

Thursday, June 24th, 2010

My name is Patty Pickus. I am a Licenced Practical Nurse at Park Place Health Center for 21 years.

*Madam Speaker and
Ladies and Gentlemen :*

I stand before you requesting that you address the strikes at Spectrum Health Care now!! Since walking the picket line on April 15th to present, I hear the struggles of the residents and families at Park Place Health Center daily. I hear about the day to day living the residents are succumbed to.

A resident asks his nurse at the end of the shift as to where his meds are! The response he gets is "Oh! You have meds"?

Another resident fearful to take meds from his nurse, because they have been someone else's meds twice. . .then is told he is a behavior problem for not taking his meds.

Another resident complains he is not receiving his meds on time for dialysis. . .leaves the building for dialysis without his meds very upset. . .a co-resident runs his lunch out to him!

Many residents and families complain of the cleanliness of the facility.

Many complain of the laundry being delivered to the wrong resident or not at all.

A family member who was always free to visit residents within the facility who had noone or just looked forward to extra company...was told she may visit her brother only because she complains too much.

A family member requested mashed potatoes for her mom and was told "there are none"!

Another family member who complained that her dad spent the night at the ER because of a finger stick blood sugar of 40 (which is clinically below the norm). . .he had complained for a while that he didn't feel "right" and told the nurse. A glass of orange juice, maybe with sugar, or glucose tube would have resolved the issue.

Another resident who on many occasions has come to the picket line to receive proper care. . . a shave, TED stockings not properly applied.

Another resident who saw the owner in the building for a cookout for replacement workers states "I just wish he could get someone to properly book my transportation . I have missed my appointment twice"!

Another resident who has frequent Urinary tract infections. . .family complained to the nursing staff of the issue. After frequent follow ups her urine specimen was ordered, gotten and sent 5 days later and then treated.

Another resident diabetic/dialysis and very diet compliant. . .complains he frequently receives the wrong diet and goes to Park Street for his food or he won't eat!

Yesterday, on the picket line. . .one of our residents complained of shortness of breath. Staff on the line assisted him; police called in to the building for assistance. Replacement workers stood at the side of the building. . .the resident was sent out 911!?

My saddest incident...the young man who was loved by us all and who missed us all because he knew we loved and understood him. He passed in the night as we all walked the picket line. WE know our residents. Housekeepers, porters, dietary, laundry, nursing assistants, lpns. We know their needs.

We are their extended family. We give quality care. . .the 5 star care that is no longer there.

Please . . .It is your responsibility to make all these wrongs . . .rights!! Help the people in the middle. . .the residents!!!! Tell Spectrum Owners it is time to stand up for quality care at their homes. . .for the residents and their families!!

TELL SPECTRUM OWNERS TO END THIS STRIKE NOW!!

As I look within this room, I see many familiar faces. Faces who have walked the picket line with us. I thank you for your support.

Patty Pickus

Addendum: I had the opportunity to watch the news releases tonight. I listened to the response of Sean Murphy, one of the owners. He feels" WE, the union, are trying to destroy their reputation. We walked out on the patients." I ask that you ask Sean and Brian and whoever else may be a part of this shameful experience. . .

*#1. How old is the 5 star commercial they continue to run?
#2. Why did he and his company not try to negotiate a fair contract? Why did he and his company allow all the ULP's to build up during the year we tried to negotiate a contract (without a contract from March 2009 or a raise for 2 years) and they continue to negotiate unfairly. This is not a strike over a "raise". And if he truly believes that, as his statement says, then he had better wake up before it is too late!!!!!!!!!!!! Patient care is on the eve of destruction!!*