

# Help us “Keep the ‘*SAINT*’ in St. Francis!”

Ascension Healthcare has officially taken over St. Francis Hospital. The workers are joining together to keep our voice in the workplace and we need your help to make sure we succeed in keeping the Southside strong by ensuring there will be:

- NO service losses to the community
- NO job losses or layoffs
- NO changes in full time or part time employment statuses
- NO decreases to benefits, including healthcare, time off, retirement plans, etc.
- NO significant changes to the pension program, which could dramatically affect not only current workers, but many who have already retired and could lose their incomes
- A continuation of the current Mission, Vision, and Values of St. Francis Hospital

As a community, we need to join together to ensure that Ascension will continue to operate the facility as a responsible corporate owner. The 1200 employees are Milwaukee area residents. We participate in the local economy and many of us live in the nearby neighborhoods. Any type of layoffs, service closures, or other drastic or even moderate changes to our hospital, could potentially have severe ripple effects throughout the community. We need your support to ensure that the Southside remains strong.

We’ve done our research on Ascension and we found some very concerning behavior, including:

- Shuttering services or closing healthcare facilities completely.
- Outsourcing services to third party vendors or to worksites overseas.
- Ministry Health was acquired by Ascension in 2013. Last year, they announced 500 job cuts right here in Wisconsin.
- Evidence that its pension program may be drastically underfunded. Workers brought a class action lawsuit in 2013, claiming it was underfunded by \$444 million dollars. Ascension has taken the position that it is a “church plan,” and therefore does not have to guarantee any of its promised pension funds.
- Conspired to keep nursing wages low in Detroit and paid over \$13 million in backpay to the workers.
- Ties to Accretive, a for-profit debt collection agency, which has been the subject of lawsuits in 10 states and was even *banned* from the state of Minnesota for its illegal debt collection practices, including harassing patients for payment while they were undergoing treatment in emergency rooms. Last year, Ascension invested \$200 million to become a partial owner in Accretive and the firm handles *all* debt collection services for Ascension--meaning it will be interacting with many Milwaukee residents and patients.
- Cited for numerous labor violations by the government in 2010 after illegally firing nurses, and stripping workers of their legally protected rights.

We need to work together to ensure that none of these practices follow Ascension into our community. Please help us “Keep the ‘*SAINT*’ in St. Francis!” Visit [www.wfnhp.org](http://www.wfnhp.org) to join us.



**Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO**

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