

The data are unequivocal that communities with such resources reduce the health risks and subsequent cost burden over time in the population. The improvement in cardiovascular health, muscle/brain development, and positive social interactions would be efficiently met with the Aquatic Center. Our rates of type 2 DM, obesity, and overall poor physical conditioning has reached an all-time high and its reduction will improve both lifespan and healthspan. These poor health metrics disproportional hit rural and socially disadvantaged areas such as ours.

Additionally, and unfortunately, over the last few years, drug abuse and misuse has skyrocketed in our youth as most often they do not have a location for alternative and healthy forms of supervised “fun”.

You have done a great job acquiring support and funds from local businesses (including Snake River Pediatrics) and individuals in one of the poorest areas in Oregon.

I am fully aware of the fact that taxpayers and granting agencies have several well deserving communities, but I believe they will be hard pressed to identify a county as poor with as great a need as Malheur county. The money spent on this project will have a high rate of return relative to physical and mental health outcomes.

Snake River Pediatrics unconditional supports your efforts.

Matthew Berria, PhD, PA-C
Snake River Pediatrics, PC
Infants, Children, & Adolescents
840 SW 4th Ave, Ste 105
Ontario OR 97914
Phone: 541-216-6556