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The women of Flint, Michigan played an undeniably crucial role in the sit down strike. Through their tireless efforts to stand by their compatriots, they were able to invigorate hundreds of other women to join the cause and to fight not only for the success of the union, but for the success of women in the workforce. Though they were originally underestimated and attempts were made to keep them in the boxes labeled “mother, housewife, homemaker”, they eventually went on to become an integral cog in the strike machine. These women pushed through the confining social boundaries to reach new levels of participation and respect from the men watching them. They were a vital part of the success that the union achieved. Without the women that were determined to assist their husbands, sons, and brothers, the sit down strike would not have been effective, nor would it have achieved such astronomical strides in union history.

One of the key ideas throughout the strike was the idea of solidarity. Everyone was in this fight together and nobody was going to give up on one another. The men and women of Flint were united against a common enemy which only made them that much stronger. Originally the idea of joining the Union and the strike was not something that the women would have agreed to or encouraged. Though that is because they were thinking as a worker, a mother, a wife, and as a person. The inner battle between a wide variety of roles meant that something as new, and as radical, as what the Union’s goals were was an intimidating prospect for most women. This is also why having another woman campaigning for the Union, and promoting the goals of the Union was so influential on women that were still conflicted. Women that were hesitant to join were more likely to be persuaded by another woman who could explain her logic and reasoning for joining in the fight.

Additionally, once the men in Fisher 1 went on strike, the women just wanted to help keep their men safe and to help out in any way that they could. As one of the women in the video

stated, "... them men had it made." Since the men were sitting in the plant, the women would bring them food and walk the picket lines out front. They arranged for there to be children's picket lines and day care so that other women could go picket. Eventually when the Emergency Women's Brigade was formed, they would divide and conquer going wherever they were needed the most. The women were everywhere all at once, covering a lot of ground and working to protect the men inside the plant as well as the integrity of the strike. Without the women, the men would have had to have come out of those plants much sooner. When the riot broke out, it was a woman, who spoke into the souls of the populace and motivated previously uninvolved people to get involved, effectively stopping the fighting and protecting the strike. Later on, women were the ones who barricaded the gate to Plant 4 and stalled the police long enough for the streets to be flooded with both men and women. Though the men started this battle, the women finished it.

The Emergency Women's Brigade brought along all of their past experience and used it to promote the continuity of equality and solidarity within the Union. Now General Motors workers' have things like equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender. Additionally, there is fairer job selection that takes into account seniority rather than going along with an antiquated, unpublished rule that rivaled the spoils system of politics. This also promotes equality along gender and racial groups. Workers have better pay, paid holidays, a forty hour work week that provides overtime pay for weekend work, and paid vacations. There is also collective bargaining because of the Union, what one person bargains for, all people will receive. Also, General Motors now also abides by health and safety standards that prevent someone from every having to see a finger left on their station by another person. All of these things and many more sprouted from the seed that was planted by the sit down strike and watered by the Emergency Women's Brigade.

The efforts of the Union have allowed for me to grow up in a life of comfort. I was probably eight or nine years old before it was revealed to me that not everyone had the same kinds of insurance that my family had. It seemed so mundane to go to the dentist every six months. I thought that everyone could afford to go to the doctor or to get new glasses when the edges of their vision were becoming fuzzy. I grew up blissfully unaware of the benefits that my family had due to the Union and the fights that other people had endured. Comparing my mother's non-union job benefits to my father's benefits is not even a fair fight. The Union prioritizes the workers above all else, whereas other companies prioritize corporate gain. These gains that the Union has accrued are highly beneficial to workers and if ever given the chance in my future, I will join the Union wherever I work because I know that those who came before me fought for these beneficial amenities that I once overlooked.

The symbol of the red beret recognized a new kind of woman. A woman who knew what she wanted. A woman that was to be respected and revered for her efforts. On top of all their other responsibilities, the women of Flint took up the call to action, to promote the Union and their gender. They were driven to make the Union a success, and to promote the capabilities of women outside of the kitchen. Without the assistance of the women in Flint, the sit down strike could not have been as influential. They led a movement that continues to inspire and motivate the women of today to never take it lying down. There is always something that can be done, sometimes it just takes a little creative thinking and a more personal, less abrasive touch, to reach a wider variety of people and to influence them as well.