

## UNIVERSAL LIVING WAGE

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[www.UniversalLivingWage.org](http://www.UniversalLivingWage.org)

An Initiative of House the Homeless, Inc.

(A founding member of the Austin Living Wage Coalition)

**Deuteronomy 24:14-15-** "You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for he is needy and sets his life on it; else he will cry to God against you and you will incur guilt."

March 2011

Greetings!

**Mark your calendars & Contact your Board of Directors! Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> is our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Universal Living Wage Tax Day Event!** From 7:30-9:00am or 4:30-6:00 pm, we will go to our nation's post offices and call for a Universal Living Wage. Once again 3.5 million minimum wage workers are expected to experience homelessness this year. Using existing government guidelines, we have devised a single national formula that ensures that anyone working 40 hours in a week will be able to afford basic food, clothing, **shelter**, (utilities included) and have access to health care.

We have found that American business has grown to rely on government subsidies to pick up that portion of the basic wage that they have failed to provide. Workers have been forced in ever increasing numbers to depend on food stamps, general assistance, and TANF. Congress intended these to be emergency, stop gap measures. Instead, many businesses use these government supports to meet basic payroll. A national shift is occurring from the business responsibility of paying a "fair wage for a fair day's work" to creating an ever increasing burden on the tax payer.

We know that if business paid its employees a **fair living wage**, we could dramatically reduce the burden to tax payers.

We will provide you a 4' by 10' banner, FREE, that says-

People will be drawn to the ULW website, which will display **your** contact information. We encourage you to use this opportunity to tout your own local living wage campaign. We can provide the banner, push cards (clearly explaining the formula), and a flyer explaining the issue.

**Save us work**, PLEASE E-mail us your desire to participate. Some of you do not have e-mail so for you, this will be our only opportunity to communicate. Call us at (512) 796-4366 or toll free at 1-888-484-8591 if you wish to be a lead organization and receive a banner or just join in at a post office action lead by another organization.

Select the post office in your city where the media shows up every year to report last minute tax filers. Then call or e-mail us with that address at [rtroxell@aol.com](mailto:rtroxell@aol.com). Be sure to put "Tax Day" in the subject box.

**Don't delay, Act now, April 15<sup>th</sup> is almost here!**

Go to [www.UniversalLivingWage.org](http://www.UniversalLivingWage.org) to see photos of our past Tax Day and "Bridge the Economic Gap Day held on September 6th. We are creating a national ground swell of support which will carry us to the "Tipping Point" when we will fix the Federal Minimum Wage and create a Universal Living Wage!

In Unity There is Strength,

Richard R. Troxell

PS Hunger Action Network NY won our digital camera for best action. Is it your turn?

Remember: Go to [www.HousetheHomeless.org](http://www.HousetheHomeless.org) to get our story: "Looking Up At the Bottom Line."