

**PUBLICATION RELEASE EVENT  
MEDIA ADVISORY**

**November 26, 2017**

**CONTACT:**

Rick Sprout  
Occupational Health Clinical Center  
Binghamton  
(607) 238-6892  
sproutr@upstate.edu

Jeanette Zoeckler  
Occupational Health Clinical Center  
Syracuse  
(315) 432-8899  
zoecklej@upstate.edu

***“WORKERS’ VOICES / WORKERS’ STORIES: Injured Workers Tell Their Stories”***

***Publication Release Event***

*Injured workers will speak out about their experiences as they release their publication with occupational health professionals, worker advocates, labor leaders, health care providers, and community members gather to celebrate the publication release.*

**Binghamton, NY** - On Saturday, December 2nd at 12 noon at the Occupational Health Clinical Center of the Southern Tier at 840 Front Street Binghamton an event will celebrate the completion of the publication titled: **WORKERS’ VOICES / WORKERS’ STORIES: Injured Workers Tell Their Stories.**

When workers get hurt or sick at work, they are thrust into series of challenges that include not only coping with their immediate symptoms, but they must also endure financial hardships, threats to mental health, family issues and sometimes even additional health complications especially when Workers’ Compensation bureaucracy is slow or present complex challenges. The publication is the result of over two years’ collaboration between injured workers and clinic staff.

Workers involved in developing the publication shared their individual stories including details about how they have had to carry on with degrading fights with the NYS Workers’ Compensation Board in order to address both physical and mental health challenges. These injured workers emphasize their commitment to sharing their experiences as an ongoing project.

*“We want to raise awareness about and, ultimately, to improve how Workers’ Compensation functions in New York State. We do not want people to have to continue to go through what we have experienced just to obtain the right kind of medical care and appropriate benefits.”*

Local workers, union leaders, elected officials, faith leaders, and university representatives will gather at the Occupational Health Clinical Center to celebrate the workers who have courageously shared their experiences as injured workers in an effort to fight for safer working conditions and prevent occupational injury and illness.

The party will begin at 12:00 noon with light refreshment. Worker participants will “meet and greet” and also share remarks.

**WHAT:** Publication Release: *“Workers’ Voices Workers’ Stories: Injured Workers Tell Their Stories”*

**WHEN:** December 2, 2017 at 12 noon

**WHERE:** Occupational Health Clinical Center - Southern Tier, 840 Front Street, Binghamton

**WHO:** EXPECTED ARE INJURED WORKERS, LABOR LEADERS, LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY AGENCY HEADS, CLERGY, UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS, MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL AND MEDICAL COMMUNITY, PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS