



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lisa French

UMRC Foundation

Phone: 734-433-1000 ext. 7426

\$1 Million Grant to Benefit Low-Income Older Adults in Jackson, Hillsdale & Lenawee Counties

UMRC Foundation Receives Grant from the Thome Foundation to Expand Thome PACE

Jackson, MI, February 3, 2020 – The United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation is thrilled to announce that it has received a \$1 million grant from the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. This grant supports an expansion project for Thome PACE, or Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, serving low-income, nursing home eligible older adults living in Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties.

“We are elated to receive this gift from the Thome Foundation in support of Thome PACE and the older adults we serve in this region,” says Wendy Brightman, President of the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation. “The UMRC Foundation is blessed to have the continued support of the Thome Foundation in our mission to provide the best possible care and services to older adults. Previous grants from the Thome Foundation totaling \$2.5 million helped launch this important project in 2016, thus named Thome PACE.”

“The population of older adults continues to grow, and the three counties served by Thome PACE are no exception,” says Thome PACE Board Chair Michael Shore. “Thome PACE currently serves 160 older adults and receives 35 to 40 new referrals each month. The expansion of our space is vital in order to keep up with the demand for PACE services. We are grateful to the Thome Foundation for its commitment to the needs of vulnerable older adults.”

A partnership between UMRC and the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, Thome PACE serves the social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, older adults, ages 55 and up, who live within the PACE service area. PACE participants must be certified as meeting the State of Michigan criteria for nursing facility level of care, but be able to live safely in their homes and communities, thanks to PACE support. PACE offers a cost-effective alternative to nursing home care, providing overall savings of 40% to the State. Services are offered at the Thome PACE Day Health Center in Jackson, including comprehensive medical, occupational and physical

therapy, pharmacy needs, nutrition and meals, health education, social and recreational activities, and door-to-door transportation.

This grant from the Thome Foundation will expand the Thome PACE Day Health Center to add space for activity programming, meals, exercise and fitness, an additional care and shower room, and more. “These spaces will help us provide outstanding care for Thome PACE participants with a variety of needs,” says Shore. “Seventy percent of Thome PACE participants have a behavioral health challenge, and over half are living with dementia. This expansion will provide greater access, dignity, and person-centered care for both current and future participants of Thome PACE.”

To learn more about Thome PACE, visit <http://umrc.com/thomepace/> or call 517.768.9791.

#####

*Building on a foundation of 114 years of service, **United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC)** is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that promotes the wellness, dignity and independence of older adults, by providing high quality, innovative and compassionate senior residential and supportive services. UMRC recently affiliated, under shared governance and leadership, with **Porter Hills**, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Together, these organizations represent the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, these faith-based organizations and their affiliates combine to serve more than 6,700 older adults each year, from 24 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. UMRC and Porter Hills make up one of the state’s leading providers of PACE services, serving approximately 1,000 older adults across 15 Michigan counties. umrc.com/734.433.1000*

*The **UMRC Foundation** is the charitable arm for United Methodist Retirement Communities, with headquarters in Chelsea, Michigan. Since its inception in 1998, the UMRC Foundation has provided over \$18,500,000 through its Benevolent Care Fund to help UMRC residents remain in their homes when they outlive their resources. The mission of the UMRC Foundation is to promote the wellness, dignity, and independence of seniors by supporting UMRC residents, staff, and the communities UMRC serves. umrcfoundation.com/734.433.1000*

***Thome PACE**, located at 2282 Springport Road, Jackson, is a partnership between UMRC and Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, serving older adults in Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties. umrc.com/thomepace/517.768.9791*

*The **Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation** was established in 2002 by Robert P. Thome to honor the memory of his parents, Edward and Della Thome. The Thome Foundation is committed to providing for the dignified treatment of older adults and supporting medical research on diseases and disorders affecting them.*