

WEBINAR

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GREATER MINNESOTA WORKER CENTER

December 6, 2017

WORKER CENTERS: WHAT AND WHY

- Community-based nonprofits
- Organize and support non-unionized low wage workers

GREATER MINNESOTA WORKER CENTER

- Founded in 2013, based in Saint Cloud, MN
- Multiethnic organization: different races, ethnicities, creeds, classes, edu attainment,

Mission:

- To support, organize, and build power to improve working conditions and raise wages for workers and to improve the quality of life in Greater MN

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Latinos
- Somali
- African Americans

PRIMARY ISSUE AREAS

- Immigrants rights
- Economic justice
- Social justice

STRATEGIES

- Organizing: 1-1s, direct action
- Education: OSHA training, leadership development, Voting
- Advocacy: Lobbying at city, state and federal level

CAMPAIGNS

- Poultry campaign: chicken and turkey plants
- Gas Stations/Convenient Stores: safety, wages
- Resist and Persist: organizing around immigration
- Democracy 2050: civic engagement

CHALLENGES

- Economic: ensuring economic security for working Americans- tax cuts v. spending on families
- Immigration: stopping the machinery of deportation, Muslim ban, divisive rhetoric, police-community relations
- Civic engagement: making everyone count, voter suppression

SUCSESSES

- Raising the state-wide minimum wage
- Raising the Minimum wage to \$15 in Minneapolis
- Passage the Wage Theft Prevention Act
- Winning thousands of dollars back in stolen wages for low wage workers
- Passing Welcoming Community resolution in St. Cloud
- Research Reports: <http://www.mygmwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Striving-for-a-Just-and-Safer-Workplace-Final-04262016.pdf>
- Petitions

PARTNERSHIPS

- Universities/colleges
- Faith-based organizations
- Labor Unions
- Community-based organizations

COLLABORATION WITH UU_s

- Showing up during our events, actions, rallies
- Serve on our board
- Become a sustaining membership \$\$\$
- Invite us to your congregational assemblies, events

CONTACT

- www.mygmwc.org
- [https://www.facebook.com/greatermnw
orkercenter/](https://www.facebook.com/greatermnworkercenter/)