

A Million Just Like Me

Last weekend, I was in Baltimore at a national conference of members in SEIU Healthcare, representing 1,000,000 healthcare workers in the US and Puerto Rico. Florida, New York, Texas, Missouri, Washington, you name it. They were working people just like me who are struggling to provide the best for their patients and their families.

Working in Med/Onc and Ortho/Surg at Citrus Valley, I deal with patients who are at the lowest points in their lives.

My patients depend on me, and it pains me to have to tell them, "Sorry I'm with another patient, I can't come right now," or "I'll be right there," knowing I'm looking for basic supplies like linens and blood pressure machines.

We do this work because it's our Calling. But poor staffing levels, and faulty or absent equipment test our calling everyday. I don't like that our patients are losing faith in healthcare, and we don't currently have the means to restore that faith.

I know that by uniting with my coworkers we could have the power to improve CVMC, but I didn't know that we'd have the backing of so many other healthcare workers across the country.

This conference was truly eye-opening and only reinforced my commitment to forming our union to improve patient care.

April C. Chavez

LVN
Medical Oncology, Intercommunity



"We do this work because it's Our Calling."

Do We Deserve Any Less?

Hospital	Problem	Union In Action	Union Solution
St. Johns Regional and Pleasant Valley	Proposed Lay-Offs & Changes to Staffing Matrix	1. Contract Language to meet over Patient Care 2. Informational Picket 3. Fax Blast of CEO	No Lay-offs and Administration and workers decide on staffing matrix that pleases everyone
Centinela Freeman Regional Hospital	Short Staffing = Only 1 Central Supply Tech on Nights; two codes – only one receives crash cart	Patient Care Committee in union contract. Equal Numbers of Managers and Employees meet monthly to problem solve	Administration hires 2 more Central Supply Techs