

# Operation Christmas Cheer

[www.operationcheer.com](http://www.operationcheer.com)



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

How do you think you'd feel if your employer refused to talk/bargain, you were locked out or forced out on strike, and you were approaching your 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas on the picket-line? Right now, 194 of our Brothers and Sisters from two Ontario locals are facing those exact harsh conditions. They are struggling to make ends meet without any 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.

Operation Christmas Cheer is respectfully asking your local/union/committee/council or region to **take action and support USW 1-2693 and CEP 37x**. OCC has pledged to provide traditional Christmas dinners to their 194 union families (as well as any other local who may go out on strike/lock-out before Christmas). Our Brothers and Sisters have shown incredible strength, courage, and determination in their battle with a management, whose corporate agenda and concession demands are shocking and morally unacceptable.

**United Steelworkers - USW Local 1-2693 - Thunder Bay, Geraldton, Terrace Bay and Longlac** 90 members have been on strike against Neenah Paper since February 2006 - 21 months. The main issue is contracting out. The employer continues to use scab labour and their tactics have divided communities.

**Communications, Energy and Paper Workers of Canada - CEP Local 37x - Timmins.** 104 members have been locked out by Grant Forest Products since September 2006 - 15 months. The main issue is contracting out and seniority with a company clause terminating members who've been laid off. The employer has used scab labour.

Every dollar raised and each can of food or toy collected by OCC goes directly into the hands of our Brothers and Sisters walking the picket-lines and the communities in which we live. All monetary contributions collected are used to purchase grocery gift cards (from unionized grocery stores when possible) for active union families collecting strike pay during the holidays.

OCC will travel from Ottawa to Northern Ontario to deliver Labours Christmas Cheer to the picket-lines on December 17<sup>th</sup> (snowstorm date Dec 21<sup>st</sup>). We have 4 weeks or 30 days to make this happen so your immediate attention is requested. You can make a difference in someone's life this Christmas by getting involved and showing support in the following ways:

- Word-of-mouth is powerful and united we stand. Help spread the word by passing this email/fax/letter on to your sister locals, your regional/provincial or national executive board or anyone connected to labour...including our politicians. Ask them to sponsor a union family!
- At your next general membership meeting "Pass the Hat and Collect Coins". Ask your 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.

All donation checks can be made payable to Operation Christmas Cheer, USW 1-2693 or CEP 37x. Please DO NOT make checks payable to CEP 247. The goal is to raise a \$100 grocery gift card for each member so they can buy their own traditional Christmas dinner for their family. The staff reps from each local will help coordinate the purchase of all grocery cards. You can mail or courier any amount you are able to donate by December 21<sup>st</sup> to;

**Operation Christmas Cheer**  
**c/o CEP Local 247 - Secretary Treasurer**  
**101 Lockhaven Private, Ottawa, Ontario, K2J 5L5**

- You can also help by organizing a food or toy drive within your local, labour council or workplace. Ask people if they'd like to make a donation in kind (a non-perishable food item or a new unwrapped toy) for families in need. You will be amazed at how many people will step up and gladly help out... you just need to ask!

**November 19 to December 14 Food and Toy Drop Off Locations**

The organizations listed below have graciously donated space within their offices for the 2007 Operation Christmas Cheer food and toy collection.

<b>Ottawa:</b>	Ottawa and District Labour Council - 280 Metcalfe Street, Suite 500
<b>Toronto:</b>	Toronto and York Region Labour Council - 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 407 Central Ontario Building Trades - 2088 Westin Road CEP Ontario - CEP Local 975 Union Hall - 975 Kennedy Road
<b>London:</b>	AIL Canada - CEP Local 247 - 557 Southdale Road E, Suite 202
<b>Timmins:</b>	Timmins and District Labour Council - OPSEU Regional, 425 Algonquin Blvd E
<b>Thunder Bay:</b>	Thunder Bay and District Labour Council - 929 Fort William Road, Room 6
<b>Keewatin:</b>	Kenora and District Labour Council - 309-6 <sup>th</sup> Street

Food and toys collected will be used to make the Christmas food bags for the 194 union families on strike/lockout this Christmas. Any food or toys left over will be donated to your local community food bank/Salvation Army in the name of organized labour. A template of a sample food drive flyer for your local can be downloaded at [www.operationcheer.com](http://www.operationcheer.com).

Weekly updates of the dollar amounts raised and cans of food/toys collected, will be posted on the website; [www.operationcheer.com](http://www.operationcheer.com). Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (613) 301-2988 or email [casandra@operationcheer.com](mailto:casandra@operationcheer.com) if you've any questions.

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. I'd like to thank you all in advance for any show of support and kindness towards these union families facing adversity.

In Solidarity,  
Casandra Robinson

AIL Canada - Public Relations  
CEP 247 - Secretary Treasurer  
[www.cep247.com](http://www.cep247.com)