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What Being a Member of a Union Family Means to Me?

Throughout my personal experience, I have witnessed many different benefits of being a part of a union. Aside from all the obvious benefits, such as a stable income, job security, and safe work environments, being part of a unionized family means more to me personally.

First and foremost, the union has helped my family shape my childhood. Growing up with both my parents being unionized, there was never fear of either of them losing their jobs. This security allowed my parents to bond with my siblings and I without the stress of an unstable lifestyle. Bonding in my family included weekends out to the lake, movie outings and travelling. The union ensured that my family was provided with stable income to build such a memorable childhood for me. My parents could afford to take us on vacations to Florida, the Bahamas and most recently, Hawaii. Although the union provided a stable income to allow my parents to save up for these trips, some employers may not allow one to use vacation time. However, being part of a unionized family meant my parents were given the opportunity to take off this time to shape our childhood and create such memorable experiences.

Furthermore, the union became such an important part in the recovery of my family. Recently this year, my step father suffered from a heart attack. He was in the hospital for a week while my mother was trying to keep our routines the same, and also trying to take care of him. This was truly a life-changing experience that my family and I were struggling with. Thanks to the collective agreement that was negotiated between the union and the company, my step father was able to receive compensation while he was unable to work for over three months and we were able to get past this obstacle in life with little impact to our family. Had my step father not been employed under the union it could have been detrimental to our family and to my post-secondary education.

Last but not least, the union means more to me than vacation time, sick benefits or stable income. The union provides hope for my future endeavors. My grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles have all had the opportunity to be protected under the union. Whether they're retired or still working, they've had the opportunity to live their lives to the fullest potential. Being involved in a unionized job would mean that I get the chance to build myself the life I've always dreamt of, without any worry. It would mean that I get the chance to build myself a successful career, travel the world, and continue to value the importance of family. I hope that someday I get the opportunity to be part of a union.

To conclude, it is clear that being a member of a unionized work environment provides many benefits such as job security, stable income, and safe work environments. However to me, I am thankful that my family is able to have a secure work-life balance for our family thanks to the support of the union and the collective agreement. In the future I hope to gain the opportunity of being protected by a union.