

PRESS RELEASE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Jes Scheinpflug, Director of Communications
Phone: 847-501-5760 x502
E-mail: jes@open-communities.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fast Food Workers in Evanston Demand \$15 and Workers' Rights *Suburban Workers Rally for Dignity and a Living Wage*

Evanston, IL, May 2, 2015 – Yesterday, Chicago suburban [fast food workers gathered](#) in honor of International Workers' Day at Fountain Square in Evanston. They officially announced their involvement in the Fight for 15 and the importance of \$15 an hour, union rights and respect in their workplace. Fast food workers, clergy, community allies and Illinois Senator Daniel Biss joined the rally and program to speak out and bring awareness to the needs of this Chicago suburb.

"The treatment I experience at work is inhumane. I've been working at McDonald's for more than 20 years and I deserve to be treated and paid fairly," said Carlota Gomez, who lives in Evanston and works at the McDonald's near her house. "This job is what I need to take care of my family. I just need McDonald's to do what's right. That's why I'm demanding \$15 and nothing less."

Community partners and organizations stood in solidarity. "We all know that Evanston has become less welcoming to its low-income residents, by way of rising property values, lack of affordable housing... and stagnant poverty wages," said Gabriel Machabanski of Open Communities. "This is dividing our communities and giving workers way less than their fair share."

The program's agenda also included spoken word poetry from Evanston Township High School staff, and a march in the streets to the local Burger King, where Northwestern University students and cafeteria workers spoke out.

The fast food workers then led the march to Gomez's McDonald's restaurant and delivered a letter to management demanding fair treatment and an end to worker abuse.

This year's May Day rally comes on the heels of the Fight for \$15's Global Day of Action and strike less than 3 weeks ago; and from coast to coast, the unprecedented victories of workers winning \$15 an hour, statewide in California and New York. The \$15 minimum wage for fast food workers has built momentum nationwide, proving that \$15 an hour is what American workers everywhere need to survive and support their families.

An adult with one child needs to make \$23.53 an hour *working full time* in Cook County and the Chicago metro area just to afford the basics, [according to the MIT living wage calculator](#).

###

About Open Communities

Open Communities, formerly Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, is a nonprofit organization that advocates for fair and affordable housing in 16 northern suburbs of Chicago. Our mission is to educate, advocate and organize to promote just and inclusive communities in north suburban Chicago. We are a leading voice for housing, economic and social justice in north suburban Chicago, working to promote inclusive communities that are welcoming to all. We work with current and prospective residents and local groups to promote economically and culturally diverse communities in north suburban Chicago. We provide fair and affordable housing counseling services, community education, advocacy, and organizing for welcoming communities.