

# VERIZON & VERIZON WIRELESS WORKERS: OUR STORIES

“The company is discussing moving our office to Philadelphia. If they move me to Philadelphia, **I won’t be able to be the band mom, the FFA mom. I’m worth a good contract.** My kids are worth a good contract. **I’m going on strike for my future and my children’s futures.**”

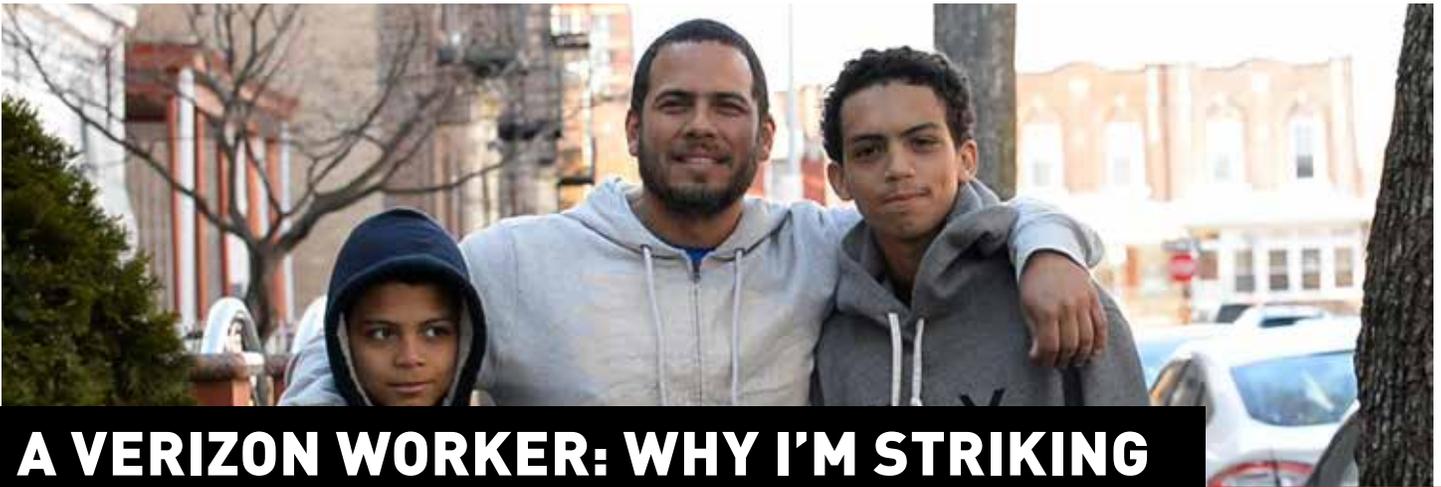


**MANDY POE** | Verizon Call Center | Wilmington, Delaware



“The company wants to relocate jobs on a moment’s notice. **We’re all husbands, fathers, sons, daughters**—when you’re asking someone to pick up and move out of state for four months at a time, it’s nearly impossible.”

**DAN HYLTON** | Verizon Technician | Roanoke, Virginia



# A VERIZON WORKER: WHY I'M STRIKING

ISAAC COLLAZO | Verizon Cable Splicing Technician

On Tuesday night, I put my boys to bed and made the trip from Brooklyn to Manhattan to work my last shift at Verizon before our strike — the biggest U.S. strike in years. If it had been a normal day, I would've left work at 7:30 a.m. and headed home to make sure my boys were ready to start their day. But on Wednesday at 6 a.m., I joined my co-workers on the picket line.

**Many people wonder how I can afford to strike. I can't. It's because of my boys that I have no choice but to strike. Verizon is pushing to eliminate good, middle-class jobs and make it impossible for someone like me, a technician with an associate's degree, to earn a decent living for my family in New York.**

Despite making \$39 billion in profits over the last three years, Verizon is looking to outsource our work to low-wage contractors. That might make sense if you're trying to pump up short-term profits, but it'd be a disaster for our network and our customers. It takes years to learn our systems. You can't send some cut-rate contractor underground in Manhattan where I work. They'd have no clue what they were doing.

And Verizon isn't just threatening job security. It wants to be able to force technicians to transfer far from home for two months at a time. How can I, as a single father, be away from home for months at a time? There's a good chance I'd have to quit.

I'm not alone in that. There are a lot of other workers who'd have to make the same terrible decision. I believe that's what Verizon truly wants: to force us into making this impossible choice so they can get rid of experienced, unionized workers and give our jobs to lower-wage contractors. It's a glaring example of what's wrong with the American economy.

Verizon is one of America's most profitable corporations. It made an astonishing \$1.8 billion a month in profits over the last three months of 2015. Lowell McAdam, Verizon's CEO, makes 200 times more than the company's average worker.

We believe that Verizon's workers — who spend our days underground, climbing telephone poles or taking calls from customers — need to make a living too.

My Verizon co-workers and I have spent nearly a year trying to reach a fair agreement with the company. Verizon can easily afford to settle a fair contract. But they want to send jobs overseas, close even more call centers and slash benefits for injured workers. They're also trying to force retirees to pay much more for health care — all at a time when the company is making record profits.

Our Verizon Wireless co-workers are also being left behind. The company says wireless workers make the company huge profits, but they remain some of the company's lowest paid employees. And even though wireless workers voted to form a union in 2014, Verizon still refuses to negotiate a fair first contract and is denying them improvements.

Verizon's corporate greed isn't just harming workers' families — it's hurting customers too. Verizon has nearly 40% fewer workers now it did than a decade ago. That makes it much harder for us to maintain quality service — to the point that regulators in New York and Pennsylvania are investigating Verizon's service problems.

The company has also failed to fully roll out FiOS, the high-speed broadband service that is still unavailable to many of our customers, including my family in Brooklyn. Verizon needs more people to finish the FiOS build and bring broadband to new communities. Instead, Verizon wants to cut jobs.

**The strike at Verizon is about more than a contract for 40,000 workers. It's about standing up to Verizon's efforts to undermine families across the country through the endless offshoring and outsourcing of jobs. We're standing up for an economy that works for all of us.**

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