# **BARGAINING UPDATE**

# Stronger together: The Heart of VMFH - United and Unstoppable

As the backbone of the VMFH system, we stand together! Over 2700 dedicated healthcare workers are united in SEIU Healthcare 1199NW across CommonSpirit/Virginia Mason Franciscan Health system in Washington State. Our skills and unwavering dedication are vital to the success of our hospitals and life to the communities we serve. We recognize our worth, we are rooted in unity and prepared to support one another as we forge ahead in the bargaining process to win contracts that will recruit and retain. Together, we are an unstoppable force!

It is essential for the Virginia Mason Franciscan Health administration and CommonSpirit to uphold their proclaimed value: "a mission to heal, a promise to care," by caring for us—the frontline caregivers who are committed to caring for our communities.

## Who we are

We are united in SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, a union with over 36,000 healthcare workers throughout Washington and Montana. Our mission is to advocate for quality care, good jobs, and economic empowerment for all. We know that healthcare works best when we have a strong voice in decision-making at our facilities.

#### What we stand for:

Our values are equity, respect, and quality patient care.

- Racial and economic justice initiatives in our communities, including immigration reform, and affordable healthcare.
- Respect for the critical work that we do.
- Quality patient care being committed to providing quality patient care.
- Fair and equitable compensation for our work.
- Partnership to improve working conditions, wages, and benefits
- Training and education to help members grow and advance their careers.

Together, we are stronger, and together, we will make a difference and together, we need change!



## St. Anne Hospital - Burien

We are over 470 registered nurses and service workers in Burien, providing essential care. Our contract is set to expire in June 2025, and we are already preparing to negotiate for wages that will help us recruit and retain skilled workers. We also seek to improve the standards our fellow union members negotiate. Together, we are stronger!

"I work at St. Anne Hospital as an OR nurse.
I'm here for the unexpected emergency you
didn't know you were going to have. I'm glad to
have a job that fixes things, healing someone
and restoring them. OR nurses are important to
patients and the community because you don't

want to travel long distances during an emergency; you want to get care immediately in your neighborhood." – Mona Denton, St. Anne Hospital RN, OR

## **Who CommonSpirit is**

Before the merger that created CommonSpirit, Franciscan Health System (formerly a CHI subsidiary) facilities in Washington state were local community hospitals.

CommonSpirit Health is headquartered in Chicago. It is now the largest Catholic healthcare system in the US, but it acts like a for-profit investment firm.

CommonSpirit Health has a significant investment portfolio. In fiscal year 2023 alone, CommonSpirit brought in \$36 billion of consolidated revenues as well as generating a \$1 billion in non-operating revenue, primarily through investments.

As a nonprofit healthcare system, Common Spirit also receives millions in tax breaks annually. In exchange, it is supposed to provide benefits to our communities, including financial assistance programs, known as Charity Care, to our most vulnerable patients.

In 2023, while net patient services revenue was \$30.8 billion, CommonSpirit only spent 1.5% of that on patients who qualified for free or reduced-cost care. In Washington, half of all patients are eligible to receive charity care at hospitals. And while nearly all of Common Spirit owned hospitals in Washington saw double-digit increases in total patient services revenue, the revenue created by our labor. At the same time, there were huge reductions in the money going to our communities through charity care.

CommonSpirit continues to expand its reach across 24 states, bringing in a billion dollars in investment revenue annually and paying its CEO and 11 top executives \$79 million in FY' 2022 while investing minimally in us, our communities and our most vulnerable patients.

In 2022, **St. Anne Hospital** spent \$5.6 million less on charity care, a 22.2% decrease under **CommonSpirit!** 



0



#### Who we are

#### Who CommonSpirit is

#### St. Clare Hospital - Lakewood

We are a unit of over 300 service and technical workers who provide care and support to vulnerable communities. We have started negotiations and are advocating for a contract that establishes a safer working environment and offers benefits to attract and retain skilled workers.



"Pharmacy Technicians are important key members of the Pharmacy and other multidisciplinary teams within the hospital, playing a vital role in helping patients get the best outcome from their medications, providing them with safe and effective medical care while helping to maintain and improve the health and safety of the

-Alexandra Torres, St. Clare Hospital, Pharmacy Technician

St. Clare Hospital's charity care spending decreased by 73%, totaling \$32.5 million less after the CommonSpirit acquisition.

# St. Elizabeth Hospital - Enumclaw

We are more than 140 registered nurses and technical workers dedicated to delivering exceptional care and improving the health of our patients. Our nurses' contract expires in March 2025, and we stand united with our fellow union members in other VMFH CommonSpirit facilities, prepared to take action when needed!



"The work I do is crucial because the absence of X-ray technicians can lead to missed or delayed emergency care, postponed surgeries, and procedures, increasing the risk of worse outcomes." -Chad Reilly, St. Elizabeth Hospital, X-Ray Tech

Since CommonSpirit took over, St. Elizabeth Hospital spent \$1.3 million less on charity care in 2022, a 29.6% decrease in care for our most vulnerable community members.

At the same time, total patient services revenue increased by about 19.4%.

# St. Joseph Medical Center - Tacoma

We are over 620 LPNs and Service workers at St. Joe's Medical Center. We have been in negotiations since October 2023, and one of our main goals is to establish a welcoming and inclusive workplace for all and secure a livable wage and improved benefits.



"My role as a CNA in Hospice is important in our community because my patients are the greatest rewards of my entire workday. Seeing patients and their families go through the end-of-life process on a daily basis reminds me of the importance of life. It's an honor to serve patients and their families as a CNA. It's a joy to be serving the community." -Aisha Duncan-

Murphy, St. Joseph Medical Center, CNA Hospice House

In 2022, **St. Joseph Medical Center** spent only 0.87% of the money it brought in from patient care on charity care. Under CommonSpirit's leadership, St. Joe's slashed charity care spending by over 50% or \$33 million less than two years ago.

Meanwhile, total patient services revenue increased 14.3% from \$3.3 billion in 2020 to \$3.4 billion in 2022.

# **Virginia Mason Medical Center - Seattle**

We are a team of over 1,100 healthcare workers from various job classifications and cultural backgrounds. Currently, we are negotiating our first-ever union contract. Our goals include securing improved wages, benefits, and overall respect in the workplace. Our job classes consist of sterile processing technicians, respiratory therapists, EVS technicians, occupational therapists, and more, all of whom are essential in maintaining high standards of care.

> have 11 years of experience as a Respiratory Therapist at Virginia Mason Hospital. I chose this career to provide exceptional care to patients and positively impact their experience in a medical setting. In my role, I work in various areas and handle scheduling, ordering, and communication with other medical professionals.

Our respiratory department is involved in critical situations such as RRTs, Code Blues, Code Strokes, emergent deliveries, life support, and end-of-life care, and we also strive to foster a strong sense of community within the hospital." -Crystal Deano, Virginia Mason Medical Center, RT Lead, Contract Action Team member Ever since CommonSpirit acquired Virginia Mason **Medical Center,** its total patient services revenue has increased to over \$3 billion, which is a 23% increase in just two years.

However, during this same period, under CommonSpirit's direction, Virginia Mason Medical Center spent only 0.48% of the \$3 billion it received from patient care on charity care.

Virginia Mason Medical Center spent \$5.9 million less on charity care than before CommonSpirit took over.

# **VMFH Rehabilitation Hospital - Tacoma**

We are more than 80 service, LPN, and professional workers who successfully formed our union in February 2024. We are fully dedicated to establishing a unified organization that ensures safe patient care. Thanks to this commitment, we successfully formed our union and secured a victory in our election, with a clear mandate to improve the future for our patients and our team. We are confident we will achieve an outstanding first contract by standing together and trusting each

> "I am a licensed practical nurse. I have been an LPN for 8 years and in healthcare for 9 years. My job is important to me, because I want to give back to my community in a positive way. Being in healthcare is the most direct way we can help people and create positive outcomes for others." - Jenny Mackenzie, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Rehab LPN

In 2018, Franciscan Specialty Care, LLC (FSC) was established as a new joint-venture healthcare entity, now known as VMFH Rehabilitation Hospital. It is 51% owned by CHI Franciscan Health System (operating as St. Joseph Medical Center) and 49% owned by RehabCare Development 4, a 100% subsidiary of Kindred Healthcare,

Since 2019, VMFH Rehabilitation Hospital consistently spent nothing on charity care until 2022, when it spent only 0.32% of total patient services revenue on charity care. This is CommonSpirit's only hospital in Washington that has spent little to no money on charity care in the past five vears.





