In an amazing show of support for nurses, local restaurants have been donating food to us for Nurses Week. Participating restaurants include Verde Cocina, Fat Cupcake, Addy’s, Fifty Licks, Sizzle Pie, Henry Higgins Bagels, Fairy Cakes PDX, Fire on the Mountain, Joule Crafted Nutrition, and Po’ Shines. Please spread the word and show these businesses some appreciation!

Local Faith Community Has Our Backs

More than 30 faith leaders in our community signed a letter to Melissa Eckstein, Unity President, and Kari Howard, Unity CNO, urging Legacy to meet the community standard of offering 80 hours of sick leave for frontline nurses. They are also supporting our demand for nurses to have a meaningful voice in decision-making related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This letter was organized with the help of Portland Jobs with Justice, a coalition of more than 100 labor, faith, and community organizations across the Portland area.

Read the letter here.

NAMIWalks Virtual Event

On Saturday, May 30, NAMI is hosting NAMIWalks Your Way Northwest: a Virtual Event. Here’s how NAMI describes it on their webpage: “NAMIWalks Your Way means what it sounds like: participants get to make NAMIWalks their own. You can walk a 5K—through your neighborhood, around your backyard, on your treadmill. Or you can do something else meaningful and fun to celebrate our virtual walk day.”

ONA Unity nurses have formed a team this year and will be participating in the virtual walk. If you’re interested in donating or volunteering as a virtual walker, please visit our page on the NAMIWalks website.
Hear Lyndon Villasenor’s Story

Lyndon is a behavioral health assistant in psychiatric emergency services. In early April, Lyndon’s father, was struggling to breathe, went into cardiac arrest and was transported by ambulance to Salem Hospital. His dad tested positive for Covid-19, a test previously denied to him four times. In a medical coma and on a ventilator, Lyndon’s dad fought for his life and had to be resuscitated twice.

Lyndon stopped working to become the primary hospital contact and caregiver to his dad, as well as his mom, who was also positive for Covid-19, and his brother, who was quarantining with her. Our Unity family of frontline healthcare workers donated leave time to Lyndon to enable him to care for his family.

“When I went on leave, I let management know about my family’s situation and was told not to worry, that they’d handle it,” Lyndon said. Three weeks later, Legacy Unity told Lyndon that he could not use this leave time and that his medical insurance would terminate on April 30. With no other option, Lyndon was forced to return to work at the end of April, leaving his family uncared for.

“During a time of stress and family possibly dying, I felt like I was kicked when I was already down,” he said. “Management is fully aware I didn't get any pay. My dad’s story is in the Statesman Journal. My family has respiratory issues. My health insurance is my family’s lifeline.”

When we asked Lyndon what he most wanted his co-workers to know, he said two things:

“I’m grateful for the support of my team. Thank you for donating leave time to me and donating to my dad’s GoFundMe.”

“What happened to me and my family can happen to any of us, to any of our families. Management relies on us to keep Unity going. They need to take care of us. These 80 hours APL that nurses are trying to get- they should be a right. We should have the right to have time to care for our families. Nothing like this [COVID-19] has ever happened in our generation. Lives are valuable and lives are being lost.”

What happened to Lyndon could happen to our loved ones. We have to continue to push for an extra 80-hours of leave. Stay connected with your bargaining team and CAT team members at work or via our ONA Unity Nurse Facebook group to learn more about how you can support your ONA bargaining team during our contract negotiations.

Bargaining Team Virtual Meet & Greet

On Wednesday, May 13, members of our ONA Bargaining Team held a “Virtual Meet and Greet” with ONA members. We discussed the differences between Legacy CAL pay policy and our proposal for a COVID-19 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). To see the video of the event, visit the “ONA Unity Nurses” Facebook group. Be on the lookout for our June membership meeting which will be held via Zoom.

Nurses Week Raffle Winners

**ONA T-shirts:**
- Faisal Mutua (Unit 5)
- Amy Crise (Unit 2)
- Rachael Mock (1W)

**Moonstruck Chocolates Box:**
- Heath Smith (PES)

**Moonstruck Chocolates Caramel Box:**
- Danna Richkun (Unit 5)

**Gift Card to Devil’s Dill:**
- Kristina Baker (Unit 6)
- Naba Kantehe (1W)

**Gift Card to Sizzle Pie:**
- Tonia Chambers (Unit 5)
- Camille Jackson (Unit 2)

**Gift Card to Cocina Verde:**
- Karl Rusterholtz (1W)
- Amanda Piraino (Unit 5)

**Gift Card to Dutch Bros:**
- Sherrie Neff (Unit 5)
- Jenny Snyder (1W)

**Gift Card to Dutch Bros:**
- Stepheny Norasingh (Unit 6)
- Tracie Henry (Unit 6)
- Andrea Wilson (Unit 6)

Upcoming Bargaining Sessions

- Friday, May 29
- Monday, June 1
- Wednesday, June 10
- Friday, June 26

All sessions take place on Zoom at 11 a.m.