

Honoree

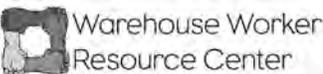


Worksafe is pleased to welcome the following representatives of the Warehouse Workers Campaign:

Sheheryar Kaosji, WWU
Veronica Alvarado, WWRC
Mike Long, WWU

Warehouse workers:

Marta Medina
Santos Castaneda
Yurguien Juarez
Jose Martinez
Javier Rodriguez



Worksafe is proud to honor the **Warehouse Workers Campaign**, which is led by a courageous group of warehouse workers and advocates from the Inland Empire in California. Specifically, we would like to recognize Warehouse Workers United (WWU), an organization supported by Change to Win, and the Warehouse Workers Resource Center (WWRC), for their grass-roots activism and broader policy efforts to improve the health and safety conditions for warehouse workers.

Roughly 85,000, mostly Latino, warehouse workers in the Inland Empire, which encompasses Riverside and San Bernardino counties, unpack and reload items onto trucks destined for major retailers like Walmart and Target. The majority of the workers are hired through staffing agencies, paid low wages, and receive little to no benefits. In addition, they routinely face hazardous working conditions such as high indoor heat temperatures (100 to 110°F) with very little ventilation, unsafe fork lifts speed limits, high pollutant exposure, and insufficient access to clean water.

On a shoe-string budget fueled by an amazing amount of passion, WWRC conducts know-your-rights trainings on worker health and

safety for warehouse workers. These trainings are key tools to empower workers to organize and push for a safer work environment in warehouses. In the last two years, warehouse workers, with the help of WWU and WWRC, filed significant Cal/OSHA complaints against a major warehouse employer, National Distribution Centers (NDC), in the Inland Empire. As a result, more than \$200,000 in citations have been issued against NDC, as well as Tri-State Staffing, the agency responsible for staffing the warehouses.

Worksafe is currently providing technical assistance to lawyers assisting warehouse workers with their Cal/OSHA administrative appeal. We are aiming to ensure company accountability for indoor heat issues as well as for more proactive measures by the warehouse employers to provide training and prevention strategies regarding indoor heat illness. WWU and WWRC continue to support warehouse workers in obtaining health and safety citations against other warehouse employers to make warehouses a safer work environment. Their recent



focus has been on ergonomic issues faced by these workers. Moreover, they are championing the fight against big retailers, such as Walmart, who are responsible for setting into play a chain of events,

through their contracting policies, that lead to weakened worker rights, fewer benefits, and dangerous working conditions.

Worksafe applauds the effort of the Warehouse Workers United campaign and stands in solidarity with the warehouse workers.