A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN

As we start the new year with a new campaign director, Randy Parraz, we wanted to give you an update on the Making Change at Walmart (MCAW) campaign. Expect these updates to come once every quarter moving forward. You’ll read about our latest victories and actions, and also see what we’re planning for the future.

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RECENT VICTORIES

In January, after a two-year legal battle, a National Labor Relations Board judge ruled that Walmart unlawfully retaliated against workers who participated in strikes. The ruling, which MCAW applauded as a “huge victory for workers” and a “message to Walmart that its workers cannot be silenced,” states that 16 workers must be offered reinstatement and back pay. READ MORE HERE.

Walmart announced that starting February 20, its minimum wage for workers will be raised to $10/hour. MCAW has long called for better wages for Walmart workers. While we celebrate this news, we will continue to put pressure on Walmart to not cut employee hours and benefits to offset this cost. READ MORE HERE.

MCAW has also been helping Walmart workers around the country understand and exercise their rights. Here are a few recent examples:

- **Erica Jones, TX:** (pictured above left) MCAW team assisted with Erica’s departmental transfer after management repeatedly denied her request.
- **Charlette Alston, DC:** (pictured above center) MCAW team empowered her to request her personnel file and helped get Charlette’s job back after wrongful termination.
- **Harold Dungo, CA:** (pictured above right) MCAW team assisted Harold in calling home office and getting his job back after he was terminated without cause.
WALMART’S BAD START TO 2016

MCAW may have had a great start to 2016, but Walmart has not. The retailer announced in January that it would close 269 stores globally, including 154 in the United States. Some stores had two weeks’ notice, while others only had a few days. This news resulted in countless negative stories about the devastating impact Walmart’s decision had on small, rural towns throughout the country. In a PBS segment, a resident and small business owner from Winnsboro, South Carolina, reacted to the local Walmart Supercenter closing, saying “You feel like they used a town, when they came in and used you up to what they could get out of you, then just pulled out and left.” WATCH THE SEGMENT HERE.

In other news, Walmart’s most recent quarterly earnings report showed that profit fell about 8% last quarter, which included the holiday season. It also lowered its sales forecast for this year, citing store closures and a strong dollar. The news resulted in Walmart’s stock dropping 3%, and in analysts like Brian Yarbrough saying, “It’s the same old story. They continue to struggle to drive traffic and sales.” READ MORE HERE.

Capping off a bad start to the year, a jury awarded more than $31 million in damages to a former Walmart employee who said she faced gender bias and unlawful retaliation. Maureen McPadden worked as a pharmacist at Walmart for 13 years and claimed she was fired after reporting “potentially unsafe practices and privacy violations.” McPadden was fired after losing her pharmacy key, even though a male pharmacist who lost his key was merely disciplined. READ MORE HERE.

MCAW ON THE AIRWAVES

As many of you know, over the past year MCAW has started running powerful ads hitting Walmart on everything from mistreating their workers to not paying their taxes.

Click on the links below to view our newest ads:

July 4th ad: https://youtu.be/OFV24g0b0Ec
Labor Day ad: https://youtu.be/9JER_Qz81Dc
“Are You With Us” ad: https://youtu.be/KhGEXnOWlIsA
“Give Back Friday” ad: https://youtu.be/p3azclertmE
MCAW PARTNERS WITH LOCALS FOR HOLIDAY ACTIONS

This year, rather than focus on one day of actions on Black Friday, the campaign decided to team up with UFCW Locals for five weeks of actions around the holiday season. We kicked things off with our Give Back Friday week, when UFCW Locals across the country hosted food drives and other events with the goal of feeding 100,000 Walmart workers and families. Check out these pictures from Give Back Friday:

Following that, we launched a nationwide “Are You With Us?” tour that asked people to stand with Walmart workers in their fight for a better life. The tour included rallies and events in over 200 cities, including Boston, Oakland, Louisville, Chicago, Albany, and Washington, D.C. UFCW Locals were crucial in getting people to turn out for these actions and making sure they ran smoothly. The “Are You With Us?” tour, which also included a corresponding ad campaign, garnered national and local media coverage. Here are some pictures from those events:
MCAW MOVING FORWARD

While we’ve had a lot of victories and a busy couple of months, there is still much work left to be done.

Our staff in the field still regularly reports that workers are dealing with discrimination, cut hours, understaffing, and unsafe working conditions.

We are excited to tackle these problems in the coming months and look forward to having you at our side.

Thank you for everything you do for the campaign and for Walmart workers.

MCAW CONTACTS

Get in touch with us any time with questions, concerns, tips or ideas! We’d love to hear from you.

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