

Our Projects:

- ◆ Food delivery
- ◆ Hospitality guest room
- ◆ Community events
- ◆ Publish *The Burning Bush*
- ◆ Non-violence training
- ◆ Centering Prayer/ meditation
- ◆ Lead spiritual retreats
- ◆ Advocate for living wages



Center for the Working Poor

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*For I was hungry,
and you gave me food
to eat.
I was thirsty,
and you gave me drink.
I was a stranger,
and you took me in.*

Matthew 25:35

Our Mission

The Center for the Working Poor is a nonprofit (Tax ID 20-8869602) dedicated to serving the working poor in Los Angeles. For the first time in decades the majority of people living in poverty are working people.

Son of Margarita Uriostegui, hotel worker who died at age 37.

Our organization takes the stand that nobody who is working a full-time job should live in poverty.

Our primary service is to deliver fresh produce and other essential foods to working families that live below the poverty line. We also connect people with support services to help them get on their feet. For workers in need, whether someone who has been let go by their job, or who is having a hard time making rent for the month, the bags of wholesome groceries that we deliver to their door is a huge help.



Supporting 'Whistleblowers'

Many of the families we serve have working parents who were fired after being injured on the job or speaking up about poor working conditions. We offer a unique service because we actually deliver food directly to people in their homes. We develop close relationships with the families, joining them at their kitchen tables to discuss their kids, their medical needs, and informing them about social services that can help them on the road to independence. Many of the workers we serve have moved on to get better jobs once we support them through their most desperate moments.

Simple Living

By living, working, and building community with some of the poorest and most needy workers in our economy, we hope to contribute to the movement for dignity and economic prosperity for all.



Cleto with his wife Josefa, describing how hard it has been to find a job since he was fired.

Non-violent Campaigns



Fasters meeting with Hilda Solis

Since the Center was founded in 2006, we have maintained a non-violent discussion group, conducted numerous nonviolent strategy trainings, and coordinated several non-violent campaigns for living wages and immigrant rights. Our accomplishments include the following:

- ◆ Development of nonviolent strategy to win living wages for hotel workers near LAX
- ◆ Conducted non-violence retreats for immigrant rights leaders
- ◆ Formation of RISE, which led a 21 day fast for immigrant rights in the Olvera Street plaza.
- ◆ Trained immigrant workers to share their testimonies to the press, city council and through web blogs.
- ◆ Met with Hilda Solis, now Obama's Secretary of Labor