

Call on Publix to Ensure Dignity and Justice for Tomato Pickers!

Join farmworkers from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) in calling for fair wages and human rights at a Publix near you:

Sat., October 31st at 2 pm
Halloween-themed Event in front of Publix
2015 Edgewater Drive, Orlando

Sun., November 1st at 2:30 pm
Educational Picket in front of Publix
1400 E Colonial Drive, Orlando



- CIW will be appearing Nov 1 at First Unitarian at 9:30 AM in the Education Building, Room 9. They will teach us what life as a tomato picker is like.
- CIW is also appearing at University Unitarian (12-1PM) that same day w/ a light lunch.
- We move to the picket at 2:30 PM that afternoon. Please join us!
- And mark your calendars to join us at Publix Headquarters on Dec. 5, 2009 in Lakeland!

Most Florida tomato pickers earn 40-50 cents per 32-lb bucket of tomatoes, a rate that has not risen significantly since 1978. They toil long hours without overtime pay or benefits. In extreme conditions, workers are held against their will in modern-day slavery rings. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a Florida farmworker organization, has uncovered and assisted the Department of Justice in prosecuting six slavery rings, freeing over 1,000 workers. Most recently, in December 2008, farm labor supervisors were sentenced for beating, chaining, and enslaving tomato pickers who worked on some of Florida's major tomato farms.

There is hope for an end to the harvest of shame in Florida's fields: the CIW-- with the support of people around the country-- has reached precedent-setting agreements with Yum Brands (owner of Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC), McDonald's, Burger King, Whole Foods, Subway, Compass Group, and Bon Appetit to improve wages and conditions for tomato pickers. These agreements include **the first real wage increase for farmworkers in 30 years, a code of conduct against abuses--with zero tolerance for slavery, and farmworker participation in monitoring improved conditions.** To date, three Florida growers have committed to implement these fair food agreements.

Yet Publix, whose sales in the first half of 2009 topped \$12 billion, refuses to pay just one more penny per pound to improve wages for tomato pickers and work with the CIW to guarantee fair conditions for those who pick its tomatoes. What's more, Publix continues to knowingly purchase tomatoes from two tomato growers implicated in a recent farmworker slavery operation.

Join us in calling on Publix to do the right thing! See: www.interfaithact.org/publix www.ciw-online.org.