



MISSOURI
WORKERS
CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

A note from our Executive Director

When we founded the Missouri Workers Center last year, we set out to build a state-wide movement of low-wage workers, Black, white, and brown, urban and rural, with the power to fight racism and win good jobs for all Missourians. I am happy to report that one year later, we are well on our way to doing just that. Workers in Kansas City and St. Louis have formed multi-racial, cross-geographic organizing committees and strategized bold actions to win better pay, safer working conditions, and the right to form a union without retaliation. They have won the hearts and minds of working people across Missouri and inspired their co-workers to join the fight.

As 2022 comes to an end and we set our sights to the new year, we are planning new ways to bring low-wage workers together across dividing lines and win transformative policies both on the shop floor and in the halls of government. We are exploring new models for worker organization and building a militant 21st century labor movement equipped with the skills and ideas to reign in corporate power, fight racism, and ensure that working people make more of the decisions over the things that affect their daily lives.

We couldn't do this important work without a large network of local and national supporters and donors like you. Whether you've stood on strike lines and at rallies with low-wage workers, are a recurring donor, or one of our grantors, thank you for committing your time and resources to make the Missouri Workers Center possible.

In Solidarity,



Jeremy Al-Haj
Executive Director

Workers go on strike at STL8 Amazon Facility on Nov. 25, 2022.



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Mission Statement

It is our mission to build a movement of low-wage workers, Black, white and brown, urban and rural across the state of Missouri dedicated to fighting racism and winning economic justice for all.



2022 by the numbers

Looking at the big picture of the last year

1034

TOTAL WORKER CONTACTS



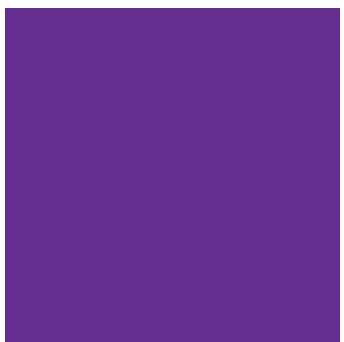
652

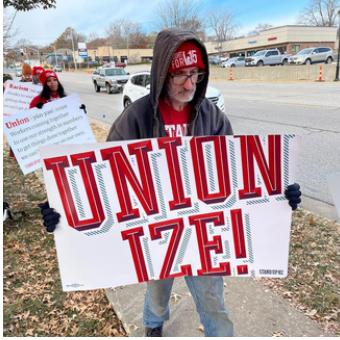
NEW WORKERS
SIGNED TO
CARDS



358

HRS
NEW WORKER HOUSE VISITS





650+
ACTIVE WORKERS



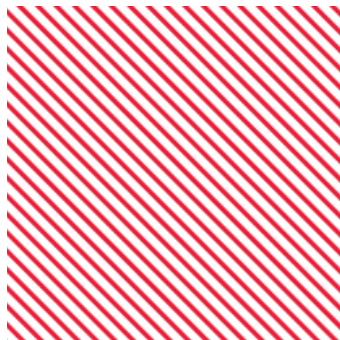
75
AND COUNTING
TIMES IN THE
PRESS



27
ACTIONS
ACROSS
MISSOURI



WORKERS
REPRESENT
17
COUNTIES





Tenants' Right to Counsel

Low-wage workers and tenants standing together to stop evictions

When Stand Up KC leaders met in the basement of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in October 2021, they voted on two things: To affiliate with the Missouri Workers Center, and to put an end to Kansas City's unjust eviction system. By the end of 2021, Missouri Workers Center had formed a coalition with local housing advocates to make history in Kansas City. **Kansas City became only the 13th city in the USA to pass a Right to Counsel law that guarantees that any person facing eviction has the right to free legal representation.**

When corporations like McDonald's pay 89% of their workers less than \$15 per hour, it's no surprise that so many working families are facing eviction. In June, workers and their allies hosted a kick-off rally celebrating the official start of this historic legislation AND to hold the city accountable for missed deadlines. Workers let them know "We aren't going away!"

Since the policy was fully implemented, hundreds of poor and working Kansas Citians have utilized the free legal services and 89% of represented residents have avoided eviction.



89% of represented KC residents have avoided eviction

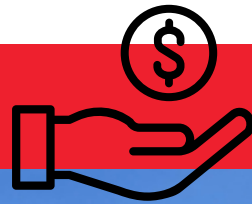
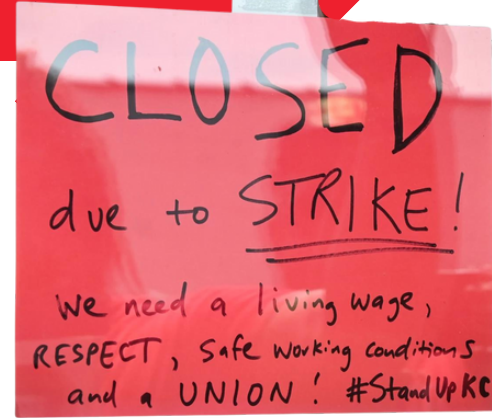
Taco Bell Strike

Solidarity kicking off Labor Day weekend

Taco Bell workers at 82nd and Wornall in Kansas City smiled as they taped up the “Closed for strike” sign and locked the doors on the afternoon of Sept. 1. Workers had been facing unsafe working conditions, poverty wages, racism and disrespect from management.

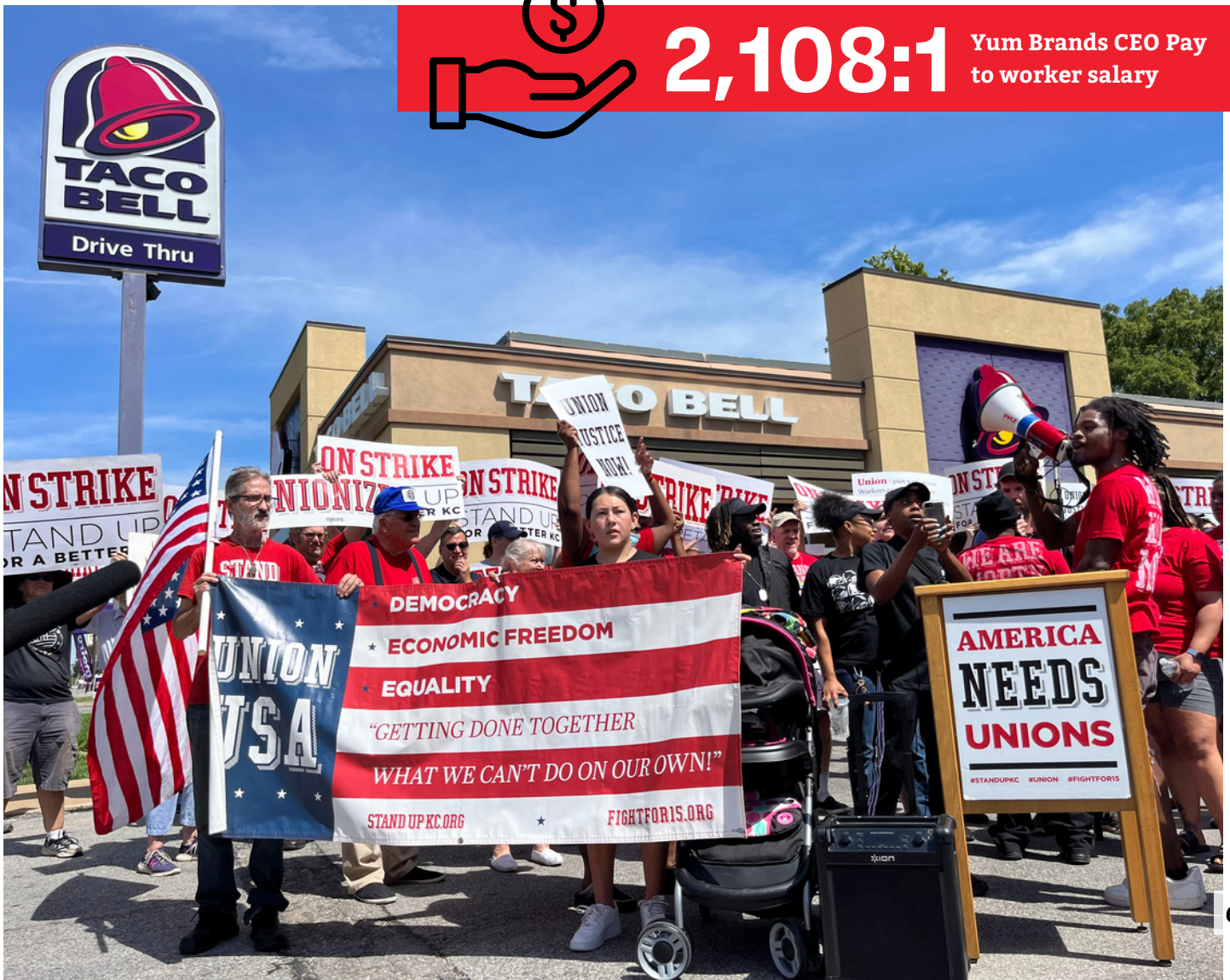
“When the shop flooded, my manager actually yelled at me. She even said that she felt like punching me, she was so angry,” Fran Marion, Missouri Workers Center leader and Taco Bell Shift manager, recounted. “This kind of hostility toward workers who are trying to keep themselves and customers safe is just one of many examples of the fact that these corporations DO. NOT. CARE. ABOUT. US!”

In addition to a one day strike, workers, with support from MWC organizers, filed complaints with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Labor Relations Board to apply pressure on the Taco Bell mega-franchise. **The outcome: workers won safer working conditions, respect from management, and protected their jobs. This is proof that when workers come together across racial lines and take bold action they have the power to win!**



2,108:1

Yum Brands CEO Pay to worker salary





STL8 Organizing Committee

Making history at Amazon Warehouses across the country

On the afternoon of Nov. 25, workers at Amazon's STL8 warehouse gathered in the entryway of the St. Charles facility preparing to walk out. A sea of their co-workers, other workers, allies and community members awaited them to mark this historic moment.

This Black Friday they were sending a message.

"We should be able to support our families and have time to spend with them." Kayla Breitbarth, Missouri Workers leader and member of the STL8 Organizing Committee said. "I shouldn't have to choose between keeping a roof over my kids' heads and putting food in their bellies, or whether I can spend time with them."

The STL8 Organizing Committee made history not only in Missouri but in the country. The strike was the first Amazon action in the state and was the first coordinated strike between US and international Amazon workers.



530+

Amazon workers joined the STL8 organizing committee



Clean Slate Initiative

Providing a second chance for ALL

“Like me, workers who have records are often grateful to have a chance at Amazon. If you’ve been denied a job because of your record, working at Amazon seems like an opportunity,” J. Lopez, Missouri Worker Leader and a member of the STL8 Organizing committee said.

Corporations like McDonalds, Amazon, and Walmart like to tout themselves as second chance employers, but the truth is that these companies take advantage of workers with criminal records. They know that these workers are highly vulnerable and therefore more scared to fight for things like better pay, safer working conditions, or a union.

99 percent of eligible Missourians unable to access the expungement process. That’s why Missouri Workers Center decided to join the coalition of Missourians seeking to improve the expungement process. The Clean Slate Initiative - introduced in the state legislature in December 2022 - would provide **automatic expungement** for those who are eligible under the current expungement guidelines.

Clean Slate will give workers with criminal records a real second chance by opening up previously closed doors to better jobs and put pressure on companies to improve conditions to compete for workers like J and Fran.



1 in 3 Missourians are eligible for expungement



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