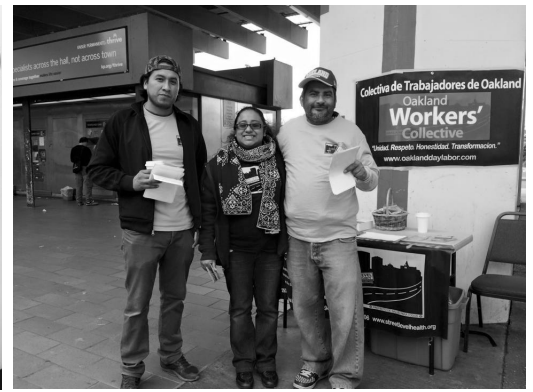


Taking Training to Action: the Growth of the OWC



Written by Janelle Zuazo, staff member

Today, members of the Oakland Worker's Collective are celebrating the increase of Oakland's minimum wage from \$9 to \$12.25. The increase, put into effect on March 2nd, marks the culminated efforts and achievements of the OWC in advocating and informing others of the importance of a livable minimum wage. With the passing of Measure FF, Oakland now has the highest minimum wage in the country.

The road to the increase began long ago at Street Level. Members of the OWC received specialized training and leadership development courses that equipped them with the tools necessary to be active participants at the civic level. These trainings empowered the day laborers to advocate for their right to a livable wage. The day laborers' representation in the community has greatly increased; members of the OWC frequently appeared on the local news channels advocating and informing others of their needs. Additionally, the Oakland Worker's Collective participated in marches and actions in partnership with other organizations, such as Lift Up Oakland and East Bay Fast Food Workers, to reclaim their right to a livable wage.

The passing of FF is another milestone for the Colectiva's civic involvement and increasing representation in the Bay Area. OWC members have already taken to the streets of Oakland to inform the community of the wage increase and the positive effects that it will have on almost 48,000 workers, 20,000 of those being Latino immigrants. With this victory under their belts, the Colectiva is well on their way to establishing a permanent and long-lasting presence for a marginalized community that previously had no voice.

The OWC day laborers will continue to fight for a livable wage in the Bay Area and plan to participate in the "Fight for \$15" march on April 15th in partnership with the Fast Food Workers' movement, unions, and other organizations that are building a coalition in support of livable wages and the right to unionize. If you would like to get involved alongside the day laborers, please check these links for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/Fightfor15> <https://www.facebook.com/workerscollective>