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News

***Hoffa Rallies  
Teamsters About  
Wal-Mart***



# It All Begins @ Home

## Locals Around the Country Hold Educational Meetings

In a bold move against the world's largest union-buster, the Teamsters have begun a massive educational campaign aimed at stopping the flow of union-family dollars into the coffers of Wal-Mart.

"Union members are the last people in the world who should be rewarding a company determined to prevent its employees from organizing," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President. "Every dollar spent at Wal-Mart is a dollar that could otherwise support a good Teamster job."

During a visit to a Giant Food warehouse in Jessup, Maryland, Hoffa noted that when consumers patronize the substandard wage and benefit structure at Wal-Mart, they in effect pressure the solid union employers to squeeze their own workers in order to compete—or go out of business entirely.

Not content with being a retail giant in dry goods, Wal-Mart now has its sights on leading the grocery industry as well. Since 1992, the number of Supercenters has skyrocketed from 10 to well over a thousand—with their grocery operations yielding nearly \$28 billion in 2001. Factoring in Sam's Clubs, Wal-Mart food sales in 2002 fell just short of Kroger, the nation's largest grocer.

### Food for Thought

At its 2001 International Convention, the Teamsters Union committed itself to organizing Wal-Mart in a cooperative effort with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. As part of the campaign, the Warehouse Division is dispatching officers and representatives to food warehouses throughout North America to alert members about the growing menace and to urge them and their family and friends to make their purchases at union shops.



"No words are too strong to describe the threat that Wal-Mart poses to Teamsters and their families," said John Williams, Teamsters Warehouse Director. "Wal-Mart has more stores, more warehouses and more employees than any other company. Yet as the largest corporation in America, Wal-Mart is leading the race to the bottom with substandard wages and benefits."

The need for the educational outreach—which the Teamsters Union calls "It All Begins @ Home"—is urgent. According to Union Privilege, which operates the AFL-CIO's credit card program, a staggering \$126 million on nearly 1.8 million transactions were made in the last year at Wal-Mart—all this on a card marketed exclusively to union families.



## Here's What You Can Do

Keeping and creating good jobs in the community is an objective everyone can get behind. Here are some ideas you can share with those you know and love that can help bring about better job standards:

- ❖ Shop at union companies.
- ❖ Union members are at risk if our families, communities and union brothers and sisters don't support our employers.
- ❖ With \$220 billion in sales, Wal-Mart is bigger than the economies of Sweden, Austria, Poland and Norway.
- ❖ In the U.S. alone, Wal-Mart has 154 warehouses (including 39 McLane), 3,244-plus stores and more than 1 million employees—and not a single one is union!
- ❖ A union contract provides decent health coverage, retirement security and a grievance procedure.
- ❖ Unions make places like Wal-Mart a better place to work, and the community a better place to live.