

# Honoring our tradition of helping children with Holiday Toy Drive

By DAVID A. COOK  
President



COOK

UFCW Local 655 is doing something we haven't done before. This holiday season, we're partnering with the Salvation Army for a Holiday Toy Drive that we hope will bring a little joy to the less fortunate children in St. Louis.

Local 655 has a long tradition of helping those in need, one that stretches back to the very roots of the labor movement. We may be a century removed from children working in coal mines, but we continue to work to give everyone a better life to secure the future we all want.

In September we raised thousands of dollars for "Faces of our Children." This organization raises money to help fight Sickle Cell Anemia. We have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and in the three decades since this partnership began, child survival rates for this horrible family of illnesses has skyrocketed.

We've always seen it as our responsibility to be productive and generous members

of the communities we represent. As I've said in this column many times before, the strength of any union lies with its members. There are more than 10,000 of you in our UFCW family, and that many people working together can achieve incredible things.

That's why I hope to see great success with our Holiday Toy Drive this year. I have no doubt our partners like you care about the needy in this community, and with just a little bit of your time you can help us brighten the holiday of a child here in St. Louis.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "No one has ever become poor by giving." Sometimes it feels as though this country is becoming less giving as we hear more and more rhetoric about reducing even the slightest help to the people who need it most. But whatever politicians may decide, we can still serve as charitable partners of our community.

So this holiday season, join our effort to make someone's day a little brighter. Encourage a co-worker to do the same. Not only do we encourage our partners to take part, we will accept unwrapped new toys for children from anyone who wishes to lend their hand. Tell your family and friends we welcome their contribution, and they can come by our Union Hall any time to pitch in.

## Bon Appétit close to ratifying first union contract

Last spring more than 300 food-service workers at Bon Appétit—the company that provides food service for the students, staff and faculty at Washington University—voted overwhelmingly to join UFCW Local 655. Since then, Local 655 and representatives from the company have been negotiating their first union contract.

Now, Bon Appétit employees will be voting on a contract later this month that has the unanimous recommendation from the entire bargaining committee. The contract features new language related to the issues employees said were most important: pay,

respect on the job, seniority and time off.

"This is ultimately the decision of these hard-working people, but I believe when they see what we've bargained in this contract, they will be thrilled with it and want to accept," said Local 655 President David Cook. "This is the culmination of everything we talked about during the organizing campaign at Bon Appétit. It's their chance to see what the Union difference really means for their lives, and I'm excited to see this vote."

Bon Appétit employees will be voting on the contract on Nov. 22.

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## UFCW 655 makes the holidays happen Shop union this holiday season

The holidays are a busy time for many of our partners, especially those working in grocery stores. And while these next few weeks may be busy, our partners can take comfort in a rather important thought.

There is no other local union in the area that has a more direct impact on people's holidays than UFCW Local 655. So much of the holiday experience revolves around meals shared with family and friends. Thanksgiving dinner brings together families who often travel many miles to be together. Christmas dining isn't just restricted to just a dinner, as families share multiple meals as they experience the season together. Hanukkah brings families together with specific foods that are consumed out of tradition. The list goes on.

We want our partners and the public to know just how critical the UFCW is when it comes to making the holidays happen for

tens of thousands of families in the area. The hard work of our partners helps put food on tables that will welcome families of every kind to warm holiday gatherings.

You help people put food on their tables, and you do it while working at a job that offers good wages and great benefits. So don't just do your own shopping at a union grocery store this season, tell your family and friends and neighbors to do the same. Remind them that every dollar they spend on union groceries and gifts is a vote for the kind of world they want.

Every dollar spent at a business that pays poverty wages, offers no healthcare or retirement and doesn't respect its employees is a vote in favor of that kind of treatment. This holiday season, remember that UFCW Local 655 makes the holidays happen. And don't be afraid to remind others of that same fact.

## UNION-MADE THANKSGIVING SHOPPING LIST

### BREAD

- Pillsbury crescent rolls, frozen and bake rolls/breads—BCTGM
- Pillsbury pie crusts—BCTGM
- Stroehmann bakery products (for stuffing)—BCTGM

### DESSERT

- Sara Lee pumpkin, apple pie—BCTGM
- Mother's Kitchen pies and cakes—BCTGM
- Nabisco cookies—BCTGM

### COOKWARE/CUTLERY

- Cutco knife—USW
- All-Clad cookware—USW

### OTHER

- Kellogg's Corn Flakes (to top those sweet potato casseroles)—BCTGM
- Quaker Oats (for apple crisp)—BCTGM

*Find more Union-made food product listings at [www.labor411.org/city-directories/consumer-products](http://www.labor411.org/city-directories/consumer-products)*



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