



Fighting for Worker and Immigrant Justice since 2005 Winter 2020

ICE OUT OF HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL!

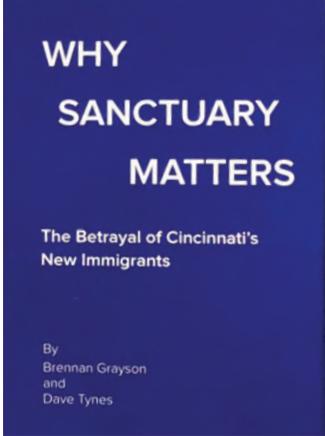


The campaign to get Hamilton County to end its collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been relentless. You've been to meetings and delegations. You've educated yourself and your co-workers. You've marched and chanted. You've turned out thousands of people to rallies in the park. Your hard work is forging genuine change.

In February Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil set new policy that blocked all calls between ICE and detainees at the local jail. By June families began reporting that immigrant detainees are no longer being held for ICE. And now, incoming Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey announced that she will impose a judicial warrant requirement on any request from ICE. Once established as policy, a judicial warrant requirement will ensure due process for immigrants and end unjust deportations in Hamilton County.

Education has been fundamental to this campaign – educating CIWC members, labor leaders, elected politicians, jail staff, and voters. Earlier this year, CIWC released a short book (and related presentation) called *Why Sanctuary Matters*. It reviews the economic, foreign policy, and immigration trends of the last 30 years. It uncovers what really happens when ICE “collaborates” with local jails – the agency’s deceptive phone interviews and phony warrants. *Why Sanctuary Matters* culminates with the stories of local immigrants who opposed these ICE abuses, and, together with the broader movement for justice, ended them.

The time has come to take this fight to Kenton, Campbell, Boone, Franklin and Butler Counties. Do you agree? If so, please schedule a book talk or presentation with your community regarding *Why Sanctuary Matters*.





OUR COVID 19 RESPONSE – COMBINING COMMUNITY FOOD & COMMUNITY SAFETY

This year, people are struggling in new ways to confront injustice. We are too. Under COVID-19 conditions, your workers' center launched a massive community food distribution program. Combining the strengths of the Peaslee Neighborhood Center, the Freestore Food Bank, and local labor unions, your workers' center has distributed over 6,000 free community food boxes across the Tri-State. Drop-off locations in Over-the-Rhine, the West End, Price Hill, and Springdale have been a lifeline for families.

When we share food, we also share support and conduct outreach. We give out COVID safety information and share the CIWC hotline with working families. The food distribution effort is, in turn, impacting us. For example, since launching the food distribution program, the number of women calling our worker rights hotline has TRIPLED!

This new program would not be possible its volunteers: Abby Stidham, Lucy García, Meghan Hague, Connor Albers, Paige Stephens, Terry Burke, Deni López, José Raxón, Candido Arreaza, Lidia Pérez, Karen Aparicio, and Jason Kramer. A special thanks go out to the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for major financial support. A thank-you also goes to the Greater Cincinnati Good Food Coalition which helped bring the program together in the uncertain early days of the COVID outbreak. Key personnel at partner organizations helped us forge a way to bring food to people: Paul Breidenbach, the liaison from the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, Sergio Mata of the Freestore, Meghan Hague and Jennifer Summers of Peaslee Neighborhood Center. Once COVID-19 passes, the free food program will continue. Call today to volunteer.



COVID SPREADS AT WORK – WORKING PEOPLE CAN STOP THE SPREAD

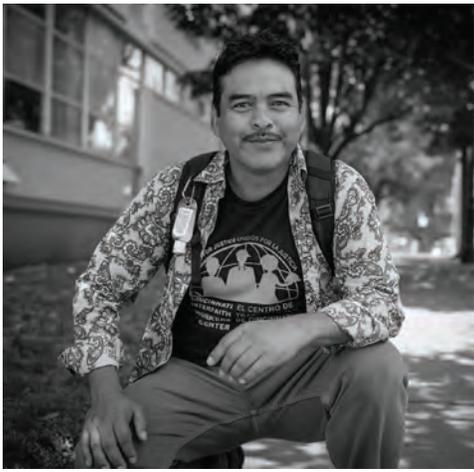
This year, as COVID-19 flared, Personal Protective Equipment or PPE became a household word. Your CIWC stepped up – becoming a lead community trainer for the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS) and its Worker Training Program. Our team created a Work Safe Protocol. We now host regular on-line COVID training sessions in Spanish and English and distribute NIEHS COVID-19 booklets. With our support, workers at six different jobsites have formed COVID-19 safety committees. You can too. Ask us how at worksafe@cworkers.org. And in the meantime – remember to wash your hands, stay safely distanced, and wear your mask!



OHIO WORKERS: ALWAYS ESSENTIAL

In Ohio and across the US, we have watched essential workers be treated as disposable, denied the most basic of workplace protections – overtime pay, fair scheduling, paid sick leave, a right to unionize, among many more. This summer, CIWC joined the national campaign to unify around a basic demand: fair treatment and better pay for all “essential workers.” Thanks to Ohio organizer Mónica Ramírez, Founder & President of Justice for Migrant Women, the city of Toledo became the first city in the nation to establish an Essential Workers Bill of Rights. Join us in 2021. Form a shop floor safety taskforce or worker committee. Link your workplace effort with an emerging a statewide coalition. Together we can advance real policy and build the solidarity needed to challenge the status quo.







215 East 14th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workers Center Newspaper

CIWC is launching a newspaper called *Voices/Voces*. The first edition will hit the streets in January 2021. The paper will run monthly in a bilingual edition featuring in-depth stories about local labor, political, and social justice news, with longer articles about the types of workplace campaigns that don't get covered anywhere else.

Improving Legal Services for Working People

This year the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center increased its collaboration with Cincinnati Worker Rights Project (CWRP), the nonprofit law firm founded by Randy Freking and Paul Tobias. Going forward, the CIWC/CWRP will bring a new one-two punch into the ring for local workers. This combination greatly improves the quantity and the quality of legal representation low wage workers will receive in Cincinnati.

Meet New Staff

In 2020 CIWC added three new staff members: David McDonald, outreach coordinator; Serah Watson, administrator; and Gabriela Godinez, managing editor of *Voices/Voces*. Please wish a warm welcome to these new team members.

Cincinnati Language Services Cooperative Is Growing Rapidly

Cincinnati Language Services Cooperative was founded as a project of the CIWC. The language service co-op provides high quality translation and interpretation services for legal, civil rights, labor, business, and religious organizations. And it pays a fair, living wage. In November of 2020 the Co-op set a record with \$6,000.00 in revenue for the month. Contact the co-op at 513-621-1250 or cincilanguagecoop@gmail.com for all your language service needs. Recent clients include Interfaith Worker Justice, Great Lakes OSHA, Ohio Valley Interior Systems, attorney George Moeller, and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.



“Basta” / “Enough”

This summer CIWC mourned the loss of brother Horacio Pérez, who passed died from injuries sustained during a violent robbery. Locally, violent crime against immigrants is increasing. In the Price Hill neighborhood leaders like Glenda Ventura, Rosemary Ventura, and Rosalba Arreaga are stepping up and saying “ENOUGH!” BASTA is the name of the new community group that's holding self-defense rallies in Price Hill. The CIWC staff is working with Transformations CDC to get BASTA organized.

Thank You David Schenz

After ten years of amazing service to the organization, CIWC Treasurer (Extraordinaire) David Schenz is ending his last term on the Board of Directors. No board member has done more than David to make the CIWC a thriving organization that's accountable to the community and its donors. His spirit and influence will live on long after his term ends. We are a better, stronger organization because of David's service. Join us in saying “Thank you, David!”

Contact us!

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 www.cworkers.org,
 @CincyWorkers /  Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center