

PRIVATE SECTOR SHOPS

EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD NYC WORKERS WIN VOLUNTARY RECOGNITION OF UNION WITH CWA LOCAL 1180

The hardworking staff of Edible Schoolyard NYC is unionizing with CWA Local 1180! These workers at Edible Schoolyard run programs in NYC schools to teach young kids about food justice and healthy eating through gardening and cooking fresh healthy food. The 18-person bargaining unit includes garden and kitchen teachers, garden, program and network school managers, coordinators, and assistants. ESY-NYC staff members are excited to join with Local 1180 members at non-profits and city agencies.

"We got fed up with a lack of pay parity, lack of transparency, and not having a voice over the issues that affected us," said Rosa Marruffo, Program Manager at PS7. "My co-workers and I decided that the best way to make our jobs more sustainable and fix problems was to organize so we could negotiate as equals with management and put everything in a contract. Now that we've stood up and made our voices heard, we can't wait to get to the bargaining table."

Edible Schoolyard workers approached Local 1180 because they thought the union, which already represents more than a dozen other private sector groups, was a good

fit and had a solid and clear approach to organizing — all of which paid off in the end. In October 2019, a delegation of ESY workers delivered a petition for union recognition to management with 95% of workers signed on. Workers showed management their overwhelming unity and commitment to unionizing through letters, petitions, and meetings with management and the board. Management chose to voluntarily recognize the union instead of fighting at the National Labor Relations Board.

"Organizing Edible Schoolyard once again shows the power of labor and just how far our strength takes us," said Local 1180 President Gloria Middleton. "Tremendous accolades go to Organizer Leslie Fine for her patience and determination in working with this group to make sure all their needs were met and their questions answered before they approached management. We are happy to have them onboard and a part of our 1180 family. Now that we have them organized, we are ready to help them tackle the next major step, which is getting them their first contract."

Follow @ESYNYC_Union on Twitter and Instagram for more updates. ■



Pictured top row from left: Rosa Marruffo, Anthony Jones, and Dan Feder. Middle row from left: Emily Rehberger, Fabian Moreno, Juliet Tarantino, and Ryan Renaud. Bottom row from left: Marissa Finn, Josephine Quiocho, Shey Hall, Anthony Jones, Rosa Marruffo, Hannah Joseph, Emily Rehberger, Cecilia Galarraga, Fabian Moreno, and Dan Feder.





TWO JAVITS CENTER MEMBERS HONORED

Staff Rep Lena Solow attended a ceremony to honor two Jacob Javits Center members for their years of service at work. Heather Diaz was honored for 15 years of service, and Arnold Lynn (pictured with Solow) was honored for five years of service. Diaz and Lynn are both Cleaning Supervisors who make sure that the Javits Center is in top shape for the more than two million people who visit each year. The convention center has a total area space of 1,800,000 square feet and has 840,000 square feet of total exhibit space. ■