

Tell Wal-Mart: Pay a Living Wage in Ithaca!

What is this about?

Wal-Mart is opening a new store in Ithaca, but unless we make our voices heard it will be business as usual: low pay, few benefits, little respect for workers and their families. The first step in making our voices heard is to write to the new store manager telling him that Wal-Mart is a company that can afford to do better.

Write to:

Mr. Dave Jacobson
Ithaca Wal-Mart General Manager
PO Box 6433
Ithaca, NY 14851

What to do with your letter:

After sending it to the above address, please mail or e-mail a copy to us (see contact information below) so we have a record of all the letters sent.

What to say in your letter (talking points):

1. Let Wal-Mart know that you are looking forward to shopping at the new Ithaca Wal-Mart or, if you will not shop there, indicate that you know others in the community will. Reason: the many working families in our community whose low wages force them to monitor their spending carefully will benefit from the wide selection, quality merchandise and low prices that a Wal-Mart store promises (and hopefully will make good on this promise).
2. Let Wal-Mart also know, however, that we expect more from large and very profitable companies like Wal-Mart. **Workers also need to be paid a living wage**, be treated with respect and in a fair and equitable way, and we are writing Wal-Mart to let them know that this is our expectation.
3. **Unfortunately, Wal-Mart does not pay a living wage. Cashiers and others often earn less than \$7/hour!** Many Wal-Mart associates, even those working full-time, make \$12,000 or less a year, far below a living wage. (Note the living wage for a *single person* in Tompkins County has been calculated as \$19,102 or \$9.18/hour, not including health insurance). Working families need living wages and Wal-Mart should pay a living wage.
4. Working families also need **affordable, quality health insurance**. But high premiums and deductibles, and restrictions on employee eligibility, prevent too many Wal-Mart employees from getting coverage under the company plan.
5. **Wal-Mart can do better. Its profit last year was \$9 billion (\$9,000,000,000), and it is already the largest company in the world.** Five of the ten richest people in America have gotten their huge wealth (\$100 billion) through Wal-Mart.

Need More Information?

Contact Carl Feuer or Pete Meyers to receive a fact sheet (269-0409 or TCWRC@yahoo.com).

Wal-Mart: A Company that Can Afford to Do Better

The Ithaca Wal-Mart Living Wage Campaign is sponsored by the Tompkins County Living Wage Coalition/Workers' Rights Center. Contact us at 269-0409 or TCWRC@yahoo.com or 115 The Commons, Ithaca