



For Immediate Release
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Thome PACE in Jackson Celebrates 5th Anniversary of Service to Area Older Adults

Jackson, MI, Feb. 22, 2021 – March 1, 2021 marks the 5th anniversary of the opening of the Thome Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), including its Day Health Center located on Springport Road in Jackson. A partnership between United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills and the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, Thome PACE serves the psycho-social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, older adults, ages 55 and up, who live in the PACE service area of Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee counties.

Thome PACE will celebrate this milestone with a visit from State Representative Bronna Kahle of the 57th District, including most of Lenawee County, who will tour Thome PACE on March 29th. Thome PACE will also highlight on social media several of its participants who have been served by PACE since its first enrollment period in 2016, feature team members and their roles, host a Spirit Week, and more.

Thome PACE provides comprehensive, holistic healthcare services to low-income, nursing home-eligible older adults, ages 55 and older, living in this tri-county service area, but who are able to live safely and independently in their own homes, thanks to PACE services. PACE's interdisciplinary team of professionals provides participants with a "one-stop" shop model for all their healthcare needs, including comprehensive medical, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy needs, nutrition and meals, health education, social and recreational activities, and door-to-door transportation. Most participants, who have both Medicare and Medicaid, pay no additional fees for PACE services.

"Thome PACE provides such a vital and valuable service to low-income, older adults in this region," said Susan Decker, Executive Director of Thome PACE. "PACE is truly a win-win for the older adults we serve and for the community."

Thome PACE Community Relations Director Jade Clark describes PACE as "a community-based alternative to nursing home care," allowing older adults to remain living safely and independently in their homes and communities. "All of our current 197 participants at Thome

PACE qualify to be in a nursing home, yet currently all of them are enjoying life in the community, in their own homes,” said Clark.

Since March 2016, Thome PACE has served 350 older adults. In 2020, two grants totaling \$1,250,000 from the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation helped to construct an expansion to the Day Health Center to increase its capacity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has limited the number of participants who may be served in the Day Health Center to just ten per day and has required Thome PACE to ramp up its in-home care and services as well as its telehealth capabilities during the past year. “We would normally see 60 to 75 participants in the Day Center each day,” said Clark. “We look forward to having our participants back in the Day Center as soon as we are able. In the meantime, we continue to offer our healthcare services in participants’ homes. The safest place for them is in the home, and that’s been really helpful during the pandemic.”

To learn more about all that Thome PACE has to offer, call 517.768.9791, visit thomepace.org, and ‘like’ us at www.facebook.com/thomepace.

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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. UMRC & Porter Hills is one of the state’s leading providers of PACE services with five sites statewide, serving approximately 1,000 older adults annually across 15 Michigan counties. umrcph.com/734.433.1000 and 616.949.4975*

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