

A MAGAZINE *from* UMRC

Community

Reframing AGING

UMRC IS HELPING CHANGE THE WAY
WE THINK ABOUT AGING



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION



Bernard Maye,
Huron Valley
Ambulance
driver, dances
with Huron Valley
PACE participant,
Charlotte L.
at PACE Prom

Reframing Aging



CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

“S he looks great for her age!” “He still drives?” “Wow, you’re sharp as a tack!” Sound familiar? All of us are aging, but sometimes the words we use to describe older adults create a dynamic of “us vs. them.” Or maybe you have heard the growing population of older adults described as “an epidemic” or “the silver tsunami” – as if aging is a crisis to overcome.

The words we use exert great power. Eight national organizations, including Grantmakers in Aging (of which UMRC Foundation is a member) have launched the Reframing Aging Initiative with the Frameworks Institute to break down stereotypes and change the way we think and communicate about aging.

This effort takes time, but the conversation around aging is changing. As we are living longer, healthier lives, it is important to embrace aging, appreciate the contributions of older adults, and seek innovative approaches that create a just and enriched society for all of us.

We hope this issue will spark your own conversations about Reframing Aging.

To learn more, visit <http://frameworksinstitute.org/reframing-aging.html>. ■



Thome PACE participant,
Barb W. and great grandson



From left to right:
Julia Strimer,
Janice Moore,
Marilyn Doherty,
and Syreta Earl



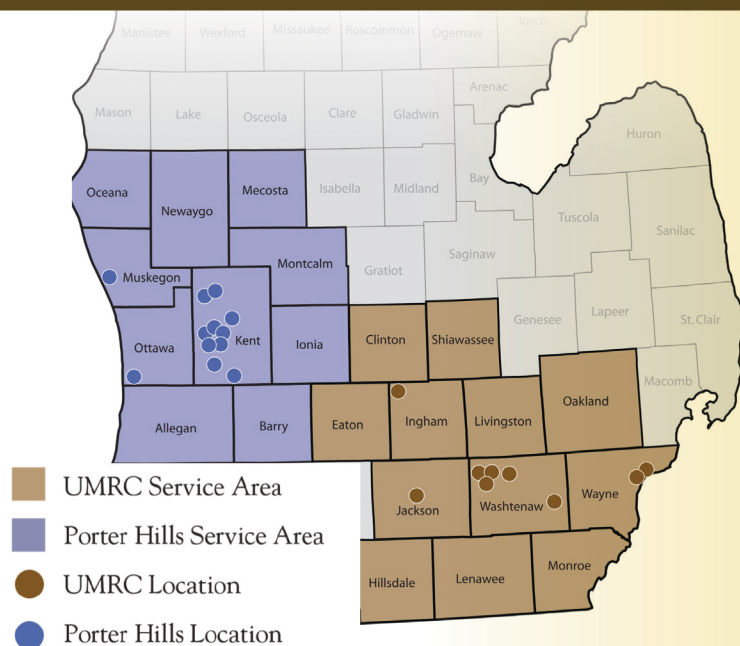
‘CREATIVE IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS’

By 2025, more than 76 million Baby Boomers will make decisions regarding retirement living options. “Given these marketing demands, organizations like UMRC need to be creative in seeking solutions to expand services while protecting quality,” says UMRC President and CEO John Thorhauer. “In some instances, the best option for meeting the needs of Michigan’s older adults may come through collaborative partnerships with other like-minded care providers.”

This belief has led UMRC to consider a potential collaboration with Porter Hills (PH), a senior living organization based in Grand Rapids. Recently the two faith-based organizations announced plans to explore affiliation to serve more older adults across Michigan. Both UMRC and PH share industry best practices and strong quality ratings with multiple five-star facilities among them. Together, UMRC and PH serve over 4,600 older adults across 22 Michigan counties and employ 1,300 staff.

A thorough due diligence process is underway. “In this changing marketplace, we want to ensure UMRC is poised to add continuing value to the people we serve every day.” ■

UMRC Potential Affiliation to Reach Shore to Shore



• 1,300 staff • 4,600 older adults • 24 service lines

Caregiver Spotlight



Emily Weber

BUILDING TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS

"It's all about building a trusting relationship and showing understanding, patience, and empathy for what residents are experiencing."

— Emily Weber

When Emily Weber of Ann Arbor was a girl, she told her dad she wanted to work in a nursing home when she grew up. Today a Resident Care Assistant (RCA) at Towsley Village Memory Care Center, Emily is living out her calling to provide compassionate care for older adults.

"Since I was a kid I felt drawn to older adults," explains Emily. "I had a lot of fun spending time with my grandparents who helped set my path in life."

Working with older adults living with dementia is personal for Emily, whose maternal grandmother died of the disease. Thanks to a competitive staff scholarship from the UMRC Foundation, she is now working on her graduate certificate in gerontology and dementia. "I am so thankful and appreciative of this opportunity provided by the UMRC Foundation to continue my education and expand my expertise." ■

**UMRC's
The Cedars
of Dexter**
received Holleran
Consulting's
**2018 Choice
Community
Award** for
Employee
Engagement.



**November 1 is
the next deadline
for UMRC
Foundation's Staff
Scholarship
applications!**

To learn more, contact
the UMRC Foundation
at 734.433.1000
ext. 7502.

CRC'S OWN ROSIE THE RIVETER AND BOMBER BUILDER

Jean & Louis Baker

Chelsea Retirement Community residents Jean Baker—a real-life “Rosie, The Riveter”—and her husband, Louis, helped build some of the first planes manufactured at Willow Run in Ypsilanti.

Jean and Louis were childhood sweethearts, growing up in Alpena, Michigan. At age 20, Louis left to work at the new Willow Run plant. Jean couldn't wait to turn 18 so she could work there as well. Jean worked at Willow Run for two years, riveting wires onto the ailerons, the



part of the airplane wing that allows the plane to bank or turn. She says the iconic handkerchiefs the women wore to cover their heads were a safety precaution to keep their hair out of the machinery.

Louis worked on the first two B-24 bomber planes built at Willow Run, under the watchful eye of consultant and



Jean and Louis at the Chelsea Retirement Community.

pilot, Charles Lindbergh. “The ground trembled when they revved up the planes,” says Louis. In its heyday, Willow Run produced one plane per hour!

Louis eventually joined the Navy and repaired planes. He and Jean were married on May 15, 1943 – this year they celebrated their 75th anniversary. They say those days at Willow Run seem like a long time ago now, but they both agree, “Those were exciting times.” ■

UMRC FOUNDATION RECEIVES TRANSFORMATIONAL GRANT FROM THE THOME FOUNDATION

The UMRC Foundation recently announced its largest gift of 2018 – a \$2.5 million grant from the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. This grant supports expansion and renovations to UMRC's Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, a focal part of the

Foundation's **Growing to Serve** comprehensive campaign.

“This gift from the Thome Foundation enables us to do so much more to care for the low-income older adults we serve,” says Wendy Brightman, UMRC Foundation President. “Thanks to this grant, our Kresge Center will be transformed into a warm and inviting setting that feels

like home for our residents. This grant literally takes our construction to the finish line.” Wendy continues, “At a time when it seems that little attention is being paid to the needs of aging, I am proud of the Thome Foundation's commitment to this rapidly growing segment of our population and thrilled to have them as a partner.” ■



Dorothy Greer, a resident of Chelsea Retirement Community

**Reframing
Aging**

Fast Fact

**In 2015, older adults
across the U.S.
contributed
volunteer services
valued at
\$45 BILLION.**

INSPIRING GENEROSITY

Dorothy Greer

Dorothy Greer, a resident of Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC), recently reached a milestone, with over 30 consecutive years of giving to the UMRC Foundation! “Dorothy’s many gifts have honored and remembered loved ones, helped make capital improvements on our campus, and ensured that those who outlive their savings always have a home here through our Benevolent Care Fund,” says UMRC Foundation President, Wendy Brightman. “Dorothy’s long-time generosity is inspirational.”

A 1946 graduate of the University of Michigan, Dorothy worked in Washington, D.C. before returning to her hometown of Highland Park, Michigan. Dorothy retired after a 30-year career in labor relations at Michigan Bell. A year later, Dorothy met and married Dr. James Greer.

Dorothy and James moved to CRC in 1996. When James passed away three years later, Dorothy moved to The Pines Senior Apartments before returning to CRC in 2007.

Dorothy is a volunteer at her church and in the community and enjoys CRC’s Artful Aging classes.

A member of UMRC Foundation’s Pillars of Faith as well as its Wesley Legacy Society through her planned giving, Dorothy says the Benevolent Care Fund is closest to her heart. “I want to help those who most need it and who may be alone in the world. Having been single so long with no children of my own, and having a single aunt who exhausted her resources, I understand the need.” ■

**Become a
member of the
Wesley Legacy
Society**

**with your planned
gift to the**

**UMRC
Foundation!**

**Contact
734.433.1000
ext. 7502**

**for more
information.**

Alberta Richardson

DEVOTED TO SERVING

“Everyone gets along with everyone and loves everyone. I’m treated the way I want to be treated.”

— Alberta Richardson



Alberta enjoys making quilts from bandanas.

Alberta Richardson is a woman of faith. For over 45 years, she has attended Elyton Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. “I go every Sunday,” says Alberta. A deacon picks her up from her home at Thome Rivertown Neighborhood in Detroit.

Born and raised in Mississippi, Alberta and her close-knit family have made Detroit their home since 1972. Four years ago, Alberta moved to Thome Rivertown Assisted Living. Located at 250 McDougall Avenue, Thome Rivertown is the first and only affordable assisted living development in the city for adults 55 years and older with limited incomes.

Alberta taught Sunday School for many years, primarily to preschoolers. “I love the little ones,” says Alberta. She has watched them grow up and says she loves that they give her hugs, hold the door for her and greet her when they see her at church.

One of Alberta’s favorite hobbies is quilting. She calls it her mission. “I give them away as fast as I can make them!” says Alberta. She especially enjoys making quilts from bandanas, which she can finish in a day.

Alberta says that the people are what make Thome Rivertown special.

To learn more about Thome Rivertown Assisted Living Neighborhood in Detroit, call 313.288.7206. ■

Reframing
Aging

Fast Fact

Two thirds of
Baby Boomers
are continuing to work
past age 65.

COMMUNITIES IN *Harmony*

Chelsea Retirement Community

805 West Middle Street
Chelsea, Michigan 48118
P: 734.433.1000

The Cedars of Dexter

411 Cedars Lane
Dexter, Michigan 48130
P: 734.792.9702

The Pines

325 Wilkinson Street
Chelsea, Michigan 48118
P: 734.433.9130

Silver Maples of Chelsea

100 Silver Maples Drive
Chelsea, Michigan 48118
P: 734.475.4111

The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood

250 McDougall Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48207
P: 313.567.8045

Huron Valley PACE

2940 Ellsworth
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
P: 734.572.5777

Thome PACE

2282 Springport Road
Jackson, Michigan 49202
P: 517.768.9791

Senior Community Care of Michigan

1921 East Miller Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911
P: 517.319.0700

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