



# 2010

Chicago Federation of Labor 2010 Progress Report





# Middle Class

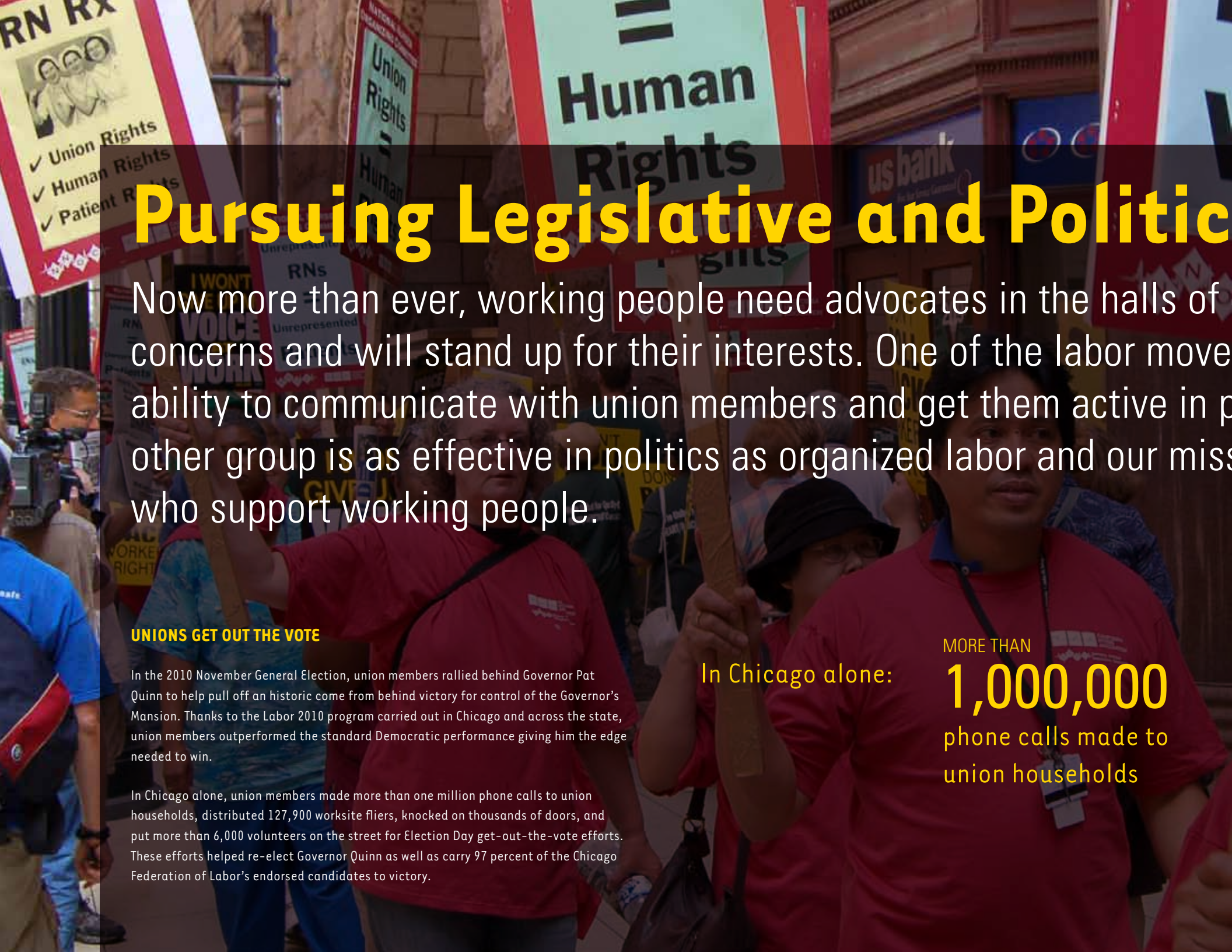
Now. The middle class is the smallest it's been since the Great Depression. As the Chicago area is hurting from an economic crisis they didn't expect, the United Way and the Federation of Labor is working harder than ever with our affiliates and faith-based groups to stand up for working people. We are committed to building a strong middle class that our country needs to survive.

## MAKING COMMUNITIES STRONGER

In a partnership with the United Way, the Chicago Federation of Labor and the AFL-CIO work together to help union members in need of valuable local services, especially during traumatic times such as a layoff. Last year, the Community Services Department conducted a three-day seminar for union activists titled, "When the Paycheck Stops: The Laid-off Members' Lifeline". It also partnered with UNITE HERE Local 1 to offer informational services to laid-off workers at the Hyatt and Congress Hotels and conducted a similar event with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134 to assist unemployed members obtain available services.

## A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL BOATS

Years of pressure from unions, faith-based groups and community organizations led to historic negotiations with Walmart, the world's largest and most profitable retailer. The result was a groundbreaking agreement that secures an urban retail wage of \$.50 higher than the minimum wage plus a \$.40 to \$.60 raise after the first year for employees at Chicago stores, a union construction agreement for 21 counties in northern Illinois, and a significant financial investment into local communities.



# Pursuing Legislative and Political

Now more than ever, working people need advocates in the halls of power who will stand up for their interests. One of the labor movement's greatest strengths is the ability to communicate with union members and get them active in politics. Another group is as effective in politics as organized labor and our mission is to support working people.

## UNIONS GET OUT THE VOTE

In the 2010 November General Election, union members rallied behind Governor Pat Quinn to help pull off an historic come from behind victory for control of the Governor's Mansion. Thanks to the Labor 2010 program carried out in Chicago and across the state, union members outperformed the standard Democratic performance giving him the edge needed to win.

In Chicago alone, union members made more than one million phone calls to union households, distributed 127,900 worksite fliers, knocked on thousands of doors, and put more than 6,000 volunteers on the street for Election Day get-out-the-vote efforts. These efforts helped re-elect Governor Quinn as well as carry 97 percent of the Chicago Federation of Labor's endorsed candidates to victory.

In Chicago alone:

MORE THAN

**1,000,000**

phone calls made to  
union households



# al Strategies

government who understand their  
ment's greatest strengths is our  
politics and legislative affairs. No  
sion is clear: support candidates

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## WELCOME NEW AFFILIATES

The Chicago Federation of  
Labor welcomes the following  
labor organizations that have  
recently affiliated:

Transport Workers Union  
of America Local 555

The Chicago Alliance  
of Charter Teachers


American Federation  
of Government Employees  
Local 238

National Council of SSA  
Field Operations

National Football League  
Players Association



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In 2010, the Chicago Federation of Labor Workers Assistance Committee:

Placed **147** displaced workers in jobs in health care, information technology, financial/insurance, manufacturing, administrative/support services and transportation, warehousing and logistics

Provided **\$529,876** in grants to train over 6,000 union members in the Chicago area

 **2010**

# Preparing To Lead

The recent economic crisis is an opportunity for the economy, creating jobs, and investing in new technologies. The CFOP is a leading voice in calling for state and federal support for the technologies of the new Green Economy and for workers in the global marketplace.

## STRENGTHENING WORKERS' SKILLS

The Chicago Federation of Labor's Workers Assistance Committee helps improve employment opportunities for workers, including employed and unemployed union members. The Workers Assistance Committee offers services such as career counseling, basic skills courses in reading, math and computers, pre-layoff workshops before a major layoff or plant closing, access to skills training and educational opportunities and bridge training into industries such as health care and manufacturing.



# and the 21st Century Economy

portunity to shift our focus and resources toward stimulating the  
g in the new economy of the 21st century. Organized labor is  
d federal infrastructure investment, is actively engaged in the  
omy, and is preparing the next generation's workforce to compete

## A MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE

As co-chair of the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, the Chicago Federation of Labor plays a key role in the organization's mission to prepare a new generation of workers for Chicago's high-skilled manufacturing jobs.

Forty percent of Chicago's manufacturing workforce is expected to retire in the next 10 years, leaving a significant gap between generations due to a lack of resources providing training for these jobs. In response, the group opened the Austin Polytechnical Academy to offer high school students in the city's West Side the opportunity to obtain the education and skills necessary to enter the high-performance, high-reward manufacturing workforce in Chicago. The project is a partnership between labor, business, education and government entities.

## A SMARTER POWER

Partnering with the Illinois Institute of Technology, the Chicago Federation of Labor and some of its affiliated local unions signed on to help create the world-class Smart Grid Education and Workforce Training Center, an initiative to train the strongest workforce in the world to meet the global challenges in Smart Grid, energy independence and sustainable energy. The Center utilizes IIT's cutting-edge Smart Grid infrastructure and engages utilities, labor, business and educators in developing a training curriculum to prepare workers to lead the way in this emerging technology.



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