
"Jobs for All at a Living Wage"

Living Wage Coalition plans busy, exciting year!

At its January membership meeting, the Living Wage Coalition voted to pursue an aggressive legislative strategy in 2008 including major campaigns to protect and increase wages of workers covered by San Francisco's living wage laws, to cover more San Francisco workers and to reform the Community Jobs Program.

Budget cuts at all levels of government threaten wages and benefits of workers.

A major struggle will be protecting the annual cost-of-living increases for those San Francisco workers covered by the City's Living Wage law.

Mayor Newsom has already announced \$18 million in mid-year cuts - with more to come.

On February 19, the Living Wage Coalition joined SEIU Local 1021 and the People's Budget Coalition in protesting these cuts.

The budget battle will require a great deal of time and effort in the coming months.

The other groups of workers that the Living Wage Coalition is campaigning to cover include employees of any business on City-owned property and workers in Community Benefit Districts (CBD).

The Coalition is discussing with other organizations strategies to negotiate Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) directly with developers that ensure living wage standards cover everyone who works on a subsidized project and that the developer commits

to maximizing the number of living wage jobs in tenant businesses in the development.

In 1999, the Community Jobs Program (CJP) was established in an agreement between the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition and then-Mayor Willie Brown.

This program was intended to provide living wage work for those wishing to exit workfare (CAAP and CALWORKs) while providing the type of experience that would qualify one for permanent City employment.

However, since no controlling legislation was ever passed to guide this program, it has been difficult to uphold these standards and track progress.

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Living Wage Coalition
2940 16th St. #205
San Francisco, CA 94103



Report addresses what is a living wage

People know that a living wage would raise one above poverty line to a level of self-sufficiency, working a 40-hour week. "But how much is a living wage," people often ask.

The federal poverty line is an obsolete measure that fails to take into account basic family needs such as child care.

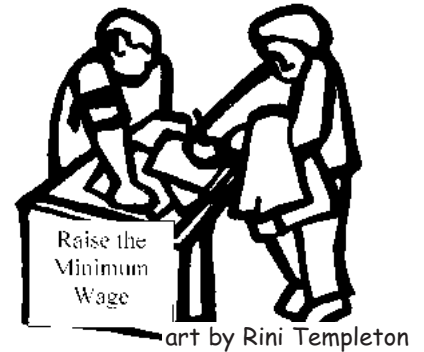
The 2006 federal poverty line is \$7.81 per hour or \$16,242 per year for a family of three, and \$9.83 per hour or \$20,444 per year for a family of four.

The California Budget Project, a non-profit organization that engages in analysis of public policies affecting low-income and middle-income Californians, in its 2007 report, attempts to answer that

question by looking at costs for housing and utilities, child care, transportation, food, health care and taxes in 10 different regions of California.

The report estimates the amount families and single adults need to earn to achieve a modest standard of living without assistance from public programs.

This standard of living covers only basic expenses, allowing little room for college savings, vacations or emergencies. For the greater Bay Area, the answers are broken down by family size: single parent family - \$31.67 per hour or \$65,864 per year; two parent family with one working - \$25.52 per hour or \$53,075 per year; two working parent family - \$18.53 per



hour or \$77,069 per year jointly; and a single adult \$14.25 per hour or \$29,633 per year.

- Karl Kramer

The Living Wage Coalition wins an award

On a bright Saturday morning, February 16, the Living Wage Coalition received the "Gloria Brown Award" at a breakfast ceremony hosted by the Episcopal Urban Caucus at the Oakland Hilton during their national assembly.

The award by the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice was received by Living Wage Coalition Co-coordinators Karl Kramer and Robert Bustamante.

Upon the Living Wage Coalition receiving a standing ovation as well as a \$2000 check, Kramer in his thank-you speech mentioned that "It feels very good

to be among a great group of like-minded people." Bustamante also gave praise to the national Episcopal organizations saying "muchas gracias (thank you) to recognizing the work done."

The Living Wage Coalition thanked the person who nominated them for the award, Carol Jan Lee, a San Francisco native who has followed the progress of the Living Wage Coalition and has been impressed by the work it has done to get passage of a municipal minimum wage in 2004, which has increased with annual cost-of-living adjustments to \$9.36 per

hour, and to get passage of a minimum wage of \$11.03 per hour for workers at community-based non-profit organizations last year.

While noting that 2007 has been a successful year, Kramer cautioned that "as we celebrate the victories, there is tremendous work to do."

Other Living Wage Coalition members who attended the award and breakfast ceremony were Nicky Trasvina, David Frias, and Alice Rogoff.

-David Frias

Living Wage Coalition

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phone (415) 863-1225, fax (415) 863-1927, sflivingwage@riseup.net

Add my name endorsing the Living Wage campaign (indicate if organization for ID only)

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____. (Make out check to San Francisco Living Wage Coalition. For a tax deductible donation of \$50 or more, make out check to SF Living Wage Coalition/Agape Foundation. We also accept tax deductible vehicle donations.)

I want to get involved. Please contact me.

I would like to become a member - \$25 for individuals, \$100 per year for organizations (includes a sub to the Mobilizer).

Name _____

Title & Organization _____

Phone _____ (day) _____ (eve) Email _____

The San Francisco Living Wage Coalition

Who We Are

The Living Wage Coalition is a grass-roots movement of low-wage workers and their allies fighting for economic justice. We believe that everyone who works full time should be able to survive on what they earn, without relying on public assistance or charity to support their families.

What We Do

We educate, organize and mobilize to demand that our tax dollars and use of public property do not go to businesses that pay poverty wages.

History

The Living Wage Coalition was initiated in 1998 by labor unions, community organizations and religious congregations to develop a movement led and democratically run by low-wage workers. As a result of a grass-roots campaign, San Francisco's living wage laws - called the Minimum Compensation Ordinance and the Health Care Accountability Ordinance - require that businesses with a service contract with the City or property lease at the Airport must pay workers at least \$10.77 per hour, provide 12 paid days off per year and provide health care coverage. In addition, businesses leasing other property from the City must provide health care coverage as a condition of their lease. By the City's estimates, more than 30,000 workers have benefited.

When We Meet

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at 2940 16th Street, room 204 (between Mission St. and South Van Ness Ave.). Everyone is welcome.

Coordinating Committee

Robert Bustamonte, Campaign Co-director; Karl Kramer, Campaign Co-director; Nicky Trasviña, Recording Secretary; Phil Tryon, Treasurer; David Frias, Media Coordinator; Larry Lattimore, Guillermo Ponce de Leon, Alice Rogoff, David Williams

Living Wage Coalition and LCLAA put Fun in Fundraising

If you looked in the New College windows on December 22, you would have seen the typical end-of-the-year party with food, entertainment, raffle, decorations and everyone having a good time.

However, this was a very special celebration. The SF Living Wage Coalition was celebrating the victory of the passage of the living wage amendments in September that increased wages for more than 15,000 workers in San Francisco! Among the workers included, for the first time in the country, are parents working for a welfare check and single adults in the county workfare programs.

The celebration doubled as a victory party for the workers who will benefit from the wage increases. In addition, it



r: Tommi Avicolla Mecca; l.: Diana Hartman
photo provided by robert temple

was a booster for this year's continuing campaign as we monitor the implementation of the living wage amendments and fight "to keep it on the books!"

The SF Living Wage Coalition wishes to thank our sponsors of the December 22 celebration and encourage everyone to uti-



robert temple plays working-class rock.
photo provided by robert temple

lize their businesses. The support of small businesses establishes an important connection between workers earning decent wages and utilizing their wages to patronize local businesses to create a healthy economy.

Our sincere thanks go to the following

businesses: City Cleaners Carpet Care, Rainbow Grocery Cooperative, Forest Books, Pancho Villa Taqueria, Valencia Whole Foods, Modern Times Bookstore,



Alfonso Texidor performs spoken word.
photo provided by robert temple

Mariachi's Taqueria, Truly Mediterranean, Adobe Bookshop, Cosmic Debris, and Ayuda Financial Services.

We warmly thank the individuals who financially supported our event: State Senator Carole Midgeen, George Dias, Allan Fisher, Mark Gruberg, Willie Johnson, Ed Kinchley, Larry Lattimore, Anamaria Loya, Kathy Lipscomb, Rhoda Kellogg Norman and Rodger Scott.

We wish to express our appreciation to the unions and labor organizations who continually support our activities: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 101, SF Building and Construction Trade Council, American Federation of Teachers Local 2121, Plumbers Local 38, and the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement.

A very special thanks goes out to Los Jarritos Restaurant for providing tamale dinners and Panchita's Restaurant for providing pupusa dinners.

We wish to express our heart-felt gratitude for the entertainment provided by: The Peaceniks (Tommi Avicolla Mecca and Diana Hartman), Una Flor, Un Canto y Una Poesia (Elizabeth Esteva, Nancy Esteva and Mario Esteva), Poets Alfonso Texidor and James Tracy, and musician robert temple.

And a special thanks goes to all of our volunteers, who no matter what the event, come through for the SF Living Wage Coalition.

- Nicky Trasviña

Living Wage plans for this year!

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The Living Wage Coalition will be asking Supervisors to use the City's monitoring and research resources to track the CJP programs results and to pass controlling legislation.

The Living Wage Coalition is also investigating whether to pursue legislation that would credit participants in City sponsored programs such as Project 20 with the SF Living Wage minimum rate.

As it is now, Project 20 participants are credited with the rate of \$6 per hour.

These are people from all walks of life working off parking tickets doing community service.

The Living Wage Coalition helped initiate the Bay Area Labor Coalition on Immigration this year.

This is a coalition of more than two dozen labor organizations, including the San Francisco Labor Council, Central

Labor Council of Alameda County and the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council.

The Labor Coalition on Immigration is developing a grass-roots campaign to resist immigration raids in workplaces and neighborhoods and to take collective action if an employer threatens to fire workers for their social security numbers not matching the government database.

If the Living Wage Coalition agenda includes an area of special interest to you, contact us. Help make it happen.

- Robert Bustamonte

How to File a Complaint

All workers have the right to wages and benefits under San Francisco's living wage law regardless of immigration status or legal authorization to work.

It is against the law for an employer to retaliate, threaten or discriminate against a worker for asserting their rights under the living wage law or informing other workers of their rights.

A worker has the right to report a violation of the living wage law to the City's enforcement agency which keeps the worker's identity confidential.

Office of Labor Standards Enforcement
City Hall room 430
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

ph. 415-554-6235
554-6292 – Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin
website: www.sfgov.org/olse

email addresses:
MCO@sfgov.org (for Minimum Compensation Ordinance)
HCAO@sfgov.org (for Health Care Accountability Ordinance)
MWO@sfgov.org (for Minimum Wage Ordinance)
PSL@sfgov.org (for Paid Sick Leave Ordinance)
HCSO@sfgov.org (for Health Care Security Ordinance)

The **Living Wage Coalition** is available to assist you in filing a complaint or asserting your rights. Please contact us:

San Francisco Living Wage Coalition

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San Francisco, CA 94103

ph.: 415-863-1225
email: sflivingwage@riseup.net
www.livingwage-sf.org

Help Low-wage Workers by Donating Goods to the...

Community Thrift Store
623 Valencia
(between 17th & 18th Sts.)

donation door - south side of building on Sycamore Alley (one-way from Mission to Valencia)

Donate in the name of the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition number 56

(on master list on door)
Open Every Day
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
receipts for tax deductions

“No Repair/Ready to Wear”
call 861-4910 with any questions on acceptable donations or to schedule donation pick up

Living Wage Coalition
TV Show

“It's Time for a Living Wage”
3rd Sunday of each month
7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Cable Channel 29



art by Rini Templeton

The Mobilizer is a publication of the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition.

Send articles and announcements for the next issue to the attention of *the Mobilizer*:

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