



Leo W. Gerard
International President

June 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As your International President, I ask you and your local union membership to support the 2009 United Way Campaign. The USW is proud to be a longstanding partner with the United Way and shares its objective of helping working families every day with access to vital resources and services.

The USW, in conjunction with the AFL-CIO, has been working with the Obama administration to help restore workers' rights, health care for all and an economy that works for all. But in the meantime, millions of American families are struggling with unemployment. Eight million working Americans have lost their jobs since the onset last year of the current economic crisis. Many hard-working people are going to local food pantries for help with food for the first time in their lives. The AFL-CIO has established a national Web site, UnemploymentLifeline.com, which offers a range of resources and strategies for the unemployed. But families in need must be helped directly in the communities where they live.

Our primary community partner in this vital daily work is the United Way. Through this partnership, we do make a difference. We continue to help those who are lacking basic necessities, as well as working on long-term solutions that address the real causes of our nation's social service needs.

The work of the local United Ways deserves the support of union brothers and sisters in their communities. Please join me in supporting the 2009 United Way campaign – together we can help those in real need now, while we work to turn America around. Thank you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leo W. Gerard'.

Leo W. Gerard
International President

LWG/crm