

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at Crisis Connections

April 26, 2022

OPEIU LOCAL 8 is sad to observe the recent passing of our union brother and friend, Geoffrey Mattens (WA Recovery Helpline OUD Specialist).

Geoffrey was a proud union and bargaining team member, taking an active role in ongoing contract negotiations. His fierce advocacy on behalf of his colleagues and dedication to improving conditions at Crisis Connections served a vital role in ensuring the best possible future for his coworkers and the communities they serve.

We knew Geoffrey as a kind-hearted and charismatic guy. He was friendly and funny; courageous and compassionate. He spoke fondly of his coworkers on the Recovery Line, approached his work with determination and authenticity, and displayed a true commitment to helping others. As a doting dad, he was quick to share loving stories of his two daughters—of whom he was very proud—and show off pictures of his dogs. He enjoyed talking sports, especially about his alma mater, the Michigan State Spartans.

We know Geoffrey would have wanted us to share his words. His most recent action as a union member was to participate in our “Cheers for Peers” program, submitting the following on behalf of his coworker Joseph Revard (RHL and Admin Support):



“Joe has been with the WRHL for quite some time now. Through his tenure, he always is able to ‘roll with the punches’ or adjust to whatever changes occur, while continuing to support the team and our callers with the utmost professionalism. The biggest cheer he deserves is that Joe is always the constant ‘go to’ guy for the team... if he does not have the answer, he will find it. He genuinely loves helping people. He is also very humble and will probably not accept the recognition, however, he deserves it. The WRHL and Crisis Connections are lucky to have someone like Joe.”

-Geoffrey Mattens

Geoffrey was a beloved part of our labor family. It will be impossible for us to remember him without smiling. His absence will be deeply felt and his presence dearly missed. More so than any words written about him, Geoffrey will live on in the hearts and minds of those who knew him. Our thoughts are with Geoffrey’s coworkers and family at this difficult time.

“I’m going to miss Geoffrey’s smile and goofy, good-natured approach. He had such a positive energy about him. He wanted to pursue change but you could always count on him to make it lighthearted and fun. Rest easy, my friend. Solidarity forever!”

-Valarie Peaphon, OPEIU Union Representative



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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