



NEWS FROM

Teamsters Local Union 117

14675 Interurban Ave., S., Suite 307, Tukwila, WA 98168

(206) 441-4860 FAX (206) 441-3153

www.teamsters117.org

For Media Planning

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Contact:

Paul Zilly (206) 794-6673

paul.zilly@teamsters117.org

WORKERS TO EXPOSE LOCAL “FAIR TRADE” CHOCOLATIER’S HEARTLESS TREATMENT ON VALENTINE’S DAY

***“Have a Heart, Theo’s!” Event Planned for Thursday, February 14 at 11AM
at the Westlake Whole Foods in Seattle***

(Seattle, WA) – On Thursday, February 14 – Valentine’s Day - workers and their community allies will be gathering for a **“Have a Heart, Theo’s!”** event at 11 a.m. at the Westlake Whole Foods in Seattle to inform consumers about how Seattle-based chocolatier, Theo Chocolate, managed to obtain fair trade certification even after the company hired a union-busting consulting firm, terminated a union leader, and engaged in numerous other violations of workers’ rights during a 2010 organizing drive.

The event coincides with the recent publication of an International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) report, Aiding and Abetting, that exposes how the IMO (Institute for Marketecology), a Swiss group that certifies that companies uphold fair trade standards, branded Theo Chocolate with its *Fair for Life* certification despite being informed by Theo workers that the company was violating international labor standards.

Workers will have giant-sized **“Theo is Heartless”** chocolate bars on display, and they will be passing out genuine fair trade chocolate from a heart-shaped piñata.

WHO: Brenda Wiest, Contract Campaign Coordinator - Teamsters Local 117
Mackenzie Jahnke, terminated Theo Chocolate worker
Stacie Ford-Bonnelle, Fair Trade Seattle
Washington Fair Trade Coalition
Community Alliance for Global Justice
United Students Against Sweatshops

WHAT/WHEN: **“HAVE A HEART, THEOS!” VALENTINE’S DAY EVENT**
Thursday, February 14, 2013
11 a.m.

WHERE: Westlake Whole Foods
2210 Westlake Ave. Seattle, WA 98121