

# When hard work isn't enough: The Union Difference

This country is built on hard work and the notion that people who apply themselves can get ahead. But what if you work hard at a job all week, take care of your family and still can't catch a break?

Too many people are stuck in that very trap. Without a union they find themselves in low-paying jobs with no respect and relying on government aid to get health care and make ends meet.

**Unionized workers make more than their non-union counterparts. Period.**

Unionized workers are more likely to have health care, family health coverage, sick and vacation days and a retirement plan leaving them less reliant on government subsidy and better able to plan for their futures.

Non-unionized workers sweat just as hard as their union counterparts. But at the end of the day they are at a disadvantage.

And that is the Union Difference.



**Lashanda Myrick**

**Job:**  
Non-union Walmart night stocker

**Wage:**  
\$10.20/hour (\$8.20 plus \$2 night shift differential)

**Health coverage:**  
Medicaid and CHP+ - Walmart insurance would cost \$400-500/month for her family

**Other benefits:**  
Just started accumulating sick pay, has about 9 hours, no vacation or personal time

**Family Life:**  
Lives with 2 kids in their Littleton rental. She uses food stamps to make ends meet but is one paycheck away from financial disaster.



**Deborah Martinez**

**Job:**  
Unionized King Soopers checker

**Wage:**  
\$17.31/hour

**Health coverage:**  
22.85/month for employer family plan

**Other benefits:**  
Sick time, vacation days, retirement, family health insurance, dental, vision

**Family Life:**  
Lives with her teen daughter in the home she owns in Denver. She can save for unexpected expenses like car repairs or a broken arm.



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