



For Immediate Release
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UMRC & Porter Hills' Green House® Homes Participate in National Study

Grand Rapids, MI, Mar. 2, 2021 – United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills' Green House® Homes, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, participated in a national study led by the Green House® project and researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The results of this study, which were published in January in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA)*, indicate that older adults living in smaller nursing home settings, like the Green House® Homes, are far less likely to contract COVID-19 or die from the virus than those living in larger centers.

“Green House® Homes provide nursing home care in a nontraditional way,” explained UMRC & Porter Hills' Green House® Homes Administrator, Guide, and Director of Nursing, Traci Potter, RN, BSN, LNHA. “The Green House® model offers a small setting, with no more than 10 to 12 elders per household, that embraces person-centered care, individual choices, and close personal attention. It truly feels like home.”

There are just over 300 Green House® Homes nationwide and only twelve in Michigan, located at six sites. Most are part of nonprofit senior living organizations, such as UMRC & Porter Hills, according to Chief Sales and Marketing Officer James Kelly. “The Green House® Homes model of care is a natural fit with our mission that prioritizes the needs and wishes of those we serve.”

Potter, who has worked in senior living for two decades, called Green House® Homes “the gold standard,” with its smaller setting, all private rooms and bathrooms, and high ratio of team members to elders. “Our dedicated team members have such respect for the model and for the elders in our care,” said Potter. “They really get to know the older adults and families we serve. Our team has utilized iPads and socially distant visits from our porch and courtyard spaces to connect elders with their loved ones. In addition to keeping them safe and healthy during the pandemic, we have been able to minimize the loneliness and isolation for our elders as a result of this sense of family among our team.”

Results from this study also suggest that a smaller setting or household model, such as Green House® Homes, may offer a promising solution to the traditional medical model of skilled nursing. Kelly agrees. “I think the household model will be the future of not only our organization, but also the industry. It is simply a better way to provide care.”

“From an infection control and well-being standpoint, a smaller setting is ideal for our elders,” said Potter. “The environment is so different from what many would associate with traditional nursing home living. It’s where I would want to live and where I would want my loved ones to live.”

Outstanding, long-term care in a smaller setting that feels like home. If this sounds appealing to you or your loved one, please contact 616.974.1989 or visit umrcph.com/green-house-homes/ to learn more.

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*Building on a foundation of 165 years of combined service to older adults, **United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills** is a faith-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. Its vision is: A world in which all are empowered to age well. Together, UMRC & Porter Hills represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, UMRC & Porter Hills and its affiliates combine to serve over 7,000 older adults each year, from 24 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. umrcph.com/734.433.1000 and 616.949.4975*

***The Green House® Project** partners with senior living providers to create homes for elders that demonstrate more powerful, meaningful, and satisfying lives, work, and relationships. We implement true culture change as well as dementia education and training to create person-directed, relationship-rich living environments. thegreenhouseproject.org/410.246.3806*