



Contract-less SEIU workers turn up the pressure

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Without a union contract for over two years, **nursing home workers** in **Hudson County** are holding a "Family Day" march in rally in **Jersey City** tomorrow to put pressure on their employer.

This comes after a three-day strike in August and a rally in Journal Square last month.

The workers -- members of Local 1199 of the **Service Employees International Union** -- plan to gather at 11 a.m. in front of 26 Journal Square, the headquarters of their employer, **Omni Assets Management**.

From there, barring inclement weather, they will march down Bergen Avenue to Montgomery Street, then on to Exchange Place, where Family Day will continue with live music and speakers.

Local 1199 spokeswoman Maria Peralta said the rally is expected to draw thousands and will include members from four states, plus Washington D.C.

The speakers at the rally will include state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, Gov. Jon Corzine's running mate, Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy, Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise, and Jersey City Councilwoman Nidia Lopez, officials said.

The workers at the three Hudson facilities -- Harbor View Health Care Center in Jersey City, Castle Hill Health Care Center in Union City, and Palisade Nursing Home in Guttenberg -- plus a fourth nursing home in Bergen County, have been without a contract since July 2007.

Some of the workers earn less than \$8 per hour and have to pay \$400 per month for family health insurance, union officials said.

While there are negotiations taking place at each of the four facilities, the Palisade Nursing Home is the only one that is showing promise, though nothing has been finalized, Peralta said.

Omni spokesman Matt Stanton said the company will continue to meet and bargain in good faith.

"While the SEIU has every right to conduct a rally, our focus has been and remains the provision of quality healthcare to our residents and their families," Stanton said.