

## Recent Victories:

\*\*\*Two workers were rehired at the Rumpke Recycling Plant after being wrongfully terminated. Rumpke fired these long-term employees for eating on the line. When a CIWC-affiliated lawyer sent a letter to Rumpke demanding they right their wrongs so no other action would need to be taken, the workers were promptly rehired.

\*\*\*An employee of the customer service division of a Telecom company received \$1,100 of earned wages that the company had not paid him. The CIWC, once aware of this instance of wage theft, contacted the employer, and within a couple

days the company paid the worker the withheld money.

\*\*\*A cashier at Chipotle was given her job back after being accused of stealing money out of the cash register and suspended. CIWC talked to the management, who backed down when CIWC requested to see the surveillance video from the store. The Chipotle management then said they reviewed the video and she had not taken the money.

\*\*\*Four painters were not paid for the last month of work they did on an apartment complex in West Chester. After 10 months of discussion and litigation, two

of the workers received \$800. Instead of simply paying the workers the money they had earned, the employer paid a lawyer to argue the case against the Ohio Department of Commerce, and according to the state, he still owes the workers money that he refused to pay.



## In Solidarity:

**Octavio Palacios worked in customer service**, but his employer, a Telecom company, did not treat him with the same level of service and respect that he gave to the customers as part of his job. One day "they just for some reason told me that the company was going to close," he said, "they told me it was going to close in a couple weeks."

But they still owed Octavio a paycheck. "I asked them when they were going to pay me, and they told me a few days," he said. "But I waited, and they never gave me my paycheck. I got laid off, and never got my paycheck. I continued to call them, but I never got it."

After this continued for a few weeks, Octavio was tired of not being given an answer or the money he had earned. "Then I remembered the Workers Center, and that it was not only for immigration issues, but also for workers' rights. So I called the Workers Center, set up an appointment, and that's how everything started," he said.

Once he came into CIWC, Dan Moore wrote a letter to the company. After he sent the letter, Octavio received the check on Monday, just a few days later. "I thought, man, these people really work, you know? They were really effective."



**Octavio is also the host of a weekly radio show through [Media Bridges](http://MediaBridges.com)**, where he took classes to become certified as a host. "We play Latin music," he said, "and we also talk about subjects such as workers' rights and different stuff like health issues as well. We try to implement a lot of things on the show."

**His show plays from 9:30-10:30 am every Monday on 95.7 FM, or it can be heard online at Radio Free Queen City: [www.wvqc.com](http://www.wvqc.com).**

*Jeremiah 22:13 Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.*

## Wage Theft Day of Action:

On November 19th, workers and allies across the country will be working together on the [National Day of Action to Stop Wage Theft](#). Interfaith Worker Justice is orchestrating the day's events on a national level, but groups from cities all over the country will be participating as well. In Cincinnati, a membership-run committee from CIWC is planning the event. At the October Membership Meeting, the group brainstormed different tactics and actions in order to make the day effective. Four goals were decided by members: to recruit and educate other low wage and immigrant workers, to get media attention, to create a venue at the event for workers to tell personal stories with wage theft, and to invite and involve allies. Members will also be distributing surveys to friends and co-workers to see if they have been affected by wage theft; these surveys are part of a national effort.

Wage theft has increasingly become an issue as employers are looking for ways to save money, particularly in hard economic times. Essentially, wage theft is the stealing of earned wages from an employee by the employer. There are several ways wage theft can occur, though the most common are not being paid at all, not receiving compensation for overtime, and being forced to work off the clock.

As anti-wage theft legislation has just been proposed, the time is right for those concerned with the issue to join together and demonstrate that it is a critical problem that must be corrected. By raising awareness about the injustice of wage theft and the ways in which it can be fixed, the National Day of Action can take an important step towards its end.

### Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center Director's Report:

The Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center (CIWC) is increasingly becoming better known in the low wage and immigrant worker communities in the greater Cincinnati area. More and more workers are coming into our offices on complaints of wage theft, labor abuse by their employers and police targeting of immigrant workers and their families. In response to these complaints our membership organization, Trabajadores Unidos (United Workers), over the last few months has formed two committees: the **Worker Justice Committee** and the **Immigrant Rights Committee**. These worker member led committees were formed to hear the complaints of workers and make some decisions on possibilities of campaigns to present both to our entire membership organization, which meets monthly and CIWC's Board of Trustees. To move forward in our work in addressing these complaints, there has been a suggestion that the two committees meet monthly, perhaps two weeks before the next membership meeting. At these committee meetings, the membership of the committees will hear worker and immigrant rights complaints and either direct the staff to help develop strategies with the committees' leadership to resolve a particular problem or to later present a request to the membership body that our organization endorse a specific campaign for worker or immigrant rights.

## Upcoming Events:

**November 14:**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**, CIWC, 10 a.m.  
Open to the public.

**November 15:**  
**Interfaith Prayer Service for Immigration Reform**, 2 p.m.  
International Friendship Park.  
1135 Eastern Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**November 19:**  
**National Day of Action to Stop Wage Theft**, 4 pm  
Meet at Walnut & 5th  
**Press Conference at CIWC, 5:30 pm**

**November 22:**  
**Membership Meeting**, CIWC, 2 p.m.  
All members and workers are invited.



The Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center needs your support. With a shoestring budget and broad community support we are making progress for working people in Cincinnati every day. **No amount is too big or small.** Consider giving a \$50.00 individual donation or a \$500 institutional donation today!

Mail donations to:  
Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center  
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Cincinnati, OH 45202

Questions:  
Call us at (513) 621-5991  
The Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 and all contributions are tax deductible.