



# THE INTAKE

Your Contributions to Justice at Work  
Issue 12, Volume 1

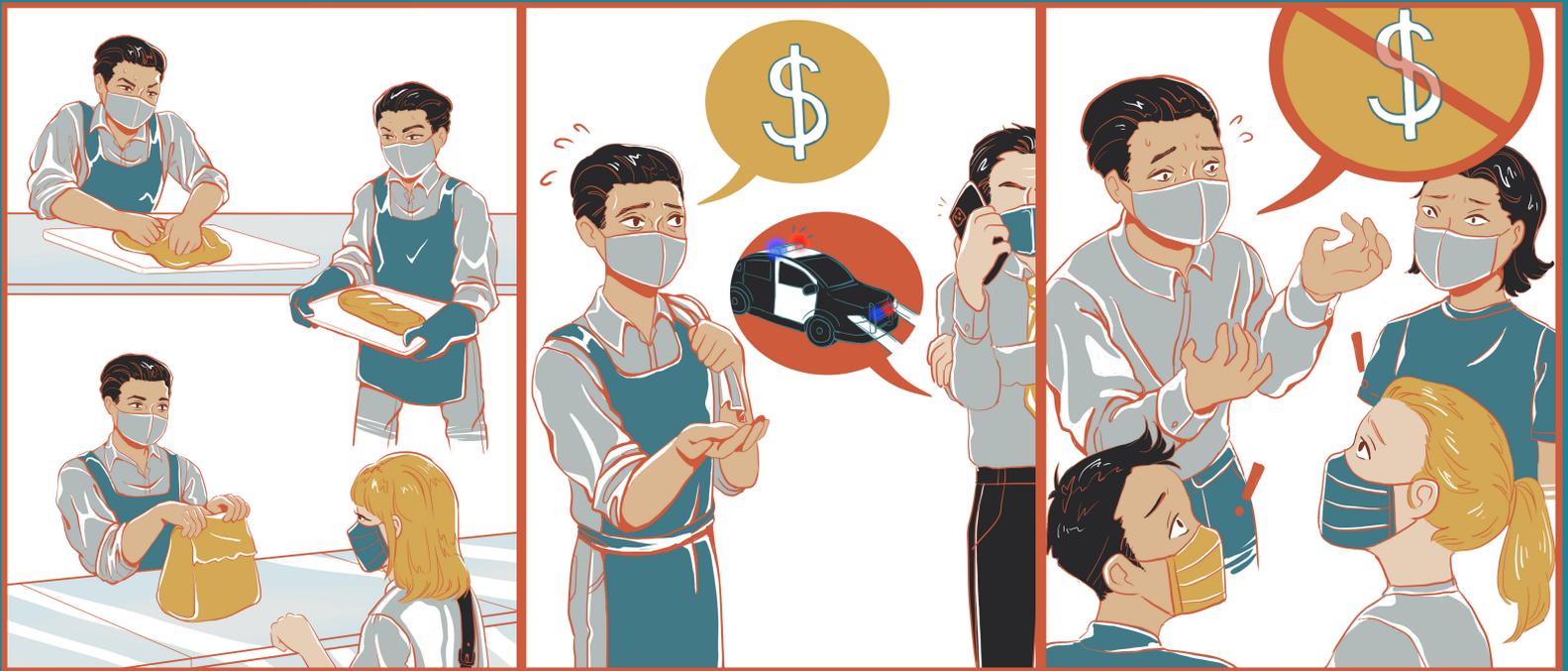
## Summer Institute for Organizers

With optimism thanks to a new administration in Washington, we convened our fourth annual Summer Institute for Organizers: "Working with Government Agencies to Lift Worker Voices." Taking necessary COVID-19 precautions, we were thrilled to offer the program in-person at our new office space in Chinatown. Staff and leaders from seven worker organizations joined us to discuss common workplace injustices and opportunities for collaboration with government, and we brought staff from five agencies to bolster those collaborations. Thank you for making these connections possible!

**"We need all of us working together to provide the support workers need to lead the change our society needs."**

**-Brenda Quintana, MassCOSH**

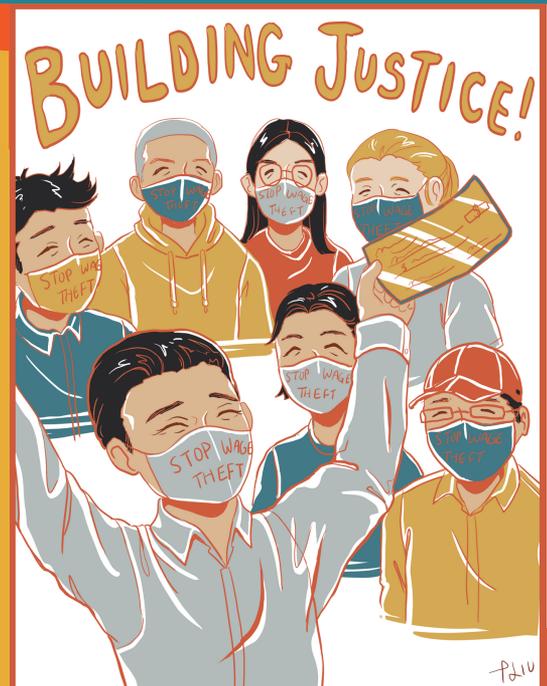
JUSTICE AT  
**WORK**



## Building Justice Members Win Back Owed Wages

Ivan and his family's dream was to have their own business, so he jumped at the chance to join his relative in starting a bakery. However, because he was undocumented he wasn't on any of the paperwork, and, unbeknownst to him, he had no ownership rights. When the actual owners wanted him out, he and his family, along with other co-workers, were fired from one day to the next, and left with tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid wages.

When the owners threatened to call the police if he did anything about it, Ivan, his family, and his co-workers turned to the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC). Building Justice, an anti-wage theft committee formed by BWC and Justice at Work made up of workers from residential construction and cleaning industries, received the workers and committed to helping them. Thanks to your support, Justice at Work staff attended the first meeting with Ivan and his co-workers, investigated the company and its owners, and drafted a demand letter stating the total wages allegedly owed. We then joined Building Justice and other allies in accompanying the workers in delivering the letter. The group included graduates from our first ever Spanish-language Building Justice leadership course, which we completed in the Spring. As a result of the direct action, the employer has now compensated the workers in full.



Thanks to you, Ivan and his co-workers had the support they needed to expose their former employer and publicly demand justice.

## Somerville Worker Center Member Wins Rightful Leave

Due to short staffing during the Covid-19 pandemic, Carlos' employer gave him the workload of two people. Carlos sharpened thousands of knives each day, repeating movements with his arms that often left him feeling pain in his chest. The pain grew until he was forced to go to the emergency room, where he was told he was having a heart attack. He underwent heart surgery, had a pacemaker implanted in his chest and was released 16 days later.

Unable to prove that his heart condition was due to work and desperate to support his children, Carlos contacted the City of Somerville seeking help and our contact at the Mayor's office referred him to Justice at Work.



Thanks to you, our team was able to identify that Carlos qualified for a newly enacted state law, Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML), which provides paid time off for a worker's own serious medical condition, regardless of whether it was caused by work, or to care for a family member with a serious medical condition.

We connected Carlos to the newly formed Somerville Worker Center (SWC), whose staff we have trained on PFML. With the assistance of Justice at Work, SWC helped Carlos apply for and receive PFML. Thanks to your solidarity, Carlos is currently receiving job protected paid leave, understands his rights as a worker, and has the ongoing support of a community with deeper capacity.

This was not only a huge win for Carlos and his family--this gives us confidence to provide critical tools to other workers in Somerville.

- Francisca Sepulveda Diaz,  
Somerville Worker Center

Sunday | November 7 | 11am-3pm  
 Casa Caña (outdoor patio)  
 1234 Soldiers Field Rd,  
 Allston 02135  
 Brunch, drinks, classes,  
 performances, dancing!  
 Heat lamps and a fire  
 pit  
 Rain date: Nov. 14  
 Come join us!  
**JUSTICE AT  
 WORK**

# DANCE FOR JUSTICE!

*Brunch! Sunday, November  
7th, 11am-3pm  
(rain date Nov. 14th)*

Come join us at Casa Caña's outdoor patio for our 10th Annual Dance for Justice (formerly Salsa for Justice)

Purchase your ticket here:

[www.jatwork.org/dance-for-justice-x](http://www.jatwork.org/dance-for-justice-x)  
 Contact [info@jatwork.org](mailto:info@jatwork.org) for more info

The Clowes Fund is generously matching up to \$20,000 in new or increased giving to Justice at Work, so your donation helps workers in low-paying jobs get twice as far in their fight for justice. Join us and make a first-time or increased donation today:

<https://jatwork.org/donate/>

Thanks for supporting Justice at Work!  
**DONATE NOW**  
 and match up to  
**\$20,000**  
  
 The Clowes Fund  
 A Family Foundation

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