

PICKET

October 24, 2024



ST. JOE'S MEDICAL CENTER

We Showed Our Strength and Unity: We Won't Back Down!

Hundreds of union healthcare workers at SJMC stood together on the picket line, sending a powerful message to CommonSpirit/VMFH management that we won't settle for less than we deserve in our new contract! Alongside our coworkers, friends, family, community leaders, and local elected officials, we showed SJMC that we are united and are a force to be reckoned with.

It's time for St. Joe's to put patients over profits. We need fair wages and safe staffing in order to do our jobs and provide the quality care our communities deserve!

We were joined by

- ✦ WSNA nurses from St. Joe's
- ✦ UFCW 3000 Tech workers at St. Joe's
- ✦ Mari Leavitt, Washington State Representative, 28th LD
- ✦ Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- ✦ Tacoma Ministerial Alliance
- ✦ UFCW 367 (grocery/retail)





"We came to the picket line because we have to stand up for what we believe in!"
-Shaun Young, Care Assistant, Family Birth Center



"Safe staffing is a big thing for us right now. 15 patients for 1 CNA is unsafe. We want the staffing back to how it was before CommonSpirit took over. We need commitments in our contract to safe staffing. That's why I'm picketing."
-Tracy Champlain, Transporter, Patient Transport



"I've been here 20 years and I'm still making \$28. It just doesn't make sense. The living cost keeps rising while we haven't been receiving meaningful wages for the past few years. You can't afford anything. Electricity keeps rising, gas keeps rising, rent keeps rising, and we stay in the same place. No matter how hard I work or how long, it stays the same. How can anyone live off that?"
-Jane Hang, ED Tech, Emergency Department



"My main thing is the pay since I've been here for so long. I'm only \$2 under new employees and \$10 under other companies. Considering my commitment to Joe's, it's unfair. Especially being a single parent being in school. I've been working here for 10 years and feel that my pay is pretty unfair. I'm very committed to the hospital, but I don't feel the appreciation or commitment to me. The cost of living rises and our pay doesn't, so I'm out on the line supporting my coworkers and my family because we deserve better. It's been enough."
-Yolanda Ventura, ED Tech, Emergency Department



"I stood in the picket line to advocate for fair wages and safe staffing ratios because it's unsafe, especially at night, to manage 10+ patients with insufficient staff. When one person is stretched too thin, the quality of care inevitably decreases, as no one can be everywhere at once to meet patients' critical needs. Being a college student, it also feels like a slap in the face, working so hard for inadequate compensation making it feel like all of this dedication, effort and care is undervaluing my effort and potential."
-Leea Jones and Cyah Dade, 7th Floor Medsurg CNAs

"The wages are too low. I have to significantly cut back on personal spending between my wife and I. Our lifestyles have changed significantly since switching over to this job. It's not equitable to the work we do here."
-Albert Dela Pena, ED Tech, Emergency Department



"I'm tired of breaking my back for a little pay, while corporate greed is running rampant."
-Willie Willis, EVS Tech Specialist, Environment Services

"I feel like we've lagged behind the rest of the country in pay scale for so long, we have to catch up. I like what I do here, but it's hard to keep up. On other hospital job postings in the county, we're below all of them regardless of the amount we do."
-Chase Herring, ED Tech, Emergency

"I need a livable wage. I'm still living with family and it's rough because I'm not making the funds necessary to live in the area, I can't even live next to work. We are not making anything close to the hospitals around us while being a higher acuity trauma center, doing more, and being paid way less. It's not fair, we need this wage increase."
-Gideon Combs, ED Tech, Emergency Department