

AFL-CIO joins partnership with faith group

By Tribune staff

Published December 13, 2006

The AFL-CIO announced Tuesday a partnership with **Interfaith Worker Justice**, a Chicago-based organization that links religious groups to union and worker-related issues. The 10-year-old organization operates 15 worker centers around the U.S. serving mostly immigrants and low-income workers.

Jose Oliva, an official with Interfaith Worker Justice, said the agreement is mostly symbolic but would help in planning efforts nationally and locally.

Nationally, there are about 140 worker centers that provide the kind of help normally found in a union hall or community center, such as job counseling and legal assistance.

The AFL-CIO reached a similar agreement earlier this year with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

Meanwhile, the 50,000-member National Postal Mail Handlers Union said Tuesday it had rejoined the AFL-CIO. The mail handlers, who are still affiliated with the Laborers, are the first dissident group to rejoin the labor federation, said AFL-CIO officials. The Laborers' union, which broke from the federation last year, is one of seven unions that created a competing labor federation, the Change To Win coalition.