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**Nearly 800 Philadelphia-Area Nurses Reach Critical Contract Deals**

**That Further Protect Both Patients and Nurses**

*Nurses at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children and Temple-affiliated Jeanes Hospital have won new contracts with better staffing and working conditions, as well as language that protects nurses if the hospitals are sold.*

**Philadelphia, PA --** After almost a full year of at times contentious bargaining, nurses at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children have won a contract further protecting the children of Philadelphia with improved staffing levels and the nurses themselves from what happened to them last December, when their contract was abruptly declared null and void by new owners Tower and Drexel University.

A few miles to the north, the nurses of Temple University Hospital/Jeanes Campus also won a new contract that enabled them to improve staffing levels in the hospital—a key issue for nurses nationwide and one that’s critically important as COVID case counts in the greater Philadelphia area once again begin to rise.

*“Nurses and healthcare professionals have selflessly sacrificed during the COVID-19 pandemic at great personal risk to themselves, and they will continue to be called to do so,” said PASNAP President Maureen May, R.N. “With the positive resolution of these contract fights as the virus surges once again in our area, the needs of our dedicated frontline workers have been respected and their patient communities are further protected. We are thrilled.”*

The St. Chris nurses’ new three-year contract was ratified overwhelmingly yesterday, with a vote of 297 to 8. It addresses:

* **Staffing:** The nurses won the basic minimum staffing levels in their previous contract—the one Tower and Drexel had declared null and void. They also won strong tools to protect these levels, called “grids,” through the nurse practice committee.
* **Successorship:** The nurses’ jobs, their PTO and their contract are guaranteed to remain intact if St Chris is sold. This was a critical victory, ensuring the retention of skilled St. Chris nurses and continuity of care for the children of Philadelphia.
* **Wages:** The nurses’ wage scale, which was in jeopardy, is maintained in the new contract with increases in the contract’s third year. The percentage increase in the scale over the life of the contract is just over 8 percent, which is comparable to Einstein’s new increase. Einstein nurses also lost an annual increase because their contract expired last year, and the pandemic delayed their settlement until last week, as well.

The Jeanes new three-year contract was ratified almost unanimously last week, with a vote of 97 to 2. It addresses:

* **Staffing:** The new contract includes new staffing language requiring the hospital to hire necessary staff to meet the staffing grids. It also includes important new tools with which we can hold the hospital accountable.
* **Successorship:** The new contract includes new successorship language that adds meaningful new protections and mirrors the contract language for nurses at Temple’s main campus.
* **Wages:** The new contract provides for annual wage increases of 2.5/2.75/2.75 percent over the three years of the contract, step increases for those who are eligible as well as other economic improvements designed to make Jeanes a more equitable place to work.

“The fight at St. Chris was always all about the kids,” says Sue Swift, R.N., President of St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Nurses United and a 33-year St. Chris nurse. “Every single one of our nurses fought hard for a seat at the table and the ability to provide our young patients with the best care possible. Our new contract gives us that voice and will allow us to both retain excellent nurses and train the next generation of excellent nurses in Philadelphia.”

“This was always about providing ever more excellent care to the community, who are like family to us, surrounding Jeanes Hospital,” echoes Angela Cleghorn, R.N., President of Jeanes Hospital Nurses United and a 16-year Jeanes nurse. “I believe we achieved the ability to do that with this contract. I’m excited about moving forward and honored to work with such caring and dedicated professionals on a daily basis.”

“**Meanwhile, just 20 miles north, the nearly 800 nurses at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, who are also seeking to ensure basic staffing levels at the hospital, continue to fight for a first contract with owner Trinity Health Systems. Einstein, Lower Bucks, Suburban and St. Mary’s sister hospital Mercy Fitzgerald have all settled contracts with their nurses recently. That leaves Trinity and Prospect as the only two remaining health systems in the Philadelphia area with outstanding nurses’ contracts.**

The Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals represents 8,500 nurses and healthcare professionals across the Commonwealth.