

## Every Door is the Right Door at Cherry Health

**Cherry Health's Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) with Legal Aid of Western Michigan is one more entry door to the vast array of services we provide thanks to our collaborative care model.**



James had heart surgery and was temporarily unable to work. He saved money in the months leading up to his surgery, but was unable to pay the monthly lease for his mobile home lot while he recuperated. He received assistance from family and a church community, but didn't want to rely on others. "I really don't want to keep using people; I want to be able to pay for this on my own," he said. At the same time, he was afraid he might lose the home for which he had worked so hard.

James knew this added stress impacted his recovery and overall health. His blood pressure continued to rise, and he could not kick an ever-present feeling of sadness. All he wanted to do was get to his follow-up medical appointments and heal, but he felt that his life was spiraling out of control.

James came to Cherry Health seeking assistance from MLP for an eviction notice he thought was surely coming. Since he hadn't actually received the notice, it was premature for MLP to step in. However, the staff member with whom he met directed James to Socorro Rodriguez, Cherry Health's Community Health Worker Program

Manager. That is when his world slowly began to look brighter.

Socorro directed James to clinicians who could help manage his medical needs along with his recently diagnosed depression and anxiety. She also helped him access social services for which he qualified. With help from our Health Insurance Assistance team, he was approved for food stamps. "I had never used any type of social service and didn't know where to begin," James said.

While all of these positive things were happening, James received the anticipated eviction notice. With the legal wheels now in motion, MLP was able to get involved. His much-improved financial health led a judge to decide that there would be no further court proceedings against him, and he could stay in his home. This enormous relief meant that James could finally focus on getting healthy, both physically and emotionally.

"I've seen very few men cry," Socorro shared. "James cried the first time I met him, but he's now the happiest person!"



## Employer-Matched Gifts Amplify Your Impact

**An employer-matched giving program is a win-win-win for everyone.**

**Employees** often feel more engaged and invested when their employer supports causes they love. Brian Sharrow, Cherry Health donor and Mutual of America employee, is a prime example. He loves working for an organization that cares about the community and supports what is important to their employees.

**Employers** benefit, too. When they support organizations their employees value, they build employee loyalty. They reduce turnover and attract talent. They can also benefit from the social capital of philanthropy. Research shows that 77% of consumers want to do business with a company that works to make the world a better place.

**Cherry Health Foundation** appreciates employer-matched gifts because they multiply donor impact. Some employees give larger and more frequent gifts, knowing that their donations will be matched.

*"My company's generosity doubles my contribution. That allows me to give generously and more frequently to deserving causes like Cherry Health."*

*– Brian Sharrow*

When employees like Brian share information about their favorite causes, they help spread the word to other potential supporters. **We love it when our donors can engage others, leading to greater awareness and support.**

Check with your Human Resources department to see if your employer offers matching gifts. If you have questions, please contact:

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## One Size Does Not Fit All

Each year, Cherry Health employees can apply for an Opportunity Fund grant. Gifts to our Foundation fund these grants. Staff members who work directly with patients often submit applications. Their requests frequently address barriers or other needs based on what they witness first-hand. Here is an example of a project that illustrates the impact of your gifts.

A grant funded the purchase of bariatric lab chairs for the Muskegon Recovery Center and Southside Health Center. They have truly made a difference for our patients.

*"Approximately two dozen patients per day use the chairs we received through the Opportunity Fund. Before we acquired these chairs, some of our patients could not sit down comfortably because the seats were too small. They would remain standing for their entire appointment." – Jessica Lange, LPN in Muskegon.*

Registered Nurse Supervisor Sharon Katje from Southside shares a similar perspective. "These lab chairs help us serve patients all day long," she said. "We use them to take patients' vitals. They're also used during blood draws for patients in our Medication Assisted Treatment program. We use them every day, and we're so thankful for them. Everyone can fit into them!"

**These bariatric lab chairs offer a safe, welcoming, accessible, and comfortable experience for all our patients.**

*Thank You!*

# An Indelible Mark on Cherry Health

Cherry Health and the Grand Rapids community lost a true public health champion when Dr. R. Paul Clodfelder (or Dr. Clod, as he was affectionately known) passed away in July. He held numerous pivotal roles within Cherry Health. However, that of clinician was clearly his favorite. He loved his patients and they loved him.

Dr. Clodfelder began working at Cherry Health following a storied career at Butterworth Hospital. His service to Cherry Health continued after his retirement. He joined the governing board, where improving patient care was always his focus.

In 2014, he helped launch Cherry Health Foundation, in which he and his wife, Nancy, remained engaged and generous. This included their decision to direct gifts in his memory to the Foundation after his passing. Dr. Clodfelder left a profound mark on Cherry Health, as is evidenced by the sentiments shared by present and past Cherry Health leaders.



“Dr. Clod was very instrumental in my development as a leader. He demonstrated patience, kindness, humility, and empathy with every interaction. I strive to be a leader who models these qualities every day. Dr. Clod has left an imprint on my heart that will last a lifetime.”

*Tasha Blackmon*  
Cherry Health President & CEO

“Paul and I came to Cherry Street Health Services at about the same time, I as a staff member and he as a physician. My first contact with him was as his patient. He possessed skills and competence that seemed inherent and intuitive. He was a *thumper*. I knew I had received the best of care because every part of my body had been touched, pinched, poked or prodded. After years of patient care, Paul then began guiding the healthcare of all patients by serving as a board member. Paul was always forward thinking when it came to the delivery of equitable, high-quality healthcare for all. I will forever remember his smile, laugh, and kindness.”

*Chris Shea*  
former Cherry Health CEO

“Dr. Paul Clodfelder was a wonderful person and a very caring physician. In my 10 years at Cherry Health, I saw that he was dedicated to his profession. He was a strong advocate within Cherry Health as a physician, as an active board member, and in the wider community. He ensured that all members of our community had the right of access to quality healthcare. Paul led by both his words and his example. May he rest in peace and may his memory be a blessing.”

*Michael Reagan*  
former Cherry Health Chief External Relations Officer

“The first time I met Dr. Clodfelder, I was a bit intimidated. He was an accomplished physician who stood tall in my eyes. He might have sensed that bit of tension because he quickly disarmed it with his warmth and kind smile. Though I regret not telling him, his example set a high bar of grace, skill and unwavering commitment to others that I have long admired and personally aspired to reach.”

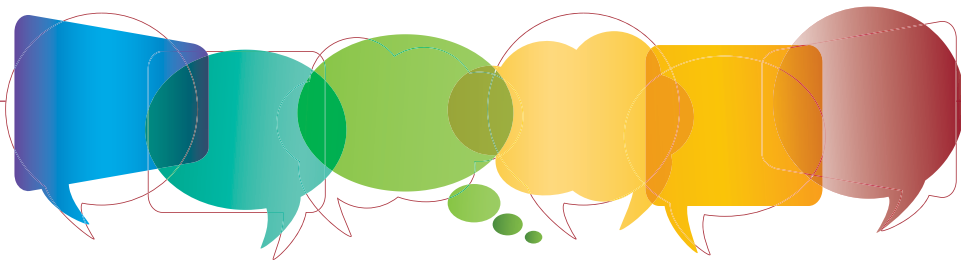
*Leslie Pelkey, MD FACP*  
former Cherry Health Chief Medical Officer



# Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)



**Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from a traditional IRA** are a terrific tax-advantaged method of donating if you are 70 ½ or older. Such gifts qualify towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) while avoiding income tax and directly impacting the mission you value. Because Cherry Health Foundation is a supporting organization of Cherry Health, IRS rules state that **QCDs must be made payable to Cherry Street Services, Inc.** (DBA Cherry Health; EIN 38-2853534). Please inform your charitable giving advisor of this requirement.



## Send Us Your Email Address to Stay Informed

There are always exciting things happening at Cherry Health, and we would like to keep you informed. We also strive to be fiscally responsible. Periodically, we send time-sensitive news about community collaborations, event opportunities, and other interesting Cherry Health updates via email when they do not align with our newsletter distribution schedule. If you would like to be added to our email list, just scan this QR code or send your name and email address to [foundation@cherryhealth.com](mailto:foundation@cherryhealth.com).



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