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Please show your support!

To meet our winter fundraising drive goals, we need to secure 15 new sustainers by February 1st. Our Sweatfree Sustainers donate a small amount monthly - \$10, \$15, \$20 or more. This ensures us sustainable income and allows us to focus more time on organizing instead of fundraising. Please signal your support of the sweatfree movement by [becoming a Sustainer today!](#) Thank you!

12 more days to vote for your hero

We will be naming our Sustainers program after a person who has inspired the international movement for worker justice. You have until February 1st to [nominate your workers' rights hero](#). It only takes a minute to submit a nomination online -- please weigh in!

What makes clothes Fair Trade?

TransFair, which certifies goods like coffee, tea, chocolate and bananas in the United States, is now developing a standard for Fair Trade apparel. But what standards should factories and buyers meet to earn the Fair Trade label? TransFair has released a [draft of their standards](#) online. SweatFree Communities and allies sent a [joint letter](#) to TransFair signaling that we would need to see the standard strengthened, particularly in the areas of living wages and freedom of association, before we could get behind the effort. We are awaiting a response from TransFair, which is planning to start the pilot program this spring.

Milwaukee police uniform contract finally awarded; the work to protect the workers who make them begins now

After a year-long debate over a \$1 million Milwaukee police uniform contract extensively covered in local media ([Dec. 1, 2008](#), [Dec. 28, 2009](#), [Jan. 6, 2010](#), [Jan. 12, 2010](#)), Milwaukee police and area residents know quite a bit about the origins of the uniforms. The competitive bid featured U.S. union-made uniforms on one side, and Chinese-made uniforms on the other. Two [independent preliminary investigations](#) indicated severe labor rights violations in the Chinese factory, including below poverty wages and excessive working hours. To the surprise of many,

the bid with the U.S. union-made uniforms came in lower, even significantly lower, than the competition. Also surprising many observers, the city chose the more expensive Chinese-made uniforms, which police preferred. [Read on...](#)

New media tool raises \$ for SFC

Until January 31st, each time you use [3bl.me](#) to shrink urls, 3BL Media will contribute 1 cent to be split equally among three non-profit beneficiaries, which this month includes SweatFree Communities. This could mean as much as \$3500 for our work to defend and promote workers' rights. Try it out! [3bl.me](#) and help raise money for SFC by spreading the word. Post on facebook and tell your twittering and blogging friends!

Bring our tour "Sweatshop Workers Speak Out" to town

Do you live in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, or DC? Then consider bringing our April 2010 Speaking Tour to town. Featuring a Bangladeshi garment worker who sews uniforms for government entities in the United States, the tour aims to build solidarity between U.S. communities and Bangladeshi garment workers. Each tour event will focus on action steps that are relevant for local sweatfree organizing, whether to help ignite a new campaign or bring an active campaign to the next level. For more information about the tour, please contact tour@sweatfree.org or call 413-586-0974.

Job opening: U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Network

Our friends at U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Network are searching for a co-coordinator, to be based in El Salvador. The Network is a grassroots organization made up of communities and individuals in the United States that maintain ongoing partnerships with rural communities in El Salvador to protect human rights, build solidarity, and support. For a copy of the job announcement, [click here](#).