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Shut Smith Down Coalition will hold a celebratory event where speakers will detail the multigenerational fight to shut down Smith Foundry and how the fight for environmental justice and good union jobs are parallel.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

On August 15, 2024, Smith Foundry, the controversial iron casting plant in East Phillips, will close its doors for good. Longtime East Phillips and Little Earth resident Jolene Jones said, "I felt a relief, a relief that they were closing and our community and our children at Little Earth will be able to breathe.

The Shut Smith Down coalition, comprising East Phillips residents, parents, employees of Circulo de Amigos daycare, and other allies, is calling on Smith Foundry to offer a generous severance package to all of their employees.

Recently in a [Star Tribune article](#), Adolfo Quiroga, the president of Smith Foundry, stated, "Unfortunately, our employees and their families will be impacted the most by this closure, which I deeply regret. I wish there was more we could do." While it is true that Smith Foundry employees will be most affected by the closure, they will no longer be exposed to toxic chemicals for eight or more hours a day. With an [annual revenue in 2022 of \\$4.5 million](#), Smith Foundry should provide a generous severance package to demonstrate genuine concern for their employees' well-being.

The fight to shut down Smith Foundry has been a multigenerational battle for clean air, water, and soil. Many residents and employees suffer lifelong health complications due to Smith's toxic emissions, so its closure means every East Phillips child and elder will breathe cleaner air. For decades, neighborhood residents have been overburdened by toxic pollution from harmful facilities, the arsenic triangle, two highways, and a garbage transfer station.

Despite Zynik Capital's disingenuous claims, the fights for environmental justice and good jobs are intrinsically connected. We believe in well-paying, union jobs that keep people safe and healthy, and the Shut Smith Down Coalition will continue to advocate to ensure that Smith workers have a just transition. There should be no compromise between clean air and good jobs, and the work continues until we achieve both.

On August 16, we invite the community and allies to celebrate Smith's closure at Cedar Field Park at 5:30 PM. The Coalition will continue to pressure Smith Foundry to offer the workers the generous severance package they deserve.