In April of 1988, JwJ joins the Southern Christian Leadership Coalition for a journey from Memphis to Atlanta commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On July 29, 1987, more than 11,000 attend the first Jobs with Justice (JwJ) rally in Miami, Florida at the CWA Convention. The ralliers rock the Miami Convention Center with chants of “JUSTICE!” and together recite the JwJ Pledge: “During the next year, ‘I’ll Be There’ at least five times for someone else’s fight, as well as my own.”

In June 1991, JwJ coordinates a Health Care Week of Action targeting insurance company bureaucracy. Protestors in 120 cities in all 50 states literally wrapped insurance company buildings in 6” wide red plastic tape. Jobs with Justice also helps to coordinate the Emergency Drive for Health Care, delivering thousands of ‘votes’ for health care reform to lawmakers via a cross-country ambulance trek.

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Throughout 1993, JwJ organizes actions in National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) offices nationwide to demand that the Board uphold the right to organize unions. Thousands of people participate in the protests and hundreds of people are arrested.

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Jobs with Justice organizes a nationwide week of action against the corporate and Congressional supporters of the ‘Contract on America’ and to demand a ‘Bill of Rights for Working People’ in June 1995.

On September 25, 1996, JwJ coordinates a Corporate Greed Day of Action to oppose excessive executive compensation, layoffs, downsizing, and the abuse of workers at a variety of companies across the country. Local JwJ activists choose local corporate targets in over 40 cities.


Jobs with Justice also distributes a comic book, “Welfare Reform Confidential” to illustrate how private companies profit from workfare laws.

In late 1999, JwJ and the United States Students Association begin collaboration on the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP) to support student organizing. On April 4, 2000, the 32nd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s assassination, SLAP holds the first Student Labor Day of Action.

On April 16, 2000, tens of thousands of people converged on Washington, DC to protest the meetings of the IMF & World Bank. Jobs with Justice played a coordinating role in the protests. On September 26, 2000 - JwJ organizes actions nationwide to ‘Localize the Movement for Global Justice’. Planned to coincide with the with the Prague IMF-World Bank Meetings, local actions linked local struggles to the global fight for social and economic justice.

In October, 2000, JwJ sends a delegation of workers displaced by NAFTA and community activists from Kentucky to the border town of Nogales in Sonora, Mexico to witness firsthand the devastating impacts of NAFTA on Mexican workers and their communities. In 2002, Mexican workers visit Kentucky and complete the Kentucky-Sonora worker exchange.
On April 16, 2001, JwJ protests the Free Trade Area of the Americas at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec and locally in over 50 cities and towns across the U.S. In conjunction with the Day of Action, JwJ coalitions released state-by-state NAFTA job loss reports compiled by the Economic Policy Institute: “NAFTA’s Impact on the States: The Industries and States that Suffered the Most in the Agreement’s First Seven Years.”

In the fall of 2003, Jobs with Justice coalitions participate in a “Season of Struggle”. In September, coalitions throughout the country support the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, supporting bus caravans which brought hundreds of immigrant workers to Washington, DC and then New York City to demand a path to legalization. In November, JwJ is one of the lead organizers for protests against the Free Trade Area of the Americas summit meeting in Miami, FL. Leading up to the protests, JwJ coalitions collect tens of thousands of ballots against the FTAA. December 10, 2003 JwJ coalitions throughout the country celebrate International Human Rights Day with events with the theme “Workers’ Rights Are Human Rights” and begin to mobilize support for the Employee FreeChoice Act.

In December 2004, JwJ launches an outsourcing / New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI) Project with a tour of Indian leaders to JwJ coalitions.

In August 2002, JwJ activists leaflet Payless Shoe Source, the GAP, and Home Depot stores to demand that they stop using their influence via the ‘West Coast Waterfront Coalition’ to encourage the Bush administration to threaten West Coast Dockworkers fighting for a fair contract. Payless agrees to send letters to the WCWC and Bush urging that the government not intervene.

In January 2002, JwJ protests the World Economic Forum in New York and sends a delegation of activists to the first World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil to share strategies and visions for a just and sustainable world. Conversations at the World Social Forum lead to the formation of Grassroots Global Justice, a national alliance of grassroots organizations building a movement for peace, democracy and a sustainable world.

On March 4, 2004 JwJ coalitions and allies throughout the country participate in Health Care Action Day. In addition to local rallies and educational events, hundreds of thousands of workers wore “Health Care for All” stickers to work that day.


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Jobs with Justice coalitions in cities across the country participate in May Day marches for immigrant rights. The marches and rallies become an annual tradition.

Jobs with Justice coalitions participate in a number of actions to hold Walmart accountable to a higher standard for workers including actions on “Black Friday”, a Quarantine Walmart” day of action, & more.
In June 2007, hundreds of Jobs with Justice activists join 10,000+ at the first US Social Forum in Atlanta, GA. Growing out of the US Social Forum, several national networks, including Jobs with Justice, form the Inter-Alliance Dialogue to work together on issues and capacity-building initiatives.

From 2006-2008, JwJ coalitions across the country helped to bring community, faith and student voices to support Smithfield workers. On December 10, 2008, the Smithfield workers voted in an NLRB election to form a union, marking the largest union victory in the manufacturing sector in over a decade.

On April 22, 2009, author, journalist, and National Workers’ Rights Board member Barbara Ehrenreich moderated a Capitol Hill press event and roundtable discussion on low-wage workers and the effects of the economic crisis. The panel discussed how the Employee Free Choice Act would directly impact workers’ lives, particularly the lives of low-wage and women workers.

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On June 16, 2011, Jobs with Justice is part of the launch of the Organization United for Respect at Walmart at Walmart’s home office in Bentonville, AR.

In December 2008, Jobs with Justice supports workers at Republic Windows and Doors who staged a sit-in strike at their factory after they were laid-off without proper notice and without being paid the money they are owed. After nationwide actions, Republic Workers won a settlement including back-pay, severance, vacation time, and temporary health care benefits.

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At the 2010 US Social Forum in Detroit, MI, Jobs with Justice participates in the first public event of the Excluded Workers Congress, a project of the Inter-Alliance Dialogue which aims to build, broaden and strengthen the labor movement in the US and abroad.

In December 2010, the Excluded Workers Congress releases a report on the Human Right to Organize. In early 2011 Jobs with Justice is part of the Excluded Workers’ Congress conference on the Human Right to Organize.

In July, 2011, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Jobs with Justice, and dozens of other groups launch the Caring Across Generations Campaign to transform the direct care industry.