

PICKET

September 12, 2024



UW MEDICINE
VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

One Valley, from the frontline to the bargaining table — and to the picket line!

We won't accept less!

When healthcare workers are outside, something is wrong inside. We can't continue to live with wages that fall behind King County inflation, or sick leave banks that leave us unable to recover when we are sick or need to care for a family member. That's why, after 14 bargaining sessions with management and still no contract to show for it, we raised our picket signs and sent a message to management: That we won't accept less than fair pay and sick leave that matches the standards in other UW Medicine hospitals — why would we deserve less?

Alongside our coworkers, friends, families, community leaders, neighbors, and pets, we stood together, and made our voices heard. We're ready to keep up the fight and stay persistent because we know a strong contract with fair wages and benefits is critical to safe patient care. It's not just about us — it's about upholding the high-quality care our South King County community deserves.



★ *Thank you for your support!* ★

- ★ State Rep. Mia Gregerson, 33rd LD
- ★ Kim Khanh Van, Renton City Councilmember
- ★ Carmen Rivera, Renton City Councilmember
- ★ Carol Lightle, Swedish, Executive Board of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
- ★ Neeru Kaur and Meni Tale, Harborview, Executive Board of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
- ★ Anthony Berkley, VMC Hospital District Commissioner
- ★ Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
- ★ OPEIU Local 8
- ★ GABRIELA Seattle
- ★ International Association of Machinists Local 751
- ★ Restaurant Opportunities Center United
- ★ International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines
- ★ Renton Firefighters IAFF 864
- ★ Washington Federation of State Employees
- ★ SEIU Committee of Interns and Residents
- ★ Starbucks Workers United
- ★ American Federation of Teachers



"Because of the strong sick leave policy we won at Harborview, it allows me to stay home when I need to, whether for a mental health day or when I'm physically unwell, without risking the health of my coworkers and patients.

Learning about your fight for adequate sick leave has been eye opening. It's cruel that Valley won't support you in your most vulnerable moments. Taking a sick day shouldn't put you in financial hardship. That's why we're here—to show Valley that we won't stop fighting as one union until you win the contract you deserve.

Patients and coworkers rely on us as frontline workers, and we can't give our 100% if we're not feeling 100%. Go back to that bargaining table, and tell management you're not asking—that you're demanding a contract that respects you. Your union stands with you, and we don't back down from a fight."

—Neeru Kaur, Respiratory Therapist and Meni Tale, RN, Harborview Medical Center



"It felt good. Asking for better pay, better staffing. I felt proud. And we will win. We were happy to see more supporters from people who don't work here."

—Reshma Kumar, PCA, 6S

"I am picketing because my family needs me when they are sick. I am picketing because as we approach flu season, I need to know I can call out sick for my child. Today's picket with my fellow nurses and coworkers was a testament to our unity and resilience, as we stood together for better pay and more sick hours. Our collective voice is our ultimate strength. It was great seeing everyone come together and physically seeing the amount of people there. It really shows that there is a large number of staff whose needs are not being met."

—Jaspreet Singh, RN, 5S



"As healthcare workers at Valley Medical Center, you are the bedrock of this South King County community. When VMC workers do well, our whole community is lifted up. And we're not going to let Valley forget that YOU are the heart of this community. As one of the largest employers in South King County, Valley has an opportunity to be a leader in this community. Our unity shown here today and in the days to come will move them to do the right thing. We will not back down. We will not be silenced. We will not stop until we win the fair contract that ensures you have what you need to provide great care to our community."

—Jane Hopkins, RN, President of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

Share our public campaign website!

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to sign our community petition and to share with community groups!

valleymedicalunited.org

