



## Five Ways You Can Help Workers This Labor Day Weekend

- 1) **Pray for all workers**, but especially essential workers who kept Virginia functioning during the pandemic and continue to support our functioning as a society.
- 2) **Tip generously and speak kindly.** Workers who earn their livelihood through tips and interactions with customers are not always treated well. Do your part to tip generously and speak kindly with workers who wait on or serve you. Do unto others....
- 3) **Be watchful against wage theft.** Wage theft, the illegal cheating of workers' wages, is common practice in many low-wage sectors, such as landscape, restaurants, residential construction, retail and others. If you, your congregation or your place of businesses hire contracted services, make sure that workers are paid legally and fairly. Otherwise, you may inadvertently be contributing to wage theft. For more information, visit [www.wagetheftva.org](http://www.wagetheftva.org).
- 4) **Support businesses that pay living wages.** If you are in Richmond, Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, or Alexandria be sure to check out and support the living wage businesses at [www.livingwagevirginia.org](http://www.livingwagevirginia.org). Apply to have your business be living wage certified.
- 5) **Advocate policies that will help workers in low-paying jobs.** The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) has led work in Virginia to support workers in low-paying jobs. Currently, VICPP is leading efforts to:
  - Establish a Paid Sick Days standard for all Virginia workers.
  - Remove the farmworker exemption from minimum wage so farmworkers can get paid fairly.You can support these advocacy efforts by getting on VICPP's email advocacy list. Join at [www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org).