

With our strength and unity we win improvements for everyone

As caregivers, it's important that we have a strong voice to advocate for the best patient care possible. Because we're united in our union, we have a seat at the table to improve the quality of care we provide to our community and raise standards for ourselves and our families.

We fought back and prevented a restructure in phlebotomy

When management notified Phlebotomists on the night shift that our start and end times would be changing in violation of our contract, we took action together and stopped a restructure that would be disruptive to our families.



"When management announced schedule changes with short notice all of us on nights were unanimously against it. Everyone got together and we met to show management that we needed our schedules and seniority respected. We got them to agree that any changes would include a rebid process so they are fair and they also agreed not to change our schedules."

Allison Townsend, Phlebotomy

Growing our union at PeaceHealth St. Joseph

It takes everyone on our team to provide the best care to our community and we know we have the most power when we are united. That's why biomedical engineers have made the decision to join our union. They are voting on September 13 to form a union and we are calling on the administration to recognize biomedical engineers under our contract.

"Between the four of us we have over 37 years at St Joe's and we take the patients and our jobs very seriously. Now, too many changes are happening in management, we're extremely short-staffed, and PeaceHealth is not treating us with the respect the treat other biomed techs in the system. We decided we can best make improvements for the patients and for our own families by forming a union and joining together with our co-workers across the hospital."

Mike Tugman, Holly Ponsen, Chris Ayars, and Robbie Victor; BioMed



We are standing up for respect in food and nutrition

Food and nutrition is a key part of the caregiving team but without management respect and consistency, caregivers leave our hospital. In food and nutrition we all wore stickers in solidarity with patient services and are calling on management to treat everyone in the department with respect.



Treat Crosby, Food and Nutrition

"In patient services our job is to make sure all the patients in the hospital are fed and are able to make their own choices about their food but we cannot do that consistently when our department has constant turnover and is constantly understaffed. We know that when management respects us and the job we do we can recruit and retain dedicated people."

We are advancing respiratory care in Whatcom County

Through our unity last summer we were able to win a first ever respiratory therapy career ladder by creating the respiratory therapist II premium. This will advance the skills and leadership of respiratory therapists by encouraging advanced certifications and expanded departmental involvement. Together with respiratory management and the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training Fund we are bringing an advanced seminar to Bellingham so our therapists can gain new skills locally.



Amy Denniston, Respiratory Therapy

"As respiratory therapists we used the Training Fund's responsive programming fund to bring an advanced class that we selected to Bellingham. Seven of us were able to participate on paid time along with fellow union members from Swedish and Northwest Hospital. By working together with management and the Training Fund we were able to build advanced skills and work towards the RT II premium."



"We all strive to provide the highest quality of care to our patients, and many of us are doing the work to gain advanced skills and certifications to better provide that care. Now, through our union contract, we have a way to be compensated for that work."

Ramon Castellanos, Respiratory Therapy



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