



For Immediate Release
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UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation Receives Grant from Ethel and James Flinn Foundation

Gift Supports Behavioral Health Care at Huron Valley PACE

Ypsilanti, MI, September 30, 2021 – The UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation is pleased to announce it has received a grant of \$50,000 from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation. These funds will support behavioral health training and workforce development for team members at Huron Valley PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) to best serve the mental health care needs of its participants and their families.

A program of United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills, Huron Valley PACE, located in Ypsilanti, Michigan serves the psycho-social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, nursing home-eligible adults, aged 55 and up. Its service area extends throughout Washtenaw, Monroe, and parts of Oakland, Wayne, and Livingston counties.

A previous grant two years ago from the Flinn Foundation helped launch the integration of behavioral health at Huron Valley PACE. This grant from the Flinn Foundation’s Capacity Building Opportunities fund will be used to provide a variety of mental health training for Huron Valley PACE team members and create a train-the-trainer program to fully integrate behavioral health into the primary care PACE delivers.

“Thanks to the Flinn Foundation, we have a solid framework for behavioral health in place,” explains Sonja Felton, Executive Director of Huron Valley PACE. “This project will allow Huron Valley PACE to create structures to ensure our entire team has the skills they need and that services are fully integrated into the PACE model.”

Mental health concerns for older adults have been exacerbated by the social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Felton. “Quality behavioral health has been especially vital during the pandemic when behavioral health struggles for older adults have been at all-time highs,” said Felton. “UMRC & Porter Hills understands that access to mental health services is crucial to our vision of empowering all to age well. We are grateful for the continued generosity and opportunity to partner with the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation.”

Felton added, “Huron Valley PACE is enthusiastic about developing and expanding its behavioral health services to serve more vulnerable older adults in our area. This grant from the Flinn Foundation will equip us to best serve our PACE participants, helping them to live independently in their own homes and communities and with the highest quality of mental health and well-being.”

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 are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and pay no additional fees for PACE services.

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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*

*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 7,400 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*

*The **Ethel and James Flinn Foundation** is a private foundation that uses its resources to improve the quality, scope, and delivery of mental health services in Michigan. The vision of the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation is to: advance well-researched best practice mental health treatment and programs that meet the needs of people in Michigan. The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation was established in 1976 by Ethel “Peggy” W. Flinn. Her intent was to remember her parents, Ethel and James, and her brother, Jim Flinn, Jr. and to consolidate and direct the family’s philanthropy toward “research into the causes and/or research into the treatment of nervous and mental diseases.”*