



FIRST SHIFT

JUSTICE PROJECT

Sunday, March 8 is International Women's Day!

This poster from a 1914 celebration of Women's Day, translated from German, says in part: "Until now, prejudice and reactionary attitudes have denied full civic rights to women, who as workers, mothers, and citizens wholly fulfill their duty.... Fighting for this natural human right must be the firm, unwavering intention of every woman, every female worker."

More than 100 years later, this still rings true, especially for working mothers in low-wage jobs.



First Shift Empowers and Supports Women in Low-Wage Jobs

First Shift reaches out to pregnant women and new parents in the DC area, partnering with a healthcare center and other nonprofits to provide education and empower women to assert their rights in the workplace.

Donna Smith (not her real name) is one woman we are helping. Donna, like most of the women we serve, is the primary breadwinner for her young son and the baby she is expecting in a few months. She has worked for a big-box retailer for almost 3 years. When she was diagnosed with severe morning sickness early in her pregnancy, she had to take unpaid leave for 6 weeks. When she recovered, she was cleared to return to work, but with a 10 lb lifting restriction. Even though the company had accommodated other employees by temporarily transferring them to other positions when they were recovering from on-the-job injuries or surgery, she was told she could not come back to work because her job description required her to lift at least 25 lbs and there was no work for her.

All Donna wants is to go back to work and save some of her FMLA leave for after her baby is born. With First Shift's help, Donna is working with her employer to return to work in a position that will enable her to safely perform her job and support her family during this time when they need it most.

This Women's Day, First Shift is honored to be able to fight for Donna and all the women we serve!

Celebrate Women Every Month!

Raise a toast in celebration of Women's Day and Women's History Month! Join us in a virtual happy hour each month to celebrate women -- the women in your lives and the breadwinner moms we support through our work! Each month at our virtual happy hour, donate the cost of a glass of wine, a pint of beer, a diet coke, or whatever your preference for a toast! And, what the heck -- buy a round for your partner or friends too!

Your recurring donation will help us meet our budget for ongoing work and plan for new projects too. The more people who attend our monthly virtual happy hour, the happier it will be!

Thank you for your support!

- Laura and Keira



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To make a recurring donation, select "monthly" at check-out.

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For more on International Women's Day events: #MakItHappen

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