



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **UMRC & Porter Hills Announces Completed Expansion and Renovations to Local Long-Term Care Center**

*Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Chelsea  
Offers State-of-the-Art Care and Amenities*

**Chelsea, MI, Mar. 11, 2021** – All new private resident rooms with personal showers, inviting common areas and dining spaces, and a welcoming new entrance with bakery are just part of the expansion and renovations recently completed at United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills’ Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center (Kresge Center), located on UMRC’s historic Chelsea campus. This five-phase project, part of the UMRC Foundation’s *Growing to Serve* comprehensive campaign, included a 15,000-square foot addition and extensive renovations to provide state-of-the-art care and amenities, incorporating the Household Model, for its long-term care residents as well as short-term rehabilitation guests.

“In a usual year, we would have celebrated the completion of years of work at our Kresge Center with fanfare: tours, fellowship, live entertainment, great food,” said Wendy Brightman, president of the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation. “As we cannot come together, I am especially honored and grateful to announce the completion of this project that is not only beautiful, but life-improving. Thank you to all our donors who dreamed with us to make this project possible.”

Phases 1 through 4, completed prior to COVID-19, created new private rooms with personal showers for each resident of the Kresge Center which has capacity for 85 people.

“Little did we know then how important this would be to keep our residents as safe and healthy as possible as the COVID-19 pandemic began last March,” said Brightman. “So many times over the past year, we have remarked on how thankful we are that our Kresge residents have benefitted from the vision of our board members and the generosity of donors and friends. The private rooms and bathrooms which resulted from this project have made a crucial impact in minimizing the potential spread of infection.”

Each room at Kresge Center is Medicaid-eligible. “Kresge Center is home to primarily low-income residents,” Brightman said. “This project could not have happened without philanthropy.”

The 5<sup>th</sup> and final phase resumed in June 2020, after COVID-19 delayed construction in March due to restrictions on outside visitors to the retirement community. This phase featured the renovation of the dining room and completion of the household spaces on Kresge Center’s second floor, and the renovation of kitchens on the first and second floors. The construction crew built temporary walls and created new entrances to the building to completely separate and isolate the construction area from Kresge Center’s living spaces, and followed all safety precautions, including daily temperature screenings, social distancing, and wearing masks.

“We are so grateful to EV Construction and crew, with headquarters in Holland, Michigan, and to Kate Collins, chief project development officer of UMRC & Porter Hills, and her team for navigating this project to completion, particularly against the unbelievably difficult odds created by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Brightman said.

Through the construction and the pandemic, Kresge Center has maintained its 5-Star quality rating with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). “This is a tribute to the incredible work of our frontline team members who are providing outstanding care to the older adults we serve, even in the midst of one of the worst pandemics in our history which has attacked older adults hardest of all.”

Thanks to grant funding, Kresge Center team members have adopted the Action Pact Household Model of culture change for its long-term skilled nursing residents living on the second floor. This model of small household living embraces person-centered care, individual choices, and close personal attention, and includes common kitchen and living spaces that feel like home.

The entrance to the second floor resembles the front porch of a home with a sign that says, “These are the Houses Thome Built,” in honor of the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation which contributed to the project. Two small households, one for traditional long-term care residents and one for those living with dementia, have been named for two couples and longtime friends who helped make this project possible: Hicks’ Home, named for John and Martha Hicks, and Sarns’ Sanctuary, in honor of Richard and Norma Sarns.

“We have been personal friends for many years,” said John Hicks. “We love the idea of having such a mission-focused community named after us, and that we can be neighbors in perpetuity.”

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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](http://umrcph.com/734.433.1000) and 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.umrcph.com/734.433.1000](http://umrcfoundation.umrcph.com/734.433.1000)*