



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **WORKERS AT WARWICK HEALTHCARE CAMPUS VOTE FOR 1199SEIU**

After a year of enduring a fear campaign by management, workers chose a unified voice to advocate for patient care and better jobs for the community

**WARWICK, N.Y.**—(October 31, 2008)—Healthcare workers at the three facilities that make up the Warwick Healthcare Campus voted yesterday to join 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. A total of 121 workers from St. Anthony Hospital, Schervier Pavilion nursing home and Mount Alverno assisted living center cast their votes in favor of joining the union, while 118 workers voted no. There are also 11 challenged ballots that will be reviewed by the National Labor Relations Board, which is also investigating charges that Bon Secours administrators violated workers' rights through threats and coercion. Warwick is owned by the \$2.4 billion Bon Secours Charity Health System.

This narrow margin of victory came about despite a yearlong fear and intimidation campaign launched by Bon Secours. Workers said they were taken away from their patients' bedsides and pulled into anti-union meetings during working hours. Anti-union flyers that made use of religious imagery to denigrate the union were also posted throughout the facilities.

"With the intense pressure these workers faced, we congratulate them on taking this step," said 1199SEIU President George Gresham. "Their voices needed to be heard."

Brian O'Shaughnessy, Executive Director of the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition said, "All these workers are asking for is affordable healthcare for themselves and their families as well as basic economic security. We hope that Bon Secours will honor the workers' choice."

"We went through a lot this year," said Schervier Pavilion CNA Robin Matthews after the results were announced. "We fought and we won." Matthews implored Bon Secours management to respect their vote. "I want my rights. I want to be able to speak for myself. I want what the other 1199 Bon Secours workers have."

1199SEIU has a history of working with Bon Secours to ensure high standards of patient care and fair hospital funding. Examples include increasing training opportunities and participating in joint labor-management initiatives. 1199SEIU hopes the Warwick administration will respect the democratic choice of the workers instead of trying to undermine the vote through wasteful legal wrangling. Prior to yesterday's election, the Warwick facilities were the only ones owned by Bon Secours in the greater New York City area where workers did not have a union voice.

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*1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East is the fastest-growing union in the U.S. and represents most healthcare workers throughout New York State, Orange County and the Bon Secours Health System. Our mission is to achieve affordable, quality healthcare for all.*



# 1199SEIU members have *no-cost* education, training and college.



## VOTE YES ON OCTOBER 30!

### Training, education and college for free. We can negotiate this.

The 1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund, which is paid for by employers, provides members with free training and tuition assistance. 20,000 members of 1199 took advantage of these benefits in 2007.

- ✓ **Pre-paid tuition.** 1199 members can attend any SUNY or CUNY school *without paying anything out-of-pocket* up to six credits a semester.
- ✓ **Tuition assistance.** All 1199 members are eligible for tuition reimbursement (with no cap) for up to 24 credits a year (for health or work related degrees) at any accredited institution and up to \$750 for continuing education costs.
- ✓ **Free training and skills upgrading.** Membership in 1199 gives you access to a wide variety of courses and workshops that can help members upgrade to a higher-paying job—including skills training, adult education, career planning and special professional and technical programs—all at *no cost* to you.
- ✓ **Training on paid time.** Many 1199 members can also take advantage of state and federal grants that allow them to upgrade to new jobs by taking paid time off from work to go to school.
- ✓ **Professional programs.** For medical fields that have shortages, 1199 offers stipends and health benefits to give workers the freedom to attend school and train for positions such as: ■ **Pharmacy Tech** ■ **Surgical Tech** ■ **LPN** ■ **RN** ■ **Radiology Tech** ■ **Respiratory Therapist** ■ and other positions
- ✓ **Pro-rated benefits.** Part-time employees who work at least 3/5 of the work week receive education and training benefits on a pro-rated basis.

For more information  
on the benefits of  
joining 1199SEIU,  
contact Robin  
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**518-573-8965**

### 1199SEIU helps us get to the next level in our careers!

**1199SEIU:** Taking care of those who take care of others. [www.1199nbf.org](http://www.1199nbf.org)

**1199SEIU**  
United Healthcare Workers East

Warwick Workers for Fairness  
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