Low-wage workers send message that wage theft has no place in ABQ!

On April 15, members of the CENTRO, allies and a group of ex-employees of the restaurants of Hacienda del Río, M’tucci and Scalos who were victims of wage theft, were in front of the building of the city council carrying out a press conference to encourage the City to provide resources and enforce minimum wage laws in Albuquerque.

"Wage theft puts honest companies at a competitive disadvantage," said Dalia Hernandez, representative of Taqueria Mexico. "As owners of small businesses, we must value the work of our employees and recognize their role to ensure that we have a successful business. One way to do this is to ensure that our employees receive fair wages and that we comply with all applicable labor laws."

The workers also attended the city council meeting that same day to share their stories with the councilors, and educate them about the impact of wage theft on new Mexican families and the economy, and urge the Council and the Mayor Keller to include the minimum wage application in his budget for fiscal year 2019.
"My message to all workers is that they must report cases of wage theft and organize to fight for our rights, regardless of our immigration status," said Guillermo Camacho who was victim of wage theft at the Hacienda del Rio restaurant in Albuquerque.

If you have been a victim of wage theft or if you need more information on how to file wage claims and how to participate in -

**International Workers Day a Success!**

Due to the help and support of the community, amazing immigrant/locally owned businesses, allies and El CENTRO members this year we were able to have a successful May Day event celebrating International Workers Day!

During the event we were able to educate workers about their rights, rise up working families, as well as thank elected officials that helped passed laws that help better the lives of low-wage/immigrant workers.

This year we’ve had several low-wage worker victories which include recent policy wins to raise the state minimum wage, “mano a mano” with a coalition of ally organizations, to $12 in phases by 2023. Also, better protections for domestic workers under the minimum wage act, and to greatly expand protections to immigrant families in Bernalillo County to ensure that the County isn’t complicit in fueling Trump’s deportation machine.

"For years we have fought for better laws that protect our immigrant working community and help our families prosper in our city and we have finally achieved several victories this year," said Alicia Saenz, member of CENTRO. "But our fight still continues and today more than ever we must move forward."

We are proud of the vital contributions that low-wage immigrant workers play in the cultural, economic, and civic life of our state.

Thank you to all who supported this years May Day event! Let continue to work together in solidarity to empower workers and strengthen policies to ensure a better life for ALL in our city and state.

"Have you seen El CENTRO’s new shirt? Get yours today! Call El CENTRO today at: 505.246.1627"
This month of May, El CENTRO will launch its self-proclaimed worker’s month, in which El CENTRO will have activities throughout the month to inform and promote labor rights and the contributions of our workers, as well as the recruitment of workers interested in participating in our struggle for labor rights in our state.

The month began with the celebration of International Workers’ Day, which acknowledges the latest achievements of low-wage workers this year, which includes increasing the state minimum wage and better protections for domestic workers under minimum wage laws.

"During our month of justice for workers, we want to inform and encourage workers to be better educated about their rights," said Marian Mendez Cera, a community organizer at El Centro. "Also, for those who have been victims of wage theft, file a wage claim and participate in the worker committees of El CENTRO.

"This month of May we must not stop, we must continue fighting in solidarity for better rights for low-wage workers in our city and state," said Berta Campos, member of CENTRO.

This year El CENTRO has been part of major changes locally and statewide. These include campaigns to help get out the vote which resulted in the election of Democratic leaders who helped pass several bills this past legislative session which include a raise to the states minimum wage, better protections for domestic workers. Also, due to efforts by our members and allies in BernCo, a resolution was passed that will make BernCo more friendly towards immigrant families.

With all these achievements, CENTRO wishes to share more of its events, workshops, meetings, campaigns and initiatives through its social networks. Including our new Instagram page called @elcentronm.

Finally, El CENTRO has a new t-shirts with our new logo. If you want the new center shirt call (505) 246-1627 to find out how you can get a shirt.

So, what are you waiting for? Be sure to follow us on Facebook and on our new Instagram page!
State Laws to Change for Domestic Workers

After years of fighting for better protections for domestic workers (who clean our homes, take care of our children and loved ones with special needs) they will finally be protected by New Mexico’s minimum wage Act.

Domestic workers will see this change starting on June 14, which is when SB85 will finally be officially implemented as a law in our state.

Domestic workers have been left out of many labor protections throughout history, and they usually have very few options when they are not paid, SB 85 will solve this!

“We are proud of the work that domestic workers provide," said Alicia Saenz, also a member of El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos. “It is invisible work, fraught with exploitation such as wage theft, and historically, our work has not been given the value it deserves.”

SB 85 guarantees that people who work hard in other people’s homes are guaranteed fundamental labor protections like everyone else.

Donate to El CENTRO by going to their PayPal page