

“How much our hearts should be on fire with love for this ministry of assisting poor people and for devoting ourselves earnestly to it because the need is so great and God expects this of us.”

— Vincent de Paul, *XII: 73<sup>i</sup>*



## The Story of Chartwells Workers at DePaul University

A report by UNITE HERE Local 1  
September 2021



Chartwells employee average annual earnings (2019)	<b>\$25,033</b>
Poverty guideline for family of four (2019)	<b>\$25,750</b>
Necessary to support one adult and one child in Chicago MSA (2021)	<b>\$67,080</b>
US. median household income (2021) <sup>ii</sup>	<b>\$79,900</b>

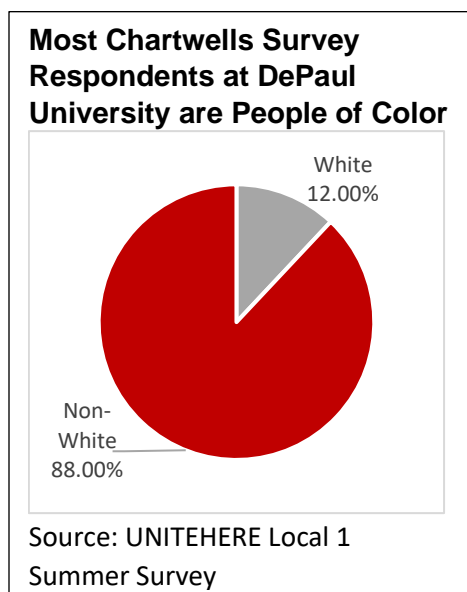
DePaul University depends on employees of Chartwells to welcome visitors to campus and keep undergraduates well fed. Chartwells is contracted by the University to provide dining services in the Lincoln Park Student Center, the McGowan Cafe and at the Loop Campus Student Center.

Compass Group, Chartwells' parent company, is a global service company with \$26 billion<sup>iii</sup> in underlying revenue for the year ending Sept. 30, 2020. The 2019 average annual earnings for Chartwells employees at DePaul University was \$25,033<sup>iv</sup>, less than the U.S poverty guideline for a family of four.<sup>v</sup>

According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, in 2021 a single adult with one child would have to earn \$67,080 per year to support him or herself in the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area.<sup>vi</sup>

UNITE HERE surveyed Chartwells workers at DePaul University in June, July, and August of 2021.

The 65 respondents reported the following.<sup>vii</sup>



### How do Chartwells workers at DePaul University survive?

- 49% lack enough money to pay their bills
- 85% have less than \$1,000 in savings
- 48% owe \$1,000 or more, not including a mortgage
- 49% receive government welfare program benefits



**“I have been working for this company for twenty years. I have seen my coworkers struggling financially and trying to make ends meet. We should not have to work two or three jobs. We should not have to work six or seven days a week.”**

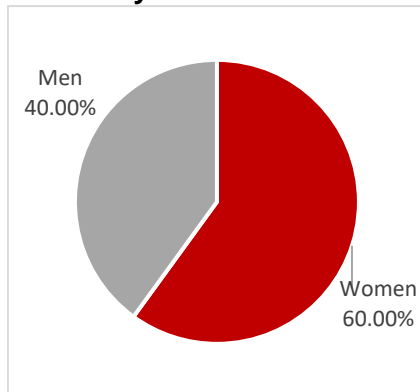
**- Tiffany Perez, Cashier**

**“I am a single mother, so I am responsible for all of our expenses. I had to go to food pantries just to put food on the table for my family.”**

**– Rita Gonzalez, Cold Food**



**Most Chartwells Survey Respondents at DePaul University are Women**



Source: UNITEHERE Local 1 Summer Survey

**Chartwells workers at DePaul University are food insecure**

- 40% cannot afford healthy food for their families
- 17% have household members who have gone hungry this year
- 43% went to a food pantry this year

**Chartwells Workers at DePaul face barriers to healthcare**

- 15% of respondents, or a member of their household, could not afford to go to the doctor
- 11% of respondents, or a member of their household, could not afford their medications
- 18% of respondents, or a member of their household, skipped some kind of medical service

**“Health insurance is extremely important for me and my co-workers because of the COVID-19 pandemic and our overall health.”**

**- Le'Denise Henderson, Lead Barista**



A note on sources:

Data about Chartwells employee earnings and some demographics were provided to UNITE HERE Local 1 by Chartwells. Other information about Chartwells employees are the results of the summer 2021 survey conducted by UNITE HERE Local 1.

---

<sup>i</sup> The Vincentian Formation Network: Quotes Vincent de Paul. [http://vincentians.com/en/quotes-collection/vincent-paul-quotes/?quotes\\_page=3](http://vincentians.com/en/quotes-collection/vincent-paul-quotes/?quotes_page=3)

<sup>ii</sup> U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development NOTICE PDR-2021-01. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il21/Medians2021.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Compass Group Annual Report 2020. [https://www.compass-group.com/content/dam/compass-group/corporate/Investors/Annual-reports/CompassGroupPLC\\_AnnualReport2020\\_FINAL.pdf.downloadasset.pdf](https://www.compass-group.com/content/dam/compass-group/corporate/Investors/Annual-reports/CompassGroupPLC_AnnualReport2020_FINAL.pdf.downloadasset.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Chartwells data provided to UNITE HERE Local 1

<sup>v</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2019 Poverty Guidelines. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2019-poverty-guidelines>

<sup>vi</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>

<sup>vii</sup> Based on a UNITE HERE Local 1 survey of 65 out of 101 UNITE HERE Local 1 members who work for Chartwells at DePaul University as of 1/2020.

