

2012 National COSH Network Awards

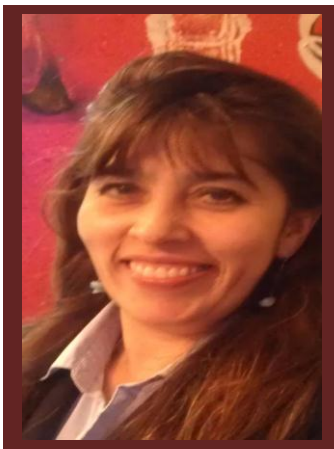


The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health is proud to announce the 2012 COSH Awardees. Awards will be presented at the National Health and Safety Conference on December 6, 2012 at the Maritime Institute in Baltimore, MD.

Trainer/Educator Award:	Luzdary Giraldo, NYCOSH
Trainer/Educator Award:	Carmen Martino and New Labor Team
COSH Activist Award:	Chloe Osmer, AFL-CIO and SoCalCOSH
Community/Family Activist Award:	Tonya Ford, USMWF
Tony Mazzocchi Award:	USW Health, Safety and Environment Department

Trainer/Educator Award

Luzdary Giraldo, New York COSH



Luzdary Giraldo has been an immigrant workers right advocate and organizer for the last ten years. Luzdary became passionate about the safety and health labor movement in 2005 when The New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) hired her. She has trained hundreds of immigrant workers while educating and advocating on their rights using popular education techniques as a model. Luzdary has also used ethnic media as a vehicle to educate workers and the public in general on safety and health issues.

Queens Council Woman Helen Sears awarded Luzdary Giraldo for her outstanding work in the Queens Immigrant community. The Mexican and German Consulates invited her to travel abroad, representing NYCOSH, to exchange experience and skills in training workers. Delegates from Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and United Kingdom have consulted with Ms. Giraldo in training and organizing techniques in order to disseminate these approaches to workers across borders.

Carmen Martino and the New Labor Team



Carmen Martino has dedicated his last 20 years to fighting for safe and healthy working conditions for all working people through training and organizing. Through his research, curriculum development, Train the Trainer programs, and skills as a trainer, Carmen has promoted and encouraged thousands of workers to take action to protect their safety and health on and off the job. The curriculum he has developed reaches across diverse workplaces, including high hazard chemical plants, healthcare, warehousing, food services, construction, landscaping, and others.

In 2000, Carmen co-founded New Labor, an alternative model of worker organization that combines new and existing strategies to improve working conditions and provides a voice for immigrant workers in New Jersey. Today, New Labor has more than 2,000 dues-paying members. New Labor organizes to develop power and amplify their members' voices in the community, the workplace, and the political realm. As Director of Education for New Labor, Carmen develops participatory curriculum that has been used not only in New Jersey, but also across the United States.

Founded in 2000 as a membership-based worker center of low-wage Latino immigrants in New Jersey, **New Labor** educates, organizes, and fights for social justice in the workplace. New Labor's members and staff use training, leadership development and direct action to collectively improve conditions of work.

New Labor creates organizational capacity by building a base of committed leaders in health and safety. Developed through research and focus groups with members, New Labor's learner-centered health and safety curriculum is facilitated by trained worker trainers. More than 300 workers have completed New Labor's five-day train-the-trainer program. Mentored and supported by New Labor staff, these trainers have offered health and safety classes to more than 5,000 immigrant workers employed in factories, warehouses, temp agencies, service industries, landscaping and construction. In addition to carrying out trainings, worker-trainers conduct outreach and recruitment for trainings and follow up with participants. Worker trainers are leaders within New Labor and several have become staff within the organization.

New Labor staff and worker trainers have offered train-the-trainer classes and replicated health and safety curriculum and organizing strategies with Interfaith Worker Justice and National Day Laborer Organizing Network-affiliated worker centers across the country. Collaboration with Rutgers University and the University of Illinois Chicago, co-authorship of a series of health and safety publications and presentations at national OSHA and NIOSH conferences have helped expand New Labor's reach.

They are a tremendous organization that has not only helped to impact and improve health and safety conditions for workers directly in their area, but have also had a national impact, developing resources and materials that have aided dozens of other organizations to do the same for workers in their area. They truly deserve this recognition.

COSH Activist Award

Chloe Osmer , AFL-CIO and SoCalCOSH



Chloe Osmer is currently a Senior Organizer with the AFL-CIO. Prior to coming to the AFL-CIO, Chloe was the Acting Director for the CLEAN Carwash Campaign. Her work has included health and safety, policy issues and communications for the Campaign. Chloe earned her Master's Degree in Public Policy from UCLA, where she focused on labor and completed her Applied Policy Project on an analysis of legislation affecting carwash workers.

Through her health and safety work on the Carwash Campaign, Chloe helped develop a model of collaboration with community groups, partnership with state and federal enforcement agencies, and empowering and involving workers in improving safety conditions in the carwash industry. The Carwash Campaign developed worker health and safety committees, a countywide heat stress outreach campaign, and popular education materials for low-literacy workers. The CLEAN Carwash Campaign pushed OSH issues to the forefront of the campaign, providing a great model of how to effectively use OSH as an organizing tool with low-wage immigrant workers. She has remained active and engaged in activist work in addition to her hectic life as an organizer. She is currently working on organizing campaigns across the country and across borders.

Prior to working on the CLEAN Carwash Campaign, Chloe worked in communications for the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, producing communications for the Federation's 2.1 million union members, and helping lead the Federation's media work for over five years of political and legislative campaigns.

She serves as a board member for SoCalCOSH.

Community/Family Activist Award

Tonya Ford, United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities



Tonya became an active volunteer and advocate for workplace safety after the death of her Uncle Bobby (Robert Fitch) in 2009. Uncle Bobby fell 80ft off of a belt-operated man-lift in a local Archer Daniel Midland Milling Co. (ADM) that he had worked for over 31 years. His brother in-law, Tonya's dad found him that day.

Tonya has testified at Congressional Hearings and OSHA Listens. She hosted the first Worker Safety Awareness Expo in Nebraska in 2012, and hosts a longstanding Workers Memorial Day Vigil.

Tonya started the Grain Mill Accident Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Grain-Mill-Accidents/135750656469760?fref=ts>) to promote awareness of safety issues in the grain industry by posting safety tips, OSHA regulations and articles regarding safety breaches at grain elevators/mills.

She also was one of the family members that testified at the Nebraska LB738, Change burial expense benefits under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, which was signed by the governor in April 2012. This bill increased burial expense payments to families of workers killed on the job from the current \$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in the State of Nebraska.

Tonya takes time to reach out to families across Nebraska and offer support and guidance during their trying times. She has been honored and blessed to have great family members in Nebraska that have joined with her and walked in multiple Nebraska parades honoring family members that have been lost in preventable work related incidents and increasing awareness of worker safety issues.

She was able to honor the Nebraska men and women that were killed in 2009-2011 by creating posters which are currently hung at the Great Platte River Archway Museum, located right in the heart of Nebraska for all to see and honor those that have given so much for our great State and Nation.

Tonya resides in Lincoln, NE and is a Legal Assistant for Vince Powers and Associates.

Tony Mazzocchi Award: Lifetime Achievement Award

USW Health, Safety & Environment Department



Although many unions have struggled to keep health and safety issues on the move within their structures and membership, The USW has been steadfast in expanding their program, reaching new workers and developing new programs that benefit their own members as well as workers in general. The USW HS&E has been on the forefront of fighting company-dominated programs that blame workers while trying to shift away their own responsibility. While H&S education programs have gotten harder for unions to sustain, USW HS&E has consistently expanded their educational outreach to include more members and have H&S activists from outside the union involved in these programs. The USW has grown its peer trainer program to include more members to develop new skills to lead health and safety trainings among workers and union leadership and management.

The USW ERT program is a unique service to members and families when unfortunate workplace disasters occur. This program helps families of workplace fatality victims with assistance in “putting the pieces back together” when a loved one is killed at work. This may be legal referrals, social support systems or emotional support. The USW HS&E websites provide the latest resources and information for worker health and safety. As the department name suggests, the USW were the pioneer union to incorporate the connection between worker H&S and the environment. They are the leaders in the Blue Green Alliance movement to make safe, clean jobs a priority for American workers. The USW HS&E continues to move forward so others can follow.