

UFCW Local 1776's Partner in Fresh Food Financing Initiative Receives Presidential Accolades



UFCW Local 1776 President Wendell Young, IV (L) with Brown's Super Stores CEO Jeff Brown (R).

President Obama in his first State of the Union address last week highlighted the efforts of the President and CEO of Brown's Super Stores, Jeff Brown, to bring supermarkets into underserved areas of Philadelphia, Pa., through the Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI).

UFCW Local 1776, which represents 2,300 Brown's ShopRite employees, has long been at the forefront of making sure that disenfranchised populations in Pennsylvania have access to well-supplied grocery stores with fresh food in the communities where they live.

Local 1776 was part of the original group that put together the FFFI for which Obama recognized Jeff Brown. The program combines state and private money to provide grants and loans for grocery-store development in underserved communities, also known as food deserts.

Thanks to the partnership, Brown's ShopRite was able to open the first new supermarket in the past 50 years in a section of West Philadelphia.

Since the inception of the program four years ago, the FFFI has become a model for communities nationwide committed to bringing nutritional foods and good jobs in their neighborhoods.

Nationwide, the UFCW is committed to addressing food deserts in inner cities and we are working on several initiatives with our retail partners to expand access to fresh food in low-income neighborhoods. **OP**

CALL YOUR SENATOR TODAY FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM!

The battle to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care is far from over, even though Democrats no longer have a 'filibuster proof majority.' Special budgetary procedures, such as the reconciliation process under which a simple majority is all that is needed to pass reforms, still make meaningful health care reform achievable.

Call your Senator today to let them know where you stand and what you expect from them. Emphasize the following points when you call:

- We must use reconciliation to pass a better health care bill; and
- Part time workers should be included in coverage and in the calculation of fees on employers.

Visit <http://www.fixthebill.org/> and use the 'click to call' feature to speak with your Senator. Fill in your information and provide a call back number. You will receive a call connecting you directly to your Senator's office. **OP**

UFCW Local 75 Members Accept New Agreement with Campbell Soup

UFCW Local 75 members at the Campbell Soup Supply Co., in Napoleon, Ohio, ratified a new three-year deal with the company. The new contract, which covers 1,100 workers, provides for:

- a wage increase of nearly six percent over the life of the contract;
- affordable health care; and
- improved benefits.

"A positive contract like this is good for workers at Campbell's, and good for our community," said Local 75 Secretary-Treasurer Steve Culter. "In this economic climate, workers continue to struggle just to hold on to what they have, so for us to make improvements like this is a real testament to the power of collective bargaining and to the solidarity of the members at Campbell's." **OP**

UFCW Local 271 Members in Crete, Neb., Ratify New Contract with Nestlé

Hundreds of UFCW Local 271 members at the Nestlé-Purina PetCare Crete, Neb., facility voted this past Sunday to accept a new contract with the company.

“This contract represents a win-win scenario for Nestlé-Purina and working Nebraskans,” said Brian Schwisow, President of UFCW Local 271.

The new four-year agreement covers 320 members and includes:

- raises of more than \$2/hour over the term of the contract;
- an increase of 15 percent in employer contributions to the pension fund; and
- maintenance of affordable health benefits.

“We work hard every day at the plant, and we worked hard at the bargaining table to negotiate a strong and fair agreement,” said Eric Reeder, who has worked at the facility for six years. “This contract is good for workers here, but it’s also a demonstration of what other workers at other plants can accomplish by standing together.” **OP**

Stand in Solidarity with Locked-Out UFCW Local 1245 Members

UFCW Local 1245 members at the Alden Leeds, Inc. South Kearny, N.J., plant have been locked out since the beginning of November.

While the 46 workers who work hard to make Alden Leeds successful have been trying to bargain in good faith to preserve quality jobs that set the standards for pay, benefits and working conditions in the North Jersey area, the company has refused to give the workers the respect they deserve.

You can show Local 1245 members your support by visiting the UFCW E-Activist page to send a letter to Alden Leeds Management demanding they show responsible economic leadership that would benefit the whole community. To take action, visit <https://secure3.convio.net/ufcw/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=153>. **OP**

UFCW CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH THIS FEBRUARY



Day Two of Woolworth Sit-In: (L to R) Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, Billy Smith & Clarence Henderson, 02/02/60.

Fifty years ago today, four African American students sat at a segregated lunch counter at the Woolworth store in Greensboro, N.C., beginning what would be later known as the Greensboro Sit-ins, an instrumental action in the American Civil Rights Movement to outlaw racial discrimination against African Americans.

February is Black History Month, a month of remembrance during which our nation and Canada pause to salute the contributions of men and women of African descent to our countries and to recognize their social achievements in all spheres of our lives: economic, political and cultural.

The history of African Americans in our country and labor history are intertwined. From the achievements of Black factory workers in the Jim Crow Era to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated in 1968 while helping striking sanitation workers in Memphis, to the preeminent role played by black labor leaders like A. Philip Randolph, black history has had a profound impact on labor history.

This February, we honor the accomplishments of those who paved the way as a reminder of the struggle before us: the fight for quality, affordable health care, retirement security, and meaningful labor law reform. **OP**