

November 8, 2009

Dear Ms. Gracey, Mr. Sutton and the conveners of the United Way;

I am writing on behalf of the bargaining team and executive of CUPE 3906 to express our sincere thanks for your solidarity and support by refusing to cross our picket lines.

Your support is pivotal to strengthening our struggle to protect our members from overwork and poor working conditions, to protect the quality of education at McMaster, and to protect our benefits and take-home pay from erosion. This kind of solidarity is crucial for maintaining morale on the picket lines, and I cannot adequately express our appreciation.

We recognise that the United Way does essential work by supporting the individuals that make up our community. Especially during the economic recession of the past 18 months times have become very difficult for increasing numbers of people. However, we know that even during better economic times, families and individuals face difficulties and need support. It is too easily assumed that when economic forecasts are positive, there is no hardship. We have a collective responsibility not to allow people in difficulty to become invisible, and it is for this reason that the need for the United Way is ongoing.

The United Way is a crucial part of our community, and has always been so in supporting families and individuals. As members of the Hamilton community, we in CUPE 3906 value and recognise your ongoing efforts and community support.

We know that by choosing not to cross our lines, the 2009 United Way Campaign could be affected. In recognition of this, and of your importance to our community, we would be delighted to organize a United Way collection on the lines. To ensure that the collection is according to your needs, we will welcome your volunteers on the lines.

I would be pleased to discuss with you alternatives, if this is not possible! In this way we hope that CUPE 3906 can contribute to your efforts and offer our support to your campaign.

Again, we sincerely thank you for your support!
Our very best wishes,
In solidarity,

Heather Johnson
Benefits Officer
CUPE 3906
On behalf of the CUPE 3906 Executive and Unit 1 Bargaining Team

