



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release
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United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation Receives Grant from United Way of Washtenaw County

Gift Supplements Telehealth Initiatives for Older Adults at Huron Valley PACE

Chelsea, MI, April 23, 2020 – The UMRC Foundation is excited to announce it has received a grant of \$15,000 from the United Way of Washtenaw County COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund. These funds will support telehealth services to benefit low-income, nursing home eligible older adults who participate in Huron Valley PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) in Ypsilanti. Huron Valley PACE serves 189 participants, nearly 80% of whom live with a behavioral health challenge.

Services typically offered to participants at the Huron Valley PACE Day Health Center include comprehensive medical, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy needs, nutrition and meals, health education, social and recreational activities, and door-to-door transportation. Despite COVID-19 resulting in the center’s temporary closure, participants still need care and services now more than ever.

“We are thrilled to receive this gift from the United Way of Washtenaw County to support the healthcare needs of the older adults we serve at Huron Valley PACE,” says Wendy Brightman, President of the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation. “With the implementation of telehealth technology, Huron Valley PACE will continue to address their physical and mental health needs while keeping participants safe, thanks to funding from the United Way of Washtenaw County.”

“Utilizing iPads and video conferencing technology, PACE participants, family members, and caregivers will have the ability to connect virtually with PACE clinical team members, allowing participants to receive care, while reducing the exposure for both team members and participants to COVID-19,” explains Sonja Love Felton, Executive Director of Huron Valley PACE. “PACE

social workers will also be able to host virtual caregiver support groups to reduce feelings of isolation, stress, and burnout.”

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.

To learn more, visit: Huron Valley PACE at <https://www.huronvalleypace.org> or call 734-572-5777.

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*The mission of **Huron Valley PACE** is to enhance the lives and independence of our participants by providing state-of-the-art geriatric health and community-based services. Its vision is to serve as a local, regional and national resource in the provision of state-of-the-art geriatric health and community-based services that recognize the dignity, independence and quality of life for older adults wishing to remain in their homes. [huronvalleypace.org/734.572.577](https://www.huronvalleypace.org/734.572.577)*

*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. Celebrating 50 years, the mission of **Porter Hills** is to be trusted experts serving seniors with grace. Its vision is to be nationally recognized as an unparalleled leader and partner in senior services. In March 2019, UMRC & Porter Hills affiliated, under shared governance and leadership. Together, UMRC & Porter Hills 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.com/734.433.1000](https://www.umrc.com/734.433.1000) and [porterhills.org/616.949.4975](https://www.porterhills.org/616.949.4975)*

*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](https://www.umrcfoundation.com/734.433.1000)*

***United Way of Washtenaw County** CONNECTS people, resources, and organizations TOGETHER to create a thriving community for EVERYONE. www.washtenaw.org/734.971.8200*