

# SEIU LOCAL 73 PRIDE

*A voice for SEIU Local 73 members working for non-profit community-based social service organizations*



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May 2011

*Serving those who are called to serve*

## SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE MOVE! COME TO LOBBY DAY MAY 18

**Era of crisis =  
time for action**

### Lobby Day May 18

We are calling on all SEIU Local 73 Social Service workers to come to Lobby Day in Springfield Wednesday, May 18.

Buses will leave from Teamster City, 300 S. Ashland Ave., at 6:30 a.m. May 18 en route to Springfield. After a rally, you will head to your state representative's and senator's offices to lobby them against cutting vital Social Services.

You will return to Chicago at approximately 5 p.m. that day.

Call the Member Resource Center at 312.588.7630 to reserve your spot on the bus and show your legislators you're ready to fight for your rights!



CTBA Executive Director Ralph Martire is joined by officials from Social Service agencies around Illinois at a press conference April 27

## Something's rotten in Illinois Underfunding of Human Services

Late last month, several Social and Human Service agencies came together in Springfield to tell the Illinois legislature to stop devastating and unnecessary cuts to vital services. This first meeting between these agencies was an important step forward, but it only counts if we back it up with peoples' power!

There are four areas that make up the vast majority of the Illinois state budget – Education, Health Care, Public Safety, and Human Services. Human Services are 20% of the budget. While fiscal crisis, recession and budget cuts have hurt all four areas, **Human-Social Services have been disproportionately cut and have been hurt the worst!** When you take into account inflation and population growth (which means more people in need to serve) Human Services have been cut by \$4.4 billion in the last eight years, according to the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. State spending on Human Services has failed to keep pace with inflation in every year since 2003. And in 2003, Illinois already was spending less than most other states on Human Services.

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### SAVE THE DATES!

May 14  
**General Membership Meeting**  
Teamster City, Chicago

July 23  
**Local 73 Picnic**  
Miller Meadow, Maywood

October 1  
**Local 73 Member Convention**  
McCormick Place, Chicago

## Underfunding Illinois (continued from page 1)

We work for privately owned non-profit agencies that rely upon state funding. But did you know that 75% of Human Services in Illinois are delivered by private organizations? That means we social service workers - underpaid, and with inadequate benefits, often having to work two jobs while caring for our children and furthering our education - are carrying the load of taking care of our fellow Illinois residents who are most in need. Without our work, homelessness, crime, the brutal warehousing of people in state institutions who might otherwise lead productive all would increase out of control.

### **ACT LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT – IT DOES!**

The next round of budget cuts threatens to wipe out entire programs and agencies that are delivering these vital services. What kind of society are we becoming? The Governor's office has estimated a \$1.1 billion dollar shortfall in State revenues. To make matters worse, the State House has irresponsibly and inaccurately doubled the estimated shortfall, which could result in even worse cuts. A broad coalition fighting for a sane and responsible approach to Illinois' budget.

*The point however, is that from within that coalition our voices – the community-based social service workers --must be visible and must be heard loud and clear NOW! This has not happened enough in the past and we cannot delay in coming forward. For yourself, your family, the citizens in need that you serve, and for a decent society – make the commitment and be there at Lobby Day May 18!*

# Social Service Bargaining Unit Roundup

## **Anixter Center:**

Serving disabled people especially on Chicago's north side. A tentative CBA was reached and ratified. A wage freeze proposal was defeated and we secured a 1.75% wage increase in year 1 with reopeners to follow. Among many positive changes won include reducing the number of parent-teacher conferences at Ferst School in line with Chicago Public Schools; right to emergency comp (ATO) time for teachers; guarantees of Union access to new hire orientation; greater advance notice of medication passing exams for residential workers. A number of concessions demanded by the employer were also defeated. By agreement, there will be sidebar negotiations to address fairness and equity in the procedures for medication passing. A very productive recent meeting of residential workers has identified key issues and demands for the bargaining.

## **Envision Unlimited (formerly CARC):**

Serving developmentally disabled people especially on Chicago's Southside. The Union's bargaining committee defeated the vast majority of management proposals that would have gutted many hard-won rights over the years. Victories include a

first-time ever recall rights provision, important guarantees that part-time workers who are scheduled consistently for more than 24 hours per week will become Union members with full rights to just cause and to benefits; greater access and visibility to new members at orientation and at residential sites; new rights regarding bumping, just cause, overtime, evaluations, and bereavement. Defeating proposals for a wage freeze, the Union secured a \$500 bonus plus increases of 1%, 1.5% and 1.5% over 3 years.

## **Grand Prairie Services:**

Behavioral health services in the south suburbs. The Union is monitoring the agreement to create a "temporary vacancy pool," giving bargaining unit members the first shot at all work instead of the old extensive use of non-Union "registry" workers. Labor-Management meetings have been held as part of an effort to deal with the State's move to fees for services and the pressures that creates on the members. The Union is preparing for upcoming wage reopener bargaining.

## **Jewish Federation:**

Five agencies serving primarily the Chicago area's Jewish community and others in need. Facing proposals for a cut in

wages followed by a freeze, the bargaining committee secured 1% and 2% increases in years 2 and 3. We won important new guarantees which include if part-timers exceed the agreed upon hours, they will become Union members with just cause rights and benefits. The contract also includes greater fairness in evaluations as well as first time ever "sunset" provisions, where most disciplines will no longer count after certain time periods. Medical benefits were protected and improved despite the difficult times.

## **The Larkin Center:**

Serving youth in the western suburbs, this unit was recently brought in to the Social Services Division. The recently ratified non-professional CBA has won new rights to dignity and respect; bumping rights, fair layoff procedures, advance notice to Union layoffs; wage reopeners are subject to grievance and arbitration if at impasse. Field Organizer Tim Ball is meeting regularly with members and recruiting new stewards. A ratification vote on the Professionals' CBA has been scheduled.



# Social Services Members Essay Contest

The Social Services Division of SEIU Local 73 presents its inaugural Essay Contest!

## Who

Any Local 73 member working for Anixter, Envision, Grand Prairie Services, The Jewish Federation (CJE, JCC, JCFS, JVS, JUF-JFMC), The Larkin Center, Philip Rock School and Center, or Regional Mental Health Center.

## What

Write 400 words or less on the following: *How do cuts in Social Service funding affect the lives of clients and their families, social service workers and their families, the Social Service Agencies themselves, and the broader community?*

The winning essay will be sent to Governor Pat Quinn, (and/or Governor Mitch Daniels), will be printed in a future Local 73 Newsletter and featured the Union's website, SEIU73.org.

**Let your experience and professionalism speak for those that cannot. Join in the essay contest and let Illinois lawmakers and citizens know what's happening to Social Services.**

## Send your essay to:

Paul Siegel, Division Director, Social Services

SEIU Local 73, 300 S. Ashland Av Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60607

Email: [psiegel@seiu73.org](mailto:psiegel@seiu73.org)

Fax: 312 588-7487

## WIN

**First Place: SEIU Jacket (\$250 value, pictured to the right)**

**Second Place: SEIU t-shirt**

**Third Place: SEIU hat**

**Deadline for submitting essay: July 15, 2011**



Win this jacket, a \$250 value, in the Local 73 essay contest

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# Homerun challenge

## What

Local 73 Wiffle ball (slow pitch) homerun challenge championship tournament

## When

Local 73 picnic, Saturday, July 23, 2011

Two-person teams will play in a double-elimination tournament on the day of the picnic. Games will be three innings. All equipment will be provided. Rules and prizes will be available at a later date.

**Come out to the picnic and play ball!**



## Stand Up Chicago campaign kicks off

Local 73 kicked off the Fight For a Fair Economy Campaign under the banner "Stand Up Chicago" earlier this month.

Part of a nation-wide thrust, the campaign is run by Union member leaders who are organizing in six Chicago neighborhoods. The goal is to get people involved in challenging the outrageous and growing inequalities of income, the lack of investment in jobs, affordable housing and health care, and the attacks by the right on working people. In the first day of the six weeks of canvassing, 575 people signed cards committing to fight for a fair economy!

This is a reflection of the anger among the people at rich investment bankers who have gambled with our homes and jobs and gotten rich while unemployment grew, and at the politicians who have protected them.

Visit [SEIU73.org](http://SEIU73.org) for more information on Stand Up Chicago and how you can participate.

## Indiana attacks Social Services to meet working people's needs

In Indiana, Unions and community members are fighting back to protect and expand access to social services. Indiana politicians are cynically using hot-button items like abortion and same-sex marriage to justify new laws, which in reality go far beyond these issues to impact working families.

For example, Governor Mitch Daniels supports HEA 1210, which denies \$3 million to Planned Parenthood. As many as 22,000 low-income Hoosiers will lose vital services, including access to lifesaving tests for cervical and breast cancer and epidemic sexually transmitted disease, according to Planned Parenthood.

Local 73, including the Social Service workers on Regional Mental Health Centers are mobilizing to fight these new attacks.

To read more on the ongoing fight in Indiana, visit [SEIU73.org](http://SEIU73.org).

# Know your Steward

Each newsletter we will spotlight a different Social Services Union Steward to learn more about. This issue's Steward is Walter Green, co-chief steward at Anixter Center and a 39 year veteran at that agency.

### When did you first become a Steward and why?

I became a Steward in 1976. We voted to unionize and we went on strike successfully for recognition. During the 3 ½ week strike, I was a picket captain. It was a very cold winter to be picketing every day and it was my job to keep people motivated. Then I decided to be a Steward and when the original chief steward, Steve Jaffe, went to part-time, I became chief steward. Lee Washington later joined me as co-chief steward.



### It sounds like the Union at Anixter was really born in struggle. How did things go after the strike?

At first, there was bitterness and conflict. After about a year, we had a productive relationship with the new executive director they hired and have been at it ever since.

### What are the most important things you've accomplished as chief steward?

We have built a labor-management relationship based on principles of dignity and respect. The strike in 1976 was triggered by health and safety concerns, and we have good contractual provisions on that which have continued to be effective.

Just today, we had a productive Labor-Management meeting on a health and safety issue. These health and safety concerns involve the needs of both the workers and the clients. As employees, we are dedicated above all to the needs of our clients, and that carries over into our Union activities. Our interests as Union workers go hand-in-hand with fighting for the needs of the clients.

### What would you say to young people about why they should become Stewards and activists?

When you become Union and keep it strong, you come away with rights instead of privileges. You're not an at-will employee, and you get input into policies and can make sure policies are implemented fairly across the board. Don't let those rights be lost.

## Check out the new Local 73 website

[SEIU73.org](http://SEIU73.org) has a new look. You will find many options on the new website that were not in place previously.



- **Calendar of events:** A calendar full of membership meetings, rallies, and other Union related events is on the right side of the page. Click on an event to find out more details as well as the time and location of the event. A larger version of the calendar is available by clicking on the calendar tab at the top of the main page.
- **Recent headlines:** The most recent news from around the Union and nation can be found under the 'Recent items' posting on the main page. More news can be found under each division's page, which are accessible in a drop-down menu on the top of the main page.