact Paul Sherry, Coordinator Faith Advocates for Jobs at psherry@iwj.org or 202.525.3055.

Act for Healthy Families

 Millions of American workers in the private sector – including 3 out of 4 low-wage workers–cannot take a sick day without losing a day’s pay, or even possibly their job. Nearly 100 million hard-working Americans cannot take time off to care for a sick child or elderly parent.

Interfaith Worker Justice has posted a collection of religious resources and commentary about paid sick days.

Get involved. You can join local efforts for low-income workers at the municipal or state level or join in the national effort to pass the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1876, S. 984). Contact Thom Shellabarger at tshellabarger@iwj.org for more information.
Meet Rev. Troy Jackson: IWJ Board Member

The Rev. Troy Jackson of Cincinnati, Ohio, a senior pastor at University Christian Church, came on board with IWJ just in time for 2011’s Labor in the Pulpit weekend.

There were about 125-150 congregations (in Ohio) that participated in some way in labor in the pulpit, Jackson said.

The Rev. Jackson had been coordinating faith outreach for We are Ohio, the organization that worked to repeal Ohio’s so-called “right-to-work” law that had effectively crushed the right of public sector workers to bargain collectively. Ohioans voted to repeal the law, in support of workers rights, in Nov. 2011.

Jackson was instrumental in helping Ohio congregations facilitate discussions about this issue for labor in the pulpit. He also led a discussion in his own congregation.

“In the more evangelical setting, you’re asking what Scripture has to say about an issue,” he said. “What does (faith) say about labor and work? We’re viewing unions, labor and workers though a biblical lens.”

A Faith Advocate for Jobs:
St. James, Stratford

St. James Catholic Church in Stratford, Conn. formed Faith for the Future, a gathering that offers emotional and spiritual support to the unemployed, under-employed, and those struggling in this economy. The gatherings draw as many as 30 people together. People share stories, learn about job-search techniques and find comfort through prayer; because St James runs its own food pantry, those in need can also leave the meeting with food to feed their families.

Patrick Carolan, a parishioner at St. James, is also the executive director of the Franciscan Action Network and a member of the national Faith Advocates for Jobs steering committee. Carolan said, “We all must challenge ourselves to do as St. Francis did 800 years ago; feed the hungry, catch those in danger of falling through the cracks of a society that looks down on them and care for those who cannot escape the poverty that traps them in lives of constant hardship.”

St. James is a member of Faith Advocates for Jobs, a campaign initiated by Interfaith Worker Justice. Visit faithadvocatesforjobs.wordpress.com to start or deepen your congregation’s ministry with the unemployed.

Focus on Florida
A Tireless Campaign for Just Jobs

In only one year, the Miami-Dade County’s Wage Theft Program has recovered more than $350,000 in unpaid wages, through conciliation with another $415,000 awarded to workers through administrative hearings. Claims have ranged from $60 to several thousand, according to Jeanette Smith, executive director of the South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice.

In February 2010, elected officials in Miami-Dade County unanimously passed an anti-wage theft ordinance. SFIWJ was part of a Florida Wage Theft Task Force helping to pass the ordinance— a first in the entire state.

But the Florida Retail Federation is working to prohibit municipalities from cracking down on wage theft. Just days before the anniversary of the ordinance, State Sen. David Simmons and State Rep. Tom Goodson filed bills prohibiting municipalities from adopting ordinances that address this egregious practice.

This isn’t the first time this has happened. For that reason, on Nov. 3, Miami-Dade County commissioners unanimously passed resolutions urging the Legislature to oppose any preemption attempts and urging the passage of a statewide wage-theft law.

A tireless force for just jobs, SFIWJ is currently, working on a workplace safety project and continuing to defend local wage theft ordinances from statewide interference.

To get involved in Florida campaigns contact JeanetteSmith@sfiwj.org.
Occupy Everything

Across the country people of faith are responding in solidarity with the 99 percent. Here are a few of their stories:

Protest Chaplains

At Occupy sites in New York City, Boston, the Bay Area and Minnesota, chaplains and seminary students are listening, praying and being present to occupiers.

John Allen is a seminary student at Union Seminary. He is one of more than 60 chaplains in NYC who regularly spend time with the occupiers.

“We’re calling the church to be deeply present in people’s movements for justice,” Allen said. “Do we sit in our half empty sanctuary and hope people come, or do we go out and be a part of the physical expression of what we were taught?”

Allen qualified the chaplains as emotional and spiritual first responders. They offer a sacred space to listen and reflect with occupiers, and provide resources for their spiritual health.

“Our presence also helps to deescalate violence as peaceful clergy in the midst of the movements. We, as religious people, are part of this movement,” Allen said.

Arise Chicago

Arise Chicago accompanied two workers who picketed outside the Little Village Car Wash that stole wages from workers.

Before the action, Arise Chicago attempted to contact the owner of the car wash via phone, fax and mail. The owner even refused to accept a letter sent through certified mail.

“There’s an abusive nature of the car wash industry in Chicago,” Organizer Micah Uetricht said. “But this car wash is one of the most egregious violators of wage and hour laws.”

More than 50 community supporters joined workers from the car wash as they demanded their wages.

“It was an amazing turn out of people from all kinds of organizations, but the owner won’t even have a conversation with us about getting these workers the money they owe. We are going to have to be returning with new creative tactics to initiate the conversation,” he said.

Arise Chicago and IWJ national staff also joined more than 2000 people in a Stand Up! Chicago action on Nov. 17 to demand a fair economy for the 99 percent.

Uetricht, Arise Chicago’s Executive Director the Rev. C.J. Hawking and organizer Jamie Hayes have all taken arrests for a just economy in Chicago.
The Northwest Arkansas Workers’ Justice Center hosted a Wage Theft Forum and an Informational Picket at the Odom Law Firm in Fayetteville, Ark. Nov. 17 as part of IWJ’s National Days of Action.

State Representative Greg Leding, sponsor of the state’s anti-wage theft bill, moderated the forum. Speakers included an ethical restaurant employer, workers who have been victims of wage theft, and the Rev. James Huffman of Christ’s Church in Fayetteville, Ark.

Victoria Gonzalez, a Wage and Hour investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor also spoke at the forum.

Following the forum, a direct action event was held at a local unethical restaurant to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars owed in back wages.

Fayetteville Mayor Lionel issued a proclamation against wage theft and established a wage theft unit for the police department in September 2010.

Fernando Garcia, an organizer at the worker center, said the group will work to make sure businesses found guilty of stealing wages have their operating licenses revoked.

### A Texas-Sized Day of Action

Interfaith Worker Justice affiliated workers’ centers in Houston and Austin held actions on Nov. 17 as part of the Build A Better Texas coalition testing the new statewide wage theft law.

The Workers Defense Project in Austin held a press conference launching anew campaign against Wage Theft. A local state representative, county attorney, city police and workers all spoke.

“We heard testimony of the different workers who had experienced the ugly practice of wage theft with different outcomes,” said Sergio Aguillon-Matafrom the Workers Defense Project.

The Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center drove a “justice bus” filled with workers and allies to five different businesses that withheld wages from workers, and visited a local police station to file claims of wage theft.

“The legal system and agencies that are charged with protecting workers are failing,” said HIWJC’s director Laura Boston. Boston called on the state to enforce the new law.

Allied groups in San Juan and El Paso, Texas also held press conferences.

Community members join Wilfredo Aparicio (center-left) outside HIWJC before boarding the Justice Bus. Aparicio lead supporters to Bi-Tech Landscaping who owed workers more than $1,500.

### Boston & Beyond

When the Occupy movement came to Boston, local interfaith leaders quickly joined the voices crying for a just economy.

At Occupy Boston, Massachusetts Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice is serving as a liaison for faith groups, encouraging clergy, laity, and congregations to engage the issues and questions being raised by this movement.

MICWJ is also working along with faith, community and labor allies to stop Wal-Mart opening in the Boston area without a Community Benefits Agreement, a contract maximizing the positive impact of a development on local residents and economies.

MICWJ stands with Verizon workers during their effort to win a fair contract, and is working to pass legislation in Mass. extending Paid Sick Time for state workers.
A Day in the Life of IWJ

You know those days where you go nonstop and you feel, at the end of it, like you did something that really matters.

The Rev. Paul Sherry, director of IWJ’s D.C. Policy Office and coordinator of the Faith Advocates for Jobs campaign, had a day like that this fall.

Sherry began at a prayer vigil in D.C. with supporters and ten other religious leaders arrested for praying in the Capitol Rotunda during the debt-ceiling crisis this past summer.

At the same time, supporters all over the country joined in an online prayer vigil for the #interfaith11. The U.S. attorney dismissed the charges and ordered them to stay out of the Rotunda for six months.

Done.

Then Sherry headed back up to Capitol Hill (not the Rotunda) to join the rally supporting the American Jobs Act. He spoke at the rally and was interviewed by Think Progress, the Washington Times and ABC News.

The Twittersphere was hopping with what Paul and other faith leaders, unemployed workers, and worker advocates had to say about the need for jobs in this country.

Paul, a movement veteran and a powerhouse, makes his younger colleagues tired just thinking about it. But, to him, it was just another day in the life of a worker advocate.

Grand Rapids Goes to the Movies

Michigan Organizing Project of Grand Rapids, Mich. released a documentary about wage theft this fall. MOP is asking supporters to sign a petition after viewing the movie. They have no plans to release the film online, but a trailer can be seen on Youtube. The group is hosting community forums to gather support for an ordinance based on the Miami-Dade model. They have also held meetings with city commissioners.

Join the movement to help stop wage theft and campaign for just jobs.

Campus Corner

Students are learning outside a classroom, and aren’t waiting until graduation to make a difference.

In Rhode Island, Providence College students active in the Providence College Labor Alliance are working with janitorial staff to improve work conditions and stop wage theft. At Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, students have helped win a contract giving cafeteria workers a living wage with health benefits. Georgetown University, in part because of worker and student actions, announced in September a policy for living wage pay for their workers and allowed workers the right to organize.

Georgetown’s Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working is partnering with IWJ aiming to start the conversation with Catholic colleges and universities about becoming just employers.

Expect to see students across the country working to keep colleges and universities accountable as just employers.

To join this movement contact IWJ organizer Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow schoi-morrow@iwj.org
The Real Titans in Tennessee

School custodians in Knox County, Tenn. won their campaign preventing the school board from outsourcing their jobs, with the support from their community, and from Interfaith Worker Justice and Jobs with Justice of East Tenn.

This fall the county school board voted 5-4 to reject the proposal which would have put 350 custodians out of work.

The Rev. Jim Sessions said, “Interfaith Worker Justice of East Tennessee joined with Jobs with Justice to defend public employees from current attacks by politicians and their corporate sponsors.”

Local religious leaders wrote letters, testified and helped with informational pickets for several weeks. More than 40 pastors signed a joint letter calling for the school board to vote down the proposal.

“I believe it is wrong to seek to balance the school budget on the backs of those who are least paid and most vulnerable,” said Senior Pastor of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. John Gill, told the Knox County school board. “I believe it is my responsibility, as a Christian, to advocate for those who are most vulnerable in our society.”

Tip In Cash
A Simple Way To Protect Workers This Holiday Season

IWJ launched a new Facebook page during the holiday season spreading the word about Wage Theft in the restaurant industry.

The page offers a chance for restaurant patrons to share how creative they can be tipping in cash – sharing photos or comments about ways to tip in cash and bring the issue to the attention of wait staff.

Some restaurant workers don’t always get their tips. In her newly expanded book Wage Theft in America, IWJ’s Executive Director Kim Bobo recommends against tipping on a credit card. Tips put on a credit card sometimes are not accurately given to wait staff, Bobo says. This is one way unethical employers steal wages from their workers.

Workers’ Centers in the IWJ network report that nearly 60 percent of wage theft complaints come from restaurant workers. You can help prevent this kind of wage theft by tipping in cash and giving your tip directly to your server.

Visit facebook.com/tipincash to join in on the fun and help stop wage theft at restaurants.

All You That Labor

Review by Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow

In her new book, All You That Labor: Religion and Ethics in the Living Wage Movement, Dr. Melissa Snarr, Dean of Faculty and Professor of Ethics at Vanderbilt Divinity School, gives concrete examples of religious communities working together with the labor movement.

It’s a breath of fresh air for folks in the labor community who may not see the value of religious communities and visa versa.

Snarr’s extensive first-hand research combines interviews and statistics. Her narrative highlights the religious community’s involvement in the economic justice arena. She writes about real campaigns and provides the reader with concrete and tangible ways religion and labor can work together for a more just economy.

This book is a must read for religious leaders who want to get involved in workers’ rights, and for labor organizers and union organizers. It provides perspective on the values that the religious community brings to the labor movement.
Get a Gift for Someone Special... Like You!

Always wanted an IWJ poster? Always thought you’d look good in an IWJ t-shirt? Now’s your chance.

IWJ is hosting an online end-of-the-year sale of all merchandise and resources to spread the worker justice cheer this holiday season. IWJ posters, t-shirts, totes, pins, water bottles and books are all for sale. IWJ’s Executive Director Kim Bobo’s newly revised book, Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid – And What We Can Do About It, is also for sale.

Whether for you, a friend or loved one, get your IWJ merchandise today. Visit www.iwj.org to place your order.

Visit IWJ’s End of the Year Sale!

Save the Date!

Celebrating
Martin Luther King, Jr.: Champion of Worker Justice

A national interfaith service honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on Monday, Jan 16, at 3:00 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church in D.C. The Rev. James A. Forbes, senior minister emeritus of the Riverside Church in New York City will deliver the sermon. For more information visit www.iwj.org.

Yes, I want to support the work of Interfaith Worker Justice!

I would like to make a monthly pledge of:

☐ $5  ☐ $10  ☐ $15  ☐ $25  ☐ other______________

Please contact me to arrange for automatic deductions.

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ $35  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ other____________

If this is a tribute gift, please include:
Name of person being honored or memorialized:
____________________________________________________

Name and address of person to be notified:
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

☐ Please mail me materials on how to include IWJ in my will.

____________________________________________________

Name (please print) ______________________________________

Congregation/Organization ________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City _____________________________________________________

State/Zip _________________________________________________

Day Phone _______________________________________________

Fax ______________________________________________________

E-mail ___________________________________________________

Denominational/FaithBodyAffiliation _________________________

_______________________________________________________

Make an End-of-Year Gift to IWJ!
Honor a Donor

Workers’ compensation attorney, Steve Birnbaum, has spent most of his personal and professional life fighting for the rights of working families. In 1969, Steve took a break from college to become an Americorps/VISTA volunteer in one of Georgia’s poorest communities -- a watershed moment that shaped his lifelong commitment to social justice. After his VISTA program, Steve spent many years working for and organizing food coops in the East Coast before moving to the Bay Area to attend the New College of California School of Law. The earlier part of his law career was spent as a legal aid attorney representing seniors in social disability cases. “I didn’t go to law school to make money but to obtain tools to continue my social activism,” says Steve. In 1982, he started his own practice, focusing on workers’ compensation cases. Steve is one of the founding members of the Workers Injury & Advocacy Group (WILG), a nonprofit organization that assists attorneys and organizations in advocating the rights of injured workers. It was through Steve’s work with WILG that he first heard of Interfaith Worker Justice. For more than six years now, Steve has been one of IWJ’s Faithful Givers, making monthly contributions that help sustain IWJ’s work for the long run. This year, Steve made the commitment to donate both his time and money to help further IWJ’s mission by joining the organization’s board of directors.

What worker issues concern you the most?

As a representative of injured workers, I’m most concerned about how the rights and benefits of injured workers have been drastically attacked over the last 20 years. The workers’ compensation laws in a number of states are just abysmal, and some have done away with workcomp laws altogether. Workers and their families are hurting. I am grateful that WILG and organizations like IWJ are there to help fend off attacks against injured workers and make sure laws are in place to protect the rights of all workers.

What inspired you to give to Interfaith Worker Justice and invest at the level you have?

Success inspires me. I see IWJ as a successful organization and so I invest in it. IWJ’s mission and programs have proven to be some of the most effective ways of helping our nation’s workers. I see IWJ as having a great future. I also really like how the organization taps into the basic teachings of different faith traditions: helping the poor, helpless and the injured.

How does giving to IWJ enrich your life?

I know that by supporting IWJ, I’m doing the right thing. I believe we all have a responsibility to make this world a better place. Charity is not the only solution. We need to help others help themselves and support groups and individuals who are in the trenches of the social justice movement.

What would you like other individuals to know about IWJ?

Success for organizations like IWJ is demonstrated by growth, by the number of people impacted by its work and the issues it manages to address. If you look at what IWJ has done over the last decade or so, you’ll see that it has had a major impact on the lives of our country’s low-wage workers. The issue of wage theft is now recognized as a fundamental issue that needs to be dealt with. It is a winning issue. I think people who are thinking of giving to organizations should consider giving to IWJ if they want their support to go towards something that’s effective and successful.

If you would like to join Steve in supporting IWJ’s work for the long haul, contact Cathy Junia at cjunia@iwj.org or 773-728-8400 x. 42. You can also turn in the form below with your first gift to: Interfaith Worker Justice, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60660. Your monthly gift will help provide IWJ a base of financial support that allows the organization to help workers and promote a faithful vision where all workers lead dignified lives.

“Command those who are rich to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age.”

Timothy 6:18,19
Network of Local Interfaith Groups Concerned with Labor Issues

ARIZONA Arizona Interfaith Alliance for Worker Justice, Phoenix; (602) 254-5452; Cristina Sanidad

ARKANSAS Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Little Rock; (501) 888-3270; Melba Collins

CALIFORNIA CLUE – California, Oakland; (831) 239-1254; Rev. Carol Been

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Los Angeles; (213) 481-3740 x101; Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Contra Costa Faith Works!, Martinez; (510) 232-2983; Maria Alejandra

East Bay Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Oakland; (510) 893-7106 x134; Kristi Laughlin

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice in San Diego, San Diego; (619) 584-5744 x22; Rabbi Laurie Coskey

Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice, San Jose; (408) 289-7872; Rev. Rebecca Kuiken

Sonoma Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Santa Rosa; (707) 935-1642

COLORADO IWJ-Colorado/FRES 2021-22 for Good Jobs and Strong Communities, Denver; (303) 477-5111 x36; Dan Daniel

CONNECTICUT Connecticut Center for a New Economy, Hartford; (860) 524-9341; Renae Reese


FLORIDA Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida, Immokalee; (239) 986-0688; Brigitte Gynther

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice, Miami; (305) 598-1404; Rosalynn Gresham

GEORGIA Georgia Poultry Justice Alliance, Atlanta; (770) 313-5811; Rosalyn Gresham

ILLINOIS Arise Chicago (formerly Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues), Chicago; (773) 769-6000; Rev. C.J. Hawking

DuPage Interfaith Worker Justice, Naperville; (630) 236-8633; Tom Dardaro

INDIANA Central Indiana – St. Joseph Project, South Bend; (574) 229-6536; Jim McConnell

Community Faith, and Labor Coalition, Indianapolis; (317) 509-7453; Nancy Holle

Northwest Indiana – Calumet Project, Hammond; (219) 645-5008; Bessie Dent

LOUISIANA New Orleans Interfaith Worker Justice Center, New Orleans; (504) 913-5672; Rev. Jim VanderWeele

MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Boston; (617) 840-5660; Daryl Bridges

MICHIGAN Interfaith Worker Justice – Metro Detroit, Oak Park; (313) 961-0800; Saundra Williams

MINNESOTA Workers Interfaith Network, Minneapolis; (612) 332-2055; Veronica Mendez

NEBRASKA Interfaith Worker Justice of Nebraska, Omaha; (687) 836-3870; Rev. Fredrick J. McCollough

NEW YORK Labor Religion Coalition of the Capital District, Albany; (518) 482-5595; Marjorie A. DeVoe

New York City – Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition, New York; (212) 406-2156 x4637; Rabbi Michael Feinberg; labrelig@aol.com

New York State – Labor-Religion Coalition, Latham; (518) 213-6000 x6294; Brian O’Shaughnessy

Central New York Labor-Religion Coalition, East Syracuse; (315) 431-4040 x40; Tim Fay or Sue Baxter

NORTH CAROLINA Beloved Community Center, Greensboro; (336) 230-0091; Rev. Nelson Johnson

OHIO Cincinnati Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice, Cincinnati; (513) 621-4336; Sister Monica McGloin

Greater Columbus Jobs with Justice, Columbus; (614) 282-4901; Deb Steele

Toledo Area Jobs with Justice, Toledo; (419) 475-8380; Karen Krause

OKLAHOMA Central Oklahoma Community Forum, Oklahoma City; (405) 634-4030; Tim Connor

Eastern Oklahoma Labor Religion Council, Tulsa; (918) 832-8128; John Gaines

OREGON Springfield Solidarity Network;JWU; Eugene; (541) 736-9041; Bayla Ostrach

Portland JWU – Religious Outreach Committee, Portland; (503) 236-5843; Margaret Butler

PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia Area Jobs with Justice, Philadelphia; (215) 489-3500; Gwen Snyder

Labor-Religion Coalition of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh; (412) 361-4793; Fr. Jack O’Malley

TENNESSEE Interfaith Worker Justice of East Tennessee, Knoxville; (865) 573-0655; Rev. Jim Sessions

Workers Interfaith Network, Memphis; (901) 332-3570; Rev. Rebekah Gienapp

Middle Tennessee Jobs with Justice, Nashville; (615) 545-5056; Garrett Stark

WISCONSIN Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin, Madison; (608) 255-0376; Rabbi Renée Bauer

STUDENT AND FACULTY GROUPS*

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice, Joseph Fahey, (914) 948-2993, Joseph.Fahey@manhattan.edu

San Francisco Bay Area Seminarians for Worker Justice, Brian Ballantine, swj@workingeastbay.org, (773) 706-5000

Southern California Young Leaders Project, Bridie Roberts, (515) 229-7149, bridieroberts@yahoo.com

Boston Seminarians for Worker Justice, Daryl Bridges, (617) 840-5860, info@massinterfaith.org

WORKER CENTERS* Arizona Interfaith Alliance for Worker Justice, Phoenix, AZ; (602) 254-5452; Cristina Sanidad

Northwest Arkansas Interfaith Workers’ Justice Center, Springdale, AR; (479) 750-8015; Fernando Garcia

Pilipino Workers Center, Los Angeles, CA; (213) 250-4353; Lolit Liedo

Young Workers United, San Francisco, CA; (415) 621-4155; Tiffany Crain

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice, Miami, FL; (305) 598-1404; Jeanette Smith

Northeast Georgia and Rural Worker Center for Economic Justice, Athens, GA; (706) 549-1142; Ray McNair

Arise Chicago Worker Center, Chicago, IL; (773) 789-6800; Adam Kader

St. Joseph Valley Project – Workers’ Rights Center, South Bend, IN; (574) 287-3834; Gregor Kosoh

Food AND Medicine/Worker Center of Eastern Maine, Brewer, ME; (207) 989-5880; Martin Chartrand

Southern Maine Workers’ Center, Portland, ME; (207) 347-1878; Alison Mann

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, (617) 825-7233 x18; Isabel López

Washkatchewa Workers’ Center, Ann Arbor, MI; (734) 474-7107; Marisa Hutschenreuter

Michigan Organizing Project (MOP) Community Workers Center, Kalamazoo, MI; (269) 344-2423; Adrian Vazquez

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha, Minneapolis, MN; (612) 332-0663; Veronica Mendez

New Labor, New Brunswick, NJ; (732) 246-2900; Marién Casillas Pabellón

Tomkins County Workers Center, Ithaca, NY; (607) 269-0409; Pete Meyers

DAMAYAN Migrant Workers Association, New York, NY; (212) 564-6057; Linda Oalican

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York, New York, NY; (212) 343-1771 x19; Jeff Mansfield

Workers’ Center of Central New York, Syracuse, NY; (315) 218-5708; Rebecca Fuentes

Western NC Workers’ Center, Marion, NC; (828) 432-5080; Francisco Risso

Cincinnati Interfaith Worker’s Center, Cincinnati, OH; (513) 621-5991; Don Sherman

Memphis Workers’ Center, Memphis, TN; (901) 332-3570; Alfredo Peña

Workers Defense Project/Proyecto Defensa Laboral, Austin, TX; (512) 391-2305; Emily Tinn

Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center, Houston, TX; (713) 862-8222; Laura Boston

Madison Workers’ Rights Center, Madison, WI; (608) 255-0376; Patrick Hickey

Voces de la Frontera Workers’ Center, Milwaukee, WI; (414) 643-1620; Jeanne Geraci

* Alphabetized by state