

**Statement from President Martha Baker, RN at
Aug. 29th Public Budget Hearing**

Mr. Migoya and Board members, as you know, our bargaining team has begun negotiating with your representatives and we are working very hard to come up with some very tough solutions.

It wasn't until recently that we finally received the in-depth financials and calculations that are necessary for us to fully analyze Jackson's financial situation, your budget and the cost of the concessions you have put on the table.

We are committed to having data-driven, evidenced-based discussions on how we can work together to balance Jackson's budget.

The nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals at Jackson have proven their commitment to helping save Jackson over and over. Last year, we not only gave \$106 million from our family's budgets, but we continued to work at the highest level for our patients...earning Jackson the distinction as the #1 hospital in South Florida.

There are some who call our hard-working caregivers self-serving for fighting to keep Jackson public so that services to our patients won't be cut and/or sold off to the highest bidder – but they should watch our feet. We have given from our own pockets, we have

been working on efficiencies, we are running a campaign to call the public's attention to the politics and business self-interests at work.

Anyone who has spent more than a few days studying Jackson's operations will validate the rampant mismanagement that has accumulated over the years. From bad vendor contracts to bad real estate deals to broken bill collecting systems to gross inefficiencies that have let Jackson slip into this crisis. The caregivers are not to blame for the financial crisis, yet we are the ones that have been called on time and time again to pay for.

Dr. Roldan assured us our \$106 million would right this ship. It didn't, because the incompetence at the helm continued. Our families cannot afford to flush any more of our hard-earned dollars away on bad decisions.

We are grateful to have a new CEO that appears to be tracking a different course. Mr. Migoya, we appreciate your access and frankness

Your care givers need to know that our sacrifices will **count** this time and that can be proven four ways:

- **PLAN** - Do you have a real, strategic plan to save Jackson?
- **SACRIFICE** - Are you asking employees for a realistic sacrifice? Are your takeaways overreaching and are they sensitive to market pressures?

- **EQUITABLE CUTS** - Are ALL Stakeholders --- employees, management, taxpayers, UM/FIU and elected officials ---- making equitable sacrifices?
- And most importantly **PATIENT CARE** ... will our patients be protected? We will need guarantees of no service cuts.

Mr. Migoya, we are doing our due diligence on these four questions. We hope they are answered and that we can continue to work together to save Jackson.

Short sighted cuts that lead to long-term problems won't work. We've seen the result of that already. We will continue to work day and night if necessary at the bargaining table to reach real, sustainable, data-driven solutions after an honest, open analysis of the real numbers.

We need to know that strategic fixes are being implemented. There is no doubt in my mind that Jackson can be saved and can continue as a thriving, public jewel. I assure you that the employees will help...as long as we know the help we are giving will provide a fair solution.