

## Wal-Mart and Wages

### A Substantial Number of Wal-Mart Associates earn far below the poverty line

- In 2001, the last year for which Wal-Mart has released figures for most occupations, sales associates, the most common job in Wal-Mart, earned on average \$8.23 an hour for annual wages of \$13,861. The 2001 poverty line for a family of three was \$14,630.

### Wal-Mart Associates don't earn enough to support a family

- The national median family budget in the United States for a two-person family (one parent and one child) in 1999 was \$23,705, well above the average Associate's annual wages of \$13,861.<sup>2</sup>

### Wal-Mart wages are not "designed" to support a family

- Spokeswoman Mona Williams was quoted as saying: "More than two-thirds of our people...are not trying to support a family...that's who our jobs are designed for."<sup>3</sup>

### Wal-Mart can afford wage increases

- Wal-Mart could give each of its employees a \$1 per hour raise without affecting their \$10 billion in profits, by only raising prices one half of one penny per dollar item. For instance, a \$2.00 pair of socks would then cost \$2.01. This minimal increase would annually add up to \$1,800 for each employee.<sup>4</sup>

### Wal-Mart's wages are lower than other retail wages

- Comparing Wal-Mart's average hourly wage to industry averages results in a large wage difference between Wal-Mart and the industry - almost \$1.00 an hour below the average for Supercenters, Discount Stores, and Sam's Clubs, and close to \$2.00 below the average for Neighborhood Markets.



### What YOU can do:

**1. Sign up**  
Join America's Campaign to Change Wal-Mart today:  
[www.wakeupwalmart.com](http://www.wakeupwalmart.com)

**2. Adopt your local Wal-Mart**  
Become a local volunteer and help build community coalitions around every Wal-Mart store in America.

**3. Spread the word**  
Talk to your friends and family, and ask them to join the campaign to change Wal-Mart:  
[www.wakeupwalmart.com](http://www.wakeupwalmart.com)

1. "Is Wal-Mart Too Powerful?", Business Week, 10/6/03 and US Dept of Health and Human Services 2001 Poverty Guidelines, 2001  
2. "Poverty and Family Budgets" online at [www.epinet.org](http://www.epinet.org)  
3. PBS Newshour, 8/23/04  
4. Analysis of Wal-Mart Annual Report 2005