



Mickelson Therapy Pool

A 3-year effort to reopen this
essential resource



Overview

- Built 25 years ago with \$4M in community donations
- ONLY fully accessible warm water therapy pool on the Peninsula
- Populations served:
 - Seniors
 - Disabled individuals
 - Patients recovering from surgeries
 - Chronic pain sufferers
 - Children with special needs
 - Pregnant women
- Closed by Sutter Health in March 2020 due to COVID-19
- Permanently closed in June 2021 due to “the continued uncertainty presented by COVID-19, [Sutter’s] focus on providing quality acute care services and [their] ongoing efforts to be good stewards of [their] resources.”
- Therapy pools vs. recreational pools
- 1 in 4 people in the U.S. is disabled¹; by 2030, people over 65 = 26% of the state’s population² ; disabled individuals over 85 to increase by 148%³.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

² California Department of Finance

³ San Mateo County Area Agency on Aging



Overview cont.



Dr. Susan Stevens at July 24, 2022 rally in front of the Mickelson Center

- October 2021: former pool users and supporters founded Warm Water Wellness Inc
- Repeated requests to meet → Sutter declined
- Resolutions by SM County BOS, PHCD, and SEQHD + offer to help with costs → no response
- Outreach by Congressman Kevin Mullin, Senator Josh Becker, Supervisor David Canepa → Sutter declined to meet with stakeholders
- Outreach by various SM County commissions, physicians and former therapy pool users → no meaningful responses reported
- Change.org petition: > 5000 signatures
- All 20 cities in San Mateo County support reopening the pool



Recent Promising Developments

- 11/22/22 New SH President/CEO Warner Thomas
- 1/26/23 SH Mills-Peninsula CEO Janet Wagner reported that Redwood City YMCA CEO “is coming over to look at our [Mickelson] pool to see the condition of it and what it might cost to refurbish that pool and see what it actually looks like...”
- 3/22/23 PHCD Director Dennis Zell leads first ad hoc committee meeting with representatives from PHCD, the Sequoia Healthcare District, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and Warm Water Wellness
- 3/23/23 Director Zell announced that Sutter plans to reopen the therapy pool and is soliciting bids for repairs



Aquatics instructor Ginnie Plato with a longtime Mickelson patron



Our Goal: Restore Mickelson to its Previous Uses

- For decades, the facility was used for:
 - Physician-prescribed physical therapy
 - “Open access” for community (with a doctor’s release)
- Ensure that access to the Mickelson therapy pool is returned to the community it was built to serve



What you can do...

Work with the ad hoc committee to pressure Sutter Health to reopen the therapy pool as **quickly as possible** emphasizing **open access** for all community members



THANK YOU!

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors was the first entity to pass a resolution calling on Sutter Health to reopen the Mickelson therapy pool.

Your leadership truly demonstrates your care for the most vulnerable residents in our county.

We look forward to celebrating with you at the grand reopening, when that day finally arrives!

