

November 7, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is that time of year again...time to organize, mobilize and start spreading the word to every union local in Ontario about Operation Christmas Cheer's 8th annual Labour of Love campaign!

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!

We have way too many of our Brothers and Sisters who are facing the harsh reality of being on the picket-line during the Holidays. They are struggling to make ends meet with little hope of returning to work before Christmas!

Employers listed below are refusing to bargain or bargaining in bad faith. Job security, seniority, safety, working conditions, fair wages, benefits and pensions across the province, are under attack by greedy corporate agendas coast-to-coast.

On behalf of **6 Ontario locals and 507 of our Brothers and Sisters on strike/lockout**, Operation Christmas Cheer is respectfully asking your local/union/committee/council or region to **take action and help us cheer on these locals in hardship** this Holiday Season;

1. **United Steelworkers - USW 1-1000 – Pembroke:** 40 members on strike against Commonwealth since April 2009 –**30 MONTHS – 129 WEEKS.**
2. **United Steelworkers – USW 526 – Toronto:** 47 members on strike against Infinity Rubber since December 2009 –**22 MONTHS – 94 WEEKS.**
3. **United Steelworkers – USW 13571– Toronto:** 140 members on strike against Alumicor since March 2011 – **8 MONTHS – 34 WEEKS.**
4. **Communications, Energy and Paper Workers of Canada – CEP 87M – Toronto:** 130 members have been on strike since September 21, 2011. This was their 1st contract negotiations after becoming unionized – **6 WEEKS.**
5. **United Steelworkers – USW 9597 – Ottawa:** 15 members on strike against Inkas since October 3, 2011 – **4 WEEKS.**
6. **Ontario Public Service Employees Union – OPSEU 334 – Peterborough:** 130 members on strike against Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society since October 19 – **3 WEEKS.**

Any other local that is locked out or goes on strike before Christmas...will be added to our list. 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.

Check Out Our Website and Follow Us On Facebook!

www.OperationCheer.com and www.facebook.com/OperationChristmasCheer



Operation Christmas Cheer

A Non-Profit Organization

Proudly Serving Union Families Since 2004



- **USW 526 – TORONTO** – Tuesday, December 13 at 11AM
- **USW 13571 – TORONTO** - Tuesday, December 13 at 2PM
- **CEP 87M – TORONTO** - Wednesday – December 14 at 12PM
- **OPSEU 334 – PETERBOROUGH** – Thursday, December 15 at 11AM
- **USW 1-1000 – PEMBROKE** – Monday, December 19 at 12PM
- **USW 9597 – OTTAWA** – Tuesday, December 20 at 12PM

All details including picket-line locations and weekly updates will be posted online at: www.OperationCheer.com and www.facebook.com/OperationChristmasCheer. Everyone is invited to come out and show support! We have 7 weeks or 42 days to make this happen so your immediate attention is requested. 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 or courier any amount you are able to donate by December 21st to;
Operation Christmas Cheer
c/o Casandra Robinson
101 Lockhaven Private, Ottawa, ON, K2J 5L5**

A few other ways you can get involved and make a difference in someone's life this Christmas...

1. **Word-of-Mouth - Please help spread the Cheer online.** Share our Facebook fan page with all your contacts and or forward this email (PDF format is attached) on to your sister locals, your regional, provincial or national executive board or anyone connected to labour.
2. **Collect non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys** from within your local/workplace/Labour Council. Contact me at (613) 301-2988 and I will gladly make arrangements to pick-up the items and get them to the picket-lines. The deadline for pick-ups is December 20th. Food and toys collected will be used to make the Christmas food hampers for as many union families as possible.

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. It is so important that our Brothers and Sisters KNOW that they have the full support of their fellow trade unionists. This year we need your help more than ever because **YOU are Operation Christmas Cheer and YOU can help make Christmas much brighter for many union families.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (613) 301-2988 or email: casandra@operationcheer.com. 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
Organizer - Operation Christmas Cheer
CEP 247 – Secretary Treasurer

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