

February 2, 2009

To the Members of the Community First Foundation Board of Directors:

We add our voices to the community's cry that Lutheran Medical Center not become a sectarian hospital and that you stop any deal to sell to Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, which would give them control of Lutheran. *We ask that you put the needs and interests of our community first.* Our reasons for this request are many and varied.

LMC is NOT your hospital to dispense with as you choose. It belongs to the community; it does not belong to you.

If you take away our community hospital – built with donations from citizens who entrusted their dollars to the care of CFF's predecessor, LMC Community Foundation (LMCCF), an organization which, in our experience, has broken that trust -- you take away our right to choose the type of medical care we want, need and are entitled to.

All citizens of Jefferson County and west metro Denver deserve the right to pick the type of hospital and affiliated physician clinics and offices we want to provide us with the health care services we need. If citizens living in this area subscribe to the tenets of the Catholic church, they can choose Centura St. Anthony's. But if other citizens wish for health services provided by a community-based, not church-based hospital, they should be allowed to choose Lutheran or Good Samaritan.

In addition, as members of a Board of Directors, you have a fiduciary responsibility to adhere to the wishes of the community you serve. This applies not only to you who are current members of the CFF Board, but also those among you who were members of LMCCF.

You also have a responsibility to uphold your organization's mission, as described on your website: "Our intention and commitment is to put the needs of the community first...." In that same declaration, you vow to work with your partners, "whether they are individual donors, businesses, or nonprofit organizations, to ensure that vital community services *remain intact* and thrive." [author italics] Finally, you affirm: "...our commitment to our partners remains steadfast."

Considering the rancor that has developed since you first proposed selling LMC to SCLHS, we have seen no connection between your mission and your actions. We see only broken promises.

We respectfully ask you to do the right thing. Lutheran belongs to *our community*. Stop the transaction and save our community's health care choices.

Warren & Patricia Jones
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