

Memorial Community Center

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

January finds me ending my first year as the Memorial Community Centers Board of Directors, Chairperson. I thank the community for the opportunity to serve in this role. This past year, I have met many amazing individuals and learned so much about the generosity of the Community, its people, and the paradise we call Hope.

Because of donations, be it the gift of time, the gift of goods, or money, the Memorial Community Center is stronger than ever. We end 2023 with our total income up 23% over 2022. We are dependent on donations, so we thank you for your continued support and look forward to your support in 2024.

Because of you, MCC provided two \$1,500 scholarships to two Clark Fork High returning college students and one to a Clark Fork High college-bound student.

Our preschool remains the heart of the community center, and volunteers are its lifeblood. The preschool has a stable census of 10-12 bright and energetic students, and the children are thriving under the guidance of our excellent teachers, Miss Mona Naglreiter and Miss Toni Anderson.

The community center continues to offer classes and activities ranging from yoga, senior fitness, gardening, quilting, and various art classes, including acrylic, watercolor painting, origami, figure drawing, and more. Our rentals are up 20% from last year, and our volunteer base is growing. Many new faces offered to help with our events and fundraising activities this past year, and many have stated they want to be more involved.

MCC received grant money this past year for \$20,000, allowing us to continue our low tuition for preschool, and a \$5,000 grant focusing on the art program.

For the second year, we received a \$25,000 match. We converted our reserve account into an interest-bearing savings account and opened a 7-month CD account.

Christmas Giving was an overwhelming success thanks to your donations. Not only did we meet our goal of \$5,000, but we exceeded it. It never ceases to amaze me how well the community answers the call for support. With your generosity, we assisted seventeen families, including fifty-five children, and the MCC donated \$3,000 to the Clark Fork Hope Food Bank to assist with meals and a Christmas dinner box for the families. Seeing and hearing appreciation from the families who came to receive their gifts was a joy. It was heartwarming and reinforced the gift of giving.

WHAT THE NEW YEAR BRINGS

2024 is the 40th anniversary of the first Bodacious BBQ to raise money to build the MCC in memory of Bill & Kathie Yost, Steve & Joni Diehl, and Mark Heumann, who lost their lives in a boating accident on Lake Pend Oreille in 1982.

Many classes and activities will continue as will our free music events in June, July, and August, as well as our Fundraising events. September will bring Oktoberfest with great food, music, and fellowship.

We also look forward to continuing the growth that we enjoyed in 2023. To keep our momentum, we will continue to focus on fundraising efforts. We are counting on you to help in this endeavor.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Dawn Brinker and Delores Matthews who both retired from the board in 2023. Their dedication and contributions will not be forgotten. Under Dawn's leadership, which began as the Covid shutdown was implemented, the MCC established a solid financial base and expanded classes and activities. Delores was instrumental in grant writing to help us secure many grants over the past several years. We thank them for their service.

THANK YOU, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What a fantastic group: Cynthia Fox (Vice Chair), Ellen Westfall, Lori Finnerty (Secretary and Treasurer), Christine Kelley, Vera Gadman, and Vivian Sadler. Each has unique skills and talents, working endlessly to support the MCC. Each member hosted or co-hosted a music event and served as a server, bartender, and runner. Vivian and Ellen introduced tacos this year, which were a big hit. Lori and Shawn Finnerty hosted Bingo. Lori was also instrumental in helping get our matching fund. Cynthia spearheaded our Christmas Giving program, which was a heartwarming success. Vera continues working her magic with the MCC Newsletter and Website. My husband, Tim Jacoby, and I, along with Ellen Westfall, finished our fundraising efforts with Oktoberfest. The day brought perfect weather, great food, and a talented band, all contributing to a fun day.

Ladies, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your friendship, dedication, and overwhelming support to the MCC. Husbands and partners, I thank you for your support. I know that sometimes you are drafted to help, and we appreciate it!

To the Friends of the MCC, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

To the new and seasoned volunteers, thank you! Our mission could not be accomplished without you.

I look forward to a great year and can't wait to see you all.

With gratitude,

Ley Anne Merica

MCC Board Chairperson