

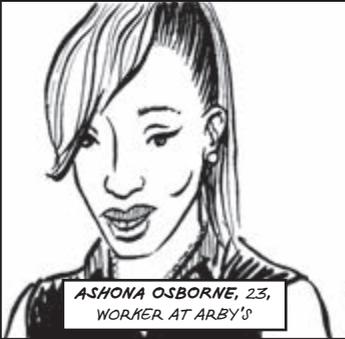
FACES OF \$15

LOCAL VOICES INVOLVED IN THE 'FIGHT FOR \$15,' A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AMONG LOW-WAGE WORKERS FOR \$15 AN HOUR AND UNION RIGHTS.

BY EM DEMARCO
MAY 27, 2015

"THIS CAMPAIGN ISN'T JUST FOR FAST-FOOD WORKERS. IT'S FOR LOW-WAGE EMPLOYEES ... THE FACT THAT WE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT RUN THE NATION, WE ARE STILL STRUGGLING. WE HAVE TO RELY ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE."

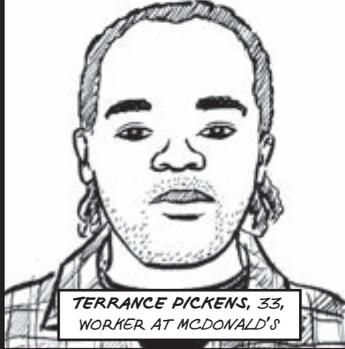
"WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD."



ASHONA OSBORNE, 23,
WORKER AT ARBY'S

"I'M A SINGLE FATHER, SO TRUST ME, \$7.25, THAT'S NOT CUTTING IT ... I CAN BARELY KEEP UP ON MY BILLS. I'VE GOT TO DO SIDE WORK JUST TO MAKE ENDS MEET."

"EVERYBODY DESERVES TO BE ABLE TO LIVE COMFORTABLY ... IT'S GOT TO CHANGE."



TERRANCE PICKENS, 33,
WORKER AT MCDONALD'S

"RIGHT NOW THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER IS PAYING FOR THESE FAMILIES TO MAKE ENDS MEET WHILE SUBSIDIZING THE PROFITS OF THESE CORPORATIONS."

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, I DO THINK WE'RE A NATION IN DENIAL ABOUT WHO'S PAYING THE PRICE FOR POVERTY IN AMERICA."



NATALIA RUDIAK, 35, PITTSBURGH
CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 4

"MINORITIES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY THIS. SO, AS A MINORITY, IT'S MY JOB TO FIGHT FOR MY PEOPLE WHEN I CAN."

"IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE THINK THAT CARING IS GOING BEYOND WHAT YOU NEED TO DO. WHEN IT'S REALLY JUST WHAT YOU SHOULD DO."



BEMMA PIETERSTON, 21,
ACTIVIST

"PEOPLE WITH LOWER INCOMES ARE BEING RUN OUT OF TOWN, SO THEY CAN BUILD THIS 'NEW PITTSBURGH' ... SOME PEOPLE WILL END UP LIVING WAY OUT, HAVING TO CATCH THE BUS INTO PITTSBURGH TO WORK AT MCDONALD'S ... OR WORK AT UPMC FOR LOW WAGES."

"WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE WHO THE WORKERS ARE THAT REALLY ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE SMOOTH OPERATIONS OF THINGS."



CARL REDWOOD, 62, CHAIRPERSON,
HILL DISTRICT CONSENSUS GROUP

"[POLLUTION] ENDS UP IN THE POORER COMMUNITIES ... WHEN WE WOULD TALK TO FOLKS ABOUT THE AIR QUALITY THERE, SOME WOULD SAY, 'WELL I GET THAT, BUT TODAY I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO FEED MY KIDS. HOW I'M GOING TO GET TO WORK.' ... WE NEED TO BE PART OF A MOVEMENT THAT IS BUILDING POWER IN THOSE COMMUNITIES."



THOMAS HOFFMAN, 67, CONSERVATION
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SIERRA CLUB

"I BELIEVE EVERYBODY IS AFFECTED BY WORKERS MAKING MINIMUM WAGE. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AND CRIMES BEING DONE, A LOT OF IT COMES DOWN TO PEOPLE NOT HAVING JOBS. OR, IF THEY DO HAVE JOBS, PEOPLE ARE NOT MAKING ENOUGH MONEY TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES."



LEON FORD JR., 22,
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

"IN LIFE, YOU KIND OF ACCEPT IF YOU DON'T MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS."

"BUT, IT'S NOT LIKE THE JOB I DO ISN'T IMPORTANT — IT DEFINITELY IS. IT'S A LIFE-AND-DEATH JOB ... MY CLIENT IS AN OLD LADY, SHE IS A SERIOUS FALL RISK."



TYRONE HEATH, 40,
HOME CARE WORKER

"IT'S IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE IN THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH BECAUSE IT BOOSTS THE ECONOMY. THE MORE MONEY WE MAKE, THE MORE WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO BUY THINGS THAT WE CAN'T BUY NOW."

"A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE OWN HOMES. HOW DO THEY PAY TAXES ON THEIR HOMES? I KNOW I'M HAVING A HARD TIME."



MARY ANN WILLIAMS,
65, WORKER AT UPMC

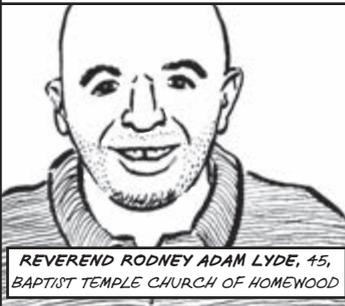
"WHEN YOU GO TO COLLEGE, YOU EXPECT TO BE MAKING ALL THIS MONEY BECAUSE YOU DID EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO."

"YOU WORK ALL THESE HOURS AND DEDICATE ALL THIS TIME TO YOUR JOB, AND YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH AT THE END OF THE DAY."



CHRISTINE ANDERSON, 33,
NURSING HOME WORKER

"AS A MINISTER IN A CHURCH, I STAND ON A LEGACY OF PEOPLE THAT — WERE THEY NOT FIGHTING — WE WOULDN'T HAVE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE FAIR HOUSING ACTS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE DISMANTLING OF SEPARATE-BUT-EQUAL. FIGHTING MEANS, IN LARGE PART, GETTING A GLIMPSE OF HOW YOU SEE THE WORLD OUGHT TO BE. AND THEN BEING INVESTED IN MAKING IT AS SUCH."



REVEREND RODNEY ADAM LYDE, 45,
BAPTIST TEMPLE CHURCH OF HOMEWOOD

"THE LAW JUST ISN'T THE ANSWER, AT LEAST NOT AT THIS TIME. SO THAT'S WHY THE FIGHT FOR \$15 MOVEMENT IS IMPORTANT, BECAUSE FOR A LOT OF LOW-WAGE WORKERS — A LOT OF WOMEN IN THESE HORRIBLE WORKPLACE SITUATIONS — TELLING THEM TO GET A LAWYER AND GO TO COURT JUST IS NOT A SOLUTION."



SUSAN FRIETSCHKE, 58, SENIOR STAFF
ATTORNEY, WOMEN'S LAW PROJECT

"WE'RE NOT TAKING IT ANYMORE. WE ARE SPEAKING OUT. AND IT IS TIME FOR THE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO START GETTING PAID. THESE CEOs DON'T REALIZE THAT WITHOUT US, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE A COMPANY."

"WE DESERVE THE RESPECT AND THE RAISES THAT WE ASK FOR. IT'S ONLY FAIR."



MARIA CENTENO, 46,
SECURITY GUARD

"PEOPLE THINK THAT WE JUST FLIP BURGERS, WE JUST TAKE YOUR ORDERS AND WE MESS UP YOUR ORDERS. NO, WE'RE HUMAN BEINGS, TOO. THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF WE GO THROUGH. WE GET BURNED. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE HEALTH CARE. WE'RE FORCED TO GO TO WORK WHEN WE'RE SICK."



CHRIS ELLIS, 26, WORKER
AT MCDONALD'S

"YOU GO TO BATTLE, YOU NEED NUMBERS. POLITICIANS, YOU NEED NUMBERS ... AND THE FIGHT FOR \$15 MOVEMENT — EVERY DAY, OUR NUMBERS ARE GROWING."

"DON'T BE AFRAID TO STAND WITH US. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE, IN NO WAY SHAPE OR FORM, ALONE."



LENA GERMANY, 22,
WORKER AT KFC