

## FACT SHEET WAL-MART

The growth and success of Wal-Mart & Sam's Club family of stores is built upon consistent unfair labor practices, community destabilization and global injustice.

- Wal-Mart is the world's largest company in sales with revenues of over \$246 billion in 2002, and profit of over \$8 billion or \$7300 per employee. Yet, Wal-Mart employees do not earn a livable wage and are routinely subject to unjust labor practices.
- Wal-Mart employees earn between \$7.50-\$8.50 per hour.
- Wal-Mart employees earn less than the national average hourly wage of retail or grocery workers (union or non-union).
- Wal-Mart employees often do not earn enough to even meet the federal poverty level. In many places, a family of four with two persons working at Wal-Mart 34 hours per week falls below this poverty level.
- Wal-Mart's health care coverage is unaffordable and limited. Many employees never have coverage as Wal-Mart has a 70% employee rate turnover every year.
  - Full time employees are eligible for healthcare after 6 months
  - Part time employees are eligible after 2 years
- Wal-Mart faces lawsuits in 30 different states filed by hourly workers accusing the company of systematically forcing them to work overtime with no pay.
- Women comprise 65% of Wal-Mart's hourly employees, yet only approximately 30% of management is female. Over 1 million current and former female Wal-Mart employees have

filed a massive class action discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

- Through unfair intimidation, union busting, and other management techniques, Wal-Mart systematically opposes and suppresses the rights of workers to organize.
- Studies show that when Wal-Mart enters a town, small businesses within a certain radius are displaced because of Wal-Mart's low prices. Moreover, sales and wages of other businesses are forced to decrease because of Wal-Mart's low wages and prices. The result to the community is a net job loss, loss of higher paying jobs and loss of sales revenue to the city.
- Wal-Mart practices show that if a store is not profitable or has achieved the goal of driving out other local small businesses, then Wal-Mart just leaves the facility as an eyesore. This costs the locality exorbitantly to secure, and / or tear down the site leaving a cavity in the community.
- By transferring assets from the company profits to the Wal-Mart Foundation, Wal-Mart gets a huge tax break. The mission and objectives of the Foundation is to use those funds to influence conservative public policy.
- 50 - 60% of products in Wal-Mart stores come from abroad; 10% of all imports from China go directly to Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart's procurement and business practices in the world make it the biggest beneficiary of a cycle of buying products made by cheap labor, including child labor. Joblessness in America is spawned and increased by these practices.

Don't let the television media commercials fool you. Yes, prices may be cheaper. And we've seen images of happy smiling workers before. It was called slavery!

*Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will. Find out just what any man will quietly submit to, and you have found the exact measure of wrong and injustice which*

*will be imposed upon them. These to continue until resisted by words or blows or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the people whom they oppress.*

*~Frederick Douglass*