

LIFE ON THE *EDGE*

Comments from GDIT Call Center Employees to Congress about Surviving on Poverty Wages

"The low pay at GDIT means that my family and I have to decide which is more important - keeping our lights on or eating. I go to work faithfully every day - I haven't missed one day, I can't afford to."

-Sherry Collier, Hattiesburg, MS employee

"Juggl[ing] bills, living paycheck to paycheck is so scary. Not knowing if I will have enough money to pay my bills has caused me much unwanted stress. This stress has caused additional health problems that I can't afford to be treated for. . . I find myself lashing out at my kids, all because I'm worried if I will be able to keep a roof over our heads."

-Brenda Holmes, Lynn Haven, FL employee

"The low pay at GDIT means that my family and I have to go without food. We had to try and eat Ramon almost every night."

-Kyshawn Henderson, Hattiesburg, MS employee

"The low pay at GDIT means that my family and I have to suffer. Starve. Live a low quality life."

-Stephanie Case, London, KY employee

"If I had extra money for me and my family, I wouldn't have to shop at salvage stores and eat expired food. I wouldn't have to lay awake at night worrying over money. I would have no debt and could get medical care."

-Tara Mier, Bogalusa, LA employee

"I get paid the same exact amount per hour that I got paid when I walked in the door as a new hire 5 years ago. . . On what I get paid, I cannot afford to pay my living expenses . . . It now costs my family more to eat then it ever has and I am making the same thing I did when I first started with GDIT regardless of stepping up in the call center to a higher level of responsibility and workload. The further and further I slip behind economically makes me really question what I do and why. . . My daughter has to go without new clothes and has to eat unhealthy carb heavy food because that is all I can afford to put on the table."

-Michael Terry, Lawrence, KS employee

"If I made a decent wage, I'd be able to pay my bills on time, not have to keep my bank account in overdraft, live out of my car [and] eat one meal a day."

-Demetrice Timmes, Hattiesburg, MS employee

"[My family and I had to] move to Gulfport, MS with my fiance's mother on account of the low wages they paid me, I lost my home and my kids had to endure leaving there friends and going to a new school where they knew no-one. I was humiliated and felt like I didn't deserve my family cause I couldn't provide for them. Do you know how it feels for your kids to ask you. . . 'Daddy, when we going home?' It hurt so bad."

-Markell Cannon, Hattiesburg, MS employee

CWA



I struggle day to day,
I don't live easy.

**By the time you pay
your bills, how can
you feed your kids?**

Tamara Mills

GDIT Call Center Worker
Corbin, KY

www.GDITWorkersUnited.org

"If I made a decent wage, I'd be able to make a better life for myself and my children. Being a single mother has been rough, living paycheck to paycheck is no kind of life. Give us what we deserve for the work we perform."

-Mary Hatcher, London, KY employee

"[The low pay at GDIT] meant that I after I paid majority of the bills that I didn't have any money left over to buy groceries or to even go to the store and buy personal items."

-Malasia Bridges, Hattiesburg, MS employee

"My husband has to work 72 hours a week to make up the income that I don't get. He misses out on spending time with our 11 year old son. My son actually said 'If daddy were to die tomorrow I would not know him,' which really broke my heart. I have worked at GDIT for almost 6 years. . . [If I were paid more] we would not have to live paycheck to paycheck and I would feel like I am doing my part to contribute to our family."

-Heather McRoberts, London, KY employee

"We have to do without a lot of things. We want to move from a place that is making me sick but can't afford to move."

-Toni Shelton, Lawrence, KS employee

"I have had medical bills go into collection that I couldn't afford because of the high insurance they provide us with that ultimately led to a 25% garnishment of my check and still had to try and maintain a living and my home! Which led to borrowing money from family or friends, or taking out loans, choosing what bills were goin' to get paid this month and what bills weren't."

-Clifton Pollock, former Hattiesburg, MS employee

