

December 17, 2021

Dear STOMP Board of Directors,

I am sorry I have been neglectful in writing this letter to you. My name is Helen Chaknova and I was the Director of Health and Wellness at MPHS from 1992 to my departure in 2011. I took over the management of the pool shortly after it was completed when Diane Proctor left MPHS. The pool was initially part of the Arthritis Center, as you know. Without the Mickelsons, Sheila Burns' and other generous donors whose gifting and commitment to seeing the pool was built, Dr. Bernhard and the Arthritis Center would not have gotten this wonderful state of the art facility into the ground.

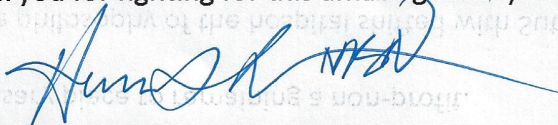
Through the years, we developed so many programs to help the community deal with acute and chronic health issues, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. It has always been a place of health and healing. The patrons thrived. Health was maintained or improved. All the programs we provided, on land or in the pool were designed to keep the community active and healthy. These programs were never meant to make money, and were supported by the generous donations from donors, and the fact that MPHS is a not-for-profit hospital that NEEDS to be there for the community, to give back to the community – it is part of their mission and a necessary piece to remaining a non-profit.

As the philosophy of the hospital shifted with Sutter and the growing focus on profits, programs began to close. As hard as we fought, Sutter had a larger say and health and wellness at MPHS dwindled. It has made me so sad to see what has happened, I try very hard not to return to the Mickelson Center.

You asked about records of donations to the center. EVERY year 5-10% of my annual income went to the Mickelson Center. My name is etched on the wall in the main hospital for those donations. My tile is on the south wall of the pool. I do not have those records now from so long ago, but it has to be a sizable sum. I know my staff, my boss, Shelby Speas all donated generously to these programs.

I wish I could be of more help, but I want so much to see the pool open again. Yes, is it a liability 'nuisance' as risk management would tell me each year, but the benefits to the community far outreach the risk or cost to the organization.

Thank you for fighting for this amazing facility.



Helen Chaknova RN, BSN, MSN