

Did You Know?



From Left to right: Elizabeth Walters, IHM; Dr. Justin Sledge; Pastor W.J. Rideout; Rabbi Alana Alpert; and in the back, Rev. Ed Rowe.

Did you know that the IHM Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office (JPSO) was present and active at a recent event dedicated to reducing income disparity, promoting a living wage for workers and encouraging deeper commitment to the common good for the wider community?

On Nov. 28, 2014, (Black Friday) this event started at 8 a.m. at the Walmart located at 44575 Mound Rd. in Sterling Heights with gathering, greetings, songs and presentations. A large and diverse group participated. Representatives from many unions were present including the UAW, D15, SEIU, IBEW, AFT, Unite and Union Yes. Also, members of Jobs for Justice, Peace Action, MCHR, Good Jobs Now, Community Making Change, Meta Peace Team, Methodist and Baptist communities, and Mercy Sisters and IHM Sisters participated.

During the rally, a group of five of us from the interfaith religious community, who had been invited by event planners, met with management of this Walmart to present letters from each of us and to present thousands of petition signatures calling for a living wage for workers and action on behalf of the common good. The petition signatures had been gathered during the weeks preceding this event.

Our visit with management happened during the rally. We carried out our task prayerfully without incident, noting that more than 30 police and private security officers were engaged in “protecting” Walmart during the nonviolent rally and our nonviolent visit!

After our interfaith group returned to the rally and when participants left for the day, the planning committee of this event assigned visits to many other Walmart stores in metro Detroit. I joined Kim Redigan in talking with managers at the Walmart located at 29574 Seven Mile and at the Walmart at 29555 Plymouth Rd.

The day was long. It was also filled with lots of collaboration, good work and many blessings!

As a follow-up to this inspiring and energizing social justice event, Kim Redigan, Ed Rowe and I are pledging to help revive and bring to NEW LIFE Detroit Interfaith Worker Justice as we continue to work for reduced income disparity, a living wage for all and commitment to the common good. Please see information about the national movement, Interfaith Worker Justice, at www.iwj.org.

We would be grateful beyond words if you would consider joining us in prayer and action on behalf of this very important work! If interested call us at 313-204-6350.

Your sister,
Elizabeth Walters, IHM
Part-time Outreach Coordinator for IHM JPSO