

# WORKERS' DIGNITY | 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

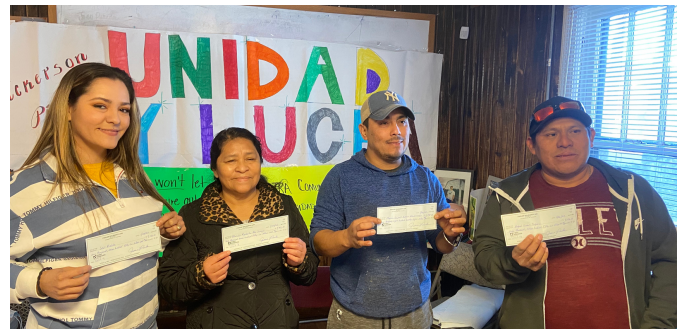
## WORKERS TOGETHER CAN CHANGE HISTORY

Workers' Dignity is an organization led by low-wage workers who know that they deserve to live and work with dignity. We believe that transforming society requires working-class people of all races, ages, and walks of life to build resilient and democratic organizations capable of disrupting strategic institutions and industries. Only then will we be able to seize power and shape our own conditions. We will continue to organize with the rigor, joy, and urgency that this moment requires. The following are some of the highlights from 2022.

### WORKERS RECLAIM THEIR RIGHT TO THEIR CITY

#### DRUS got paid!

Dickerson Road United in Struggle (DRUS) is a tenant union formed by longtime East Nashville mobile home residents who organized after being struck with a 2-month notice to move out of their homes. Last year, they organized and won 3-month rent-free extension to move out. In January, after fighting a long battle for their right to remain in their community, DRUS members ultimately received financial support with relocation, and \$200,000 in compensation from developer Key Real Estate, starting the year off on the right foot!



*DRUS members receiving their checks!*

#### Built on Faith: First Congregations and Affordable Housing Summit

Workers' Dignity, the Southeast Center for Cooperative Development, Belmont United Methodist Church, non-profit developer Urban Housing Solutions, NOAH, and Elmahaba Center organized the Built on Faith Summit, an all-day gathering of congregations who are interested in solving Nashville's affordable housing crisis.

Faith congregations own approximately 1800 acres of land in Nashville. How many of them are clinging to vacant buildings or surplus land that could easily be converted into affordable housing? How many have the financial assets to develop housing for the tens of thousands of Nashvillians who need it? This initial conversation shined a light on these questions and brought solutions to the table. We were so energized by the reception! Faith leaders, non-profit developers, city officials and community members were among the dozens of attendees, and they all want to #HouseThePeople!

#### Collaboration with the Southeast Center for Cooperative Development (SEC4CD)

We have been working closely with the SEC4CD to educate our membership and local decision-makers on solidarity economy models of affordable housing that prioritize the agency of working-class residents while ensuring the long-term affordability of the land. We have so much in the works for 2023!

#### Gatewood Ave residents secure more time

Gatewood Ave Trailer Park residents secured a 6-month rent-free extension to move out!

***We are continuing to organize alongside working-class tenants. Stay tuned in 2023!***



*Built on Faith Summit, November 2022*

## WE WON'T DIE TO GENTRIFY! CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ORGANIZE FOR SAFE CONSTRUCTION JOBS.



*Vigil for Pedro Omar. Picture by David Piñeros.*

### The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) Visit Workers' Dignity

We received a delegation of CIW leaders (the OGs!) in our little yellow house. During their visit, our members laid out their vision to transform the Nashville construction industry using the same tools & rigor that the Immokalee farmworkers used to shift power in Florida's tomato fields.

### Dores Workers Solidarity Network

We supported the incubation of the Dores Workers Solidarity Network, a group of Vanderbilt University students organizing to raise class consciousness and stand in solidarity with blue-collar workers at Vanderbilt. Stay tuned for more!

### Collaboration with ROC Music City

We teamed up with ROC Music City to train coffee & restaurant workers on how to organize, including Barista Parlor workers & Coffee Workers of the South, the first coffee union in Nashville!

### Workers fight back!

Our Workers' Nights members celebrated 20 wage theft victories this year and counting! Also, we are supporting Las Guerreras Hondureñas, a group of 7 Honduran women who were terminated from the company EventWorks after they went on strike to demand long-promised pay raises. Follow us to learn how to support!

### Workers are human, jobs shouldn't kill

Families of fallen construction workers and injured construction workers have been leading our health and safety programming in 2022. In the Spring, they organized 2 powerful actions to honor our loved ones who have died while building Nashville in observation of Workers Memorial Week. In the Summer, the health and safety committee helped train 90 construction workers to identify and prevent hazards in the workplace. They also have met with US Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh & Deputy Labor Secretary Julie Sue; and participated in OSHA's Worker Summit in Washington, D.C., to bring forward their demands for safe construction jobs in Nashville.



*CIW leaders visit Nashville*

### Nelson Nuñez joins WD as Lead Organizer!

As a boy in Honduras, Nelson helped his union-leader father process banana plantation workers' claims against Chiquita. After decades supporting agricultural workers across Latin America, Nelson faced intensifying threats from agribusiness and was forced to flee to the U.S. In 2022, he joined our team to lead our construction campaign. You might recognize him from his show on WDYO/Radio Dignidad (104.1FM/wdyo.org)!

### We are skilling up!

We organized Justice School, a weekend-long of quality organizing & political education workshop-the turnout energized us! Since then, our compas have been facilitating regular training to sharpen their skills and deepen their analysis.

**Organized workers have the power.  
La lucha sigue!**