

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER



Proudly Helping Union Families Since 2004

*It is that time of year again...time to organize, mobilize and start spreading the word to every local in Ontario about organized labours 7<sup>th</sup> annual Operation Christmas Cheer campaign!*

November 15, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

How do you think you'd feel if your employer refused to talk/bargain and you were approaching your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or heaven forbid... 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas on the picket-line?

We have 7 Ontario union locals, representing 862 of our Brothers and Sisters and they are facing those exact harsh conditions. They are struggling to make ends meet with little hope of returning to work before Christmas. There is no doubt that they are in hardship and that their struggles, are all of labours struggle!

Our Brothers and Sisters are showing incredible solidarity, strength, courage, and determination in increasingly long-drawn-out fights against employer's intent on breaking the union by refusing to bargain, bargaining in bad faith and using scab labour. Job security, seniority, safety, working conditions, fair wages, benefits and pensions across the province, are under attack by greedy corporate agendas that are deplorable, shocking and morally unacceptable.

Operation Christmas Cheer's only mandate is to deliver grass roots support, cheer, food hampers, grocery gift cards (so a family can purchase a traditional Christmas dinner) and toys to Ontario picket-lines during the Holiday Season. Every year our mission is the same, help as many union families as possible!

On behalf of **7 union locals** and **832 of our Brothers and Sisters on strike/lockout**, Operation Christmas Cheer is respectfully asking your local/union/committee/council or region to **take action, support, and help us cheer on these locals in hardship** this Holiday Season;

1. **Communications, Energy and Paper Workers of Canada - CEP 37x – Timmins:** 80 members have been locked out by Grant Forest Products since September 2006 – **216 WEEKS or 50 MONTHS.**
2. **United Steelworkers - USW 1-500 – Brantford:** 74 members on strike against ECP since August 2008 – **125 WEEKS or 27 MONTHS.**
3. **United Steelworkers – USW 7536 – Mississauga:** 37 members on strike against Lind Furniture since April 2009 – **90 WEEKS or 18 MONTHS.**
4. **United Steelworkers – USW 8782 – Nanicoke:** 43 members on strike against Multiserv since July 2009 – **80 WEEKS or 16 MONTHS.**
5. **United Steelworkers – USW 526 – Brampton:** 47 members on strike against Infinity Rubber since December 2009 – **47 WEEKS or 11 MONTHS.**
6. **United Steelworkers – USW 1000 – Pembroke:** 40 members on strike against Commonwealth Veneer since April 2009 – **40 WEEKS or 8 MONTHS.**
7. **United Steelworkers – USW 9537 – Vaughan:** 541 members on strike against Sears since April 2010 – **42 WEEKS or 8 MONTHS.**

Every dollar, non-perishable food and toy collected by OCC goes directly into the hands of our Brothers and Sisters on strike/lockout within our communities. All monetary contributions collected are used to purchase grocery gift cards (from unionized grocery stores) for active union families collecting strike pay during the holidays. OCC will deliver Labours Christmas Cheer on the dates and times listed below. All details including picket-line locations will be posted online at [www.OperationCheer.com](http://www.OperationCheer.com) and Facebook. Everyone is invited to come out and show support!



- **USW 1-500 Brantford** - Tuesday – December 14: 12:00pm
- **USW 7536 Mississauga** - Wednesday – December 15: 10:00pm
- **USW 526 Brampton** – Wednesday - December 15: 3:00pm
- **USW 9537 Vaughan** – Thursday – December 16: 12:00pm
- **USW 8782 Nanicoke** – Monday – December 20: 12:00pm
- **USW 1-1000 Pembroke** - Monday – December 20: 12:00pm
- **CEP 37X Timmins** - Monday – December 20: 12:00pm

We have 5 weeks or 36 days to make this happen so your immediate attention is requested. **The goal is to raise \$65,000 or \$75.00 grocery gift cards** for members so they can buy their own traditional Christmas dinner for their family. The staff reps and officers from each local will help distribute food, toys and grocery cards to their member.

**Please make all donation checks payable to Operation Christmas Cheer**

**Mail** any amount you are able to donate **by December 21<sup>st</sup> to;**

**Operation Christmas Cheer**

c/o Casandra Robinson

**101 Lockhaven Private, Ottawa, ON, K2J 5L5**

3 simple ways you can get involved and make a HUGE difference in someone's life this Christmas...

1. **Word-of-mouth - Please help spread the Cheer online.** “LIKE” our Facebook Fan page or join our Facebook group (link online at: [www.OperationCheer.com](http://www.OperationCheer.com)). Post a link to OCC on your website. Forward this email (PDF format is attached for easy forwarding) on to your sister locals, your regional, provincial or national executive board or anyone connected to labour.
2. **“Pass the Hat and Collect Change”** at your next general membership meeting or labour event. Ask members if they would like to donate any spare change in their pockets and or ask your local executive board, regional/provincial committee(s), council(s), or local labour council to make a contribution and sponsor a union family.
3. **Promote an Operation Christmas Cheer Food and Toy Drive** within your local, labour council or workplace. Ask people if they'd like to drop-off a non-perishable food item or new unwrapped toy. Many people will step up and gladly help out... you just need to ask! You can download a blank OCC poster (so you can customize it) promoting a food and toy drive within your workplace.

**November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup> Food and Toy - Drop Off Locations**

The unions and labour councils listed below have graciously donated space within their offices for Operation Christmas Cheer 2010. More drop-off locations will be added in the coming weeks. Please check online at [www.OperationCheer.com](http://www.OperationCheer.com) for a complete list of locations. If you are unable to drop-off any items you collect, please call me at (613) 301-2988 and I will gladly make arrangements to pick-up.



## **OTTAWA**

**Ottawa and District Labour Council:** 280 Metcalfe Street, Suite 500. Contact is Sean McKenny (613) 223-7820

**USW Ottawa Office:** 2285 St.Laurent Blvd, Building D 12. Contact is Robert Macheta or Dave Lipton (613) 260-7205

**CEP Local 247:** 101 Lockhaven Private. Contact person is Casandra Robinson (613) 692-4568

## **TORONTO**

**Toronto and York Region Labour Council:** 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 407. Contact is John Cartwright (416) 441-3663

**Central Ontario Building Trades:** 2088 Westin Road. Contact is Jay Peterson (416) 449-5115

## **BRANTFORD**

**Brantford & District Labour Centre:** 1100 Clarence Street S. Contact is Gary MacDonald (519) 751-9371

## **LONDON**

**AIL Canada-CEP Local 247:** 557 Southdale Road E, Suite 202. Contact is Christine Hirtzel (519) 649-6661

Food and toys collected will be used to make the Christmas food hampers for as many union families as possible, on strike/lockout this Christmas. Weekly updates of donations collected, will be posted often on the website **[www.OperationCheer.com](http://www.OperationCheer.com)** as well as **Facebook**.

It is so important that our Brothers and Sisters who are sacrificing greatly, KNOW that they have the full support of their fellow trade unionists. As always, OCC would not be possible without your support! **YOU are Operation Christmas Cheer and YOU can help make Christmas much brighter for many union families.** Picket-line solidarity is one of the foundations of trade unionism where the smallest acts of kindness, encouragement, and support give members the strength needed to continue the fight for a fair settlement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (613) 692-4568 or cell (613) 301-2988. I'd like to thank you all in advance for any show of support and kindness towards these locals facing adversity.

In Solidarity,  
Casandra Robinson

Operation Christmas Cheer  
CEP 247 – Secretary Treasurer  
Email: [casandra@operationcheer.com](mailto:casandra@operationcheer.com)

**[www.OperationCheer.com](http://www.OperationCheer.com)**

