

A MAGAZINE *from* UMRC

# Community

*Special Edition:* A WINTER UPDATE FROM UMRC & UMRC FOUNDATION

## *Honoring* Care Partners, *Celebrating* Teamwork at UMRC



Kresge Center team member Ritchelle Avriett visits with resident.



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# A Winter Update

A Letter from  
Steve Fetyko, President and CEO



Caregiver retention is a widely discussed topic in the senior living industry, and one we give a lot of thought to at UMRC, as well. We know the importance of retaining excellent, compassionate

team members in order to provide the best possible care for the older adults we serve.

The UMRC Foundation **Employee Support Program**, for example, is a way that we are addressing the needs of our team, whether through competitive *Staff Scholarships* for those who wish to further their educational and career goals; or *Emergency Relief Aid*, to lend a hand to team members who experience an emergency or financial hardship. **Since 2018, 77% of our scholarship recipients have remained successfully employed at UMRC.**

I am delighted to introduce you to these four featured team members who have made a career and a life caring for older adults at UMRC.

Sincerely,

**Steve Fetyko**  
President & CEO  
UMRC and Porter Hills

## Hazel Mead

Originally from Great Britain, Hazel Mead has been enriching the lives of older adults at UMRC for over 23 years. She began her career as a CNA, and later joined the therapy department, before becoming a volunteer coordinator. Currently, Hazel serves as the Life Enrichment Coordinator for Independent Living where she has found her true calling.



Hazel Mead (third from left) takes a moment to pose with Independent Living residents during an afternoon of baking.

When asked her favorite part about working at UMRC, she quickly replies, “the residents, most definitely!” She adds, “Their wisdom and knowledge are incredible! I have learned more from our residents than in all my schooling.”

Hazel says, “UMRC has been so wonderful and treated me so well. I can’t imagine working anywhere else.”

*Read more stories about our team members and residents in our “Long Story Short” blog at [UMRC.com](http://UMRC.com) and ‘like’ us on Facebook!*

To learn how you can give to the **Employee Support Program** or **Benevolent Care Fund**, or to leave a legacy through your estate, contact the UMRC Foundation at 734.433.1000 ext. 7502.



# Danny Smith

For nearly 29 years, Danny Smith has been part of the Environmental Services team at UMRC's Chelsea campus. Initially, Danny dreamed of becoming a musician, but needed money for studio time. His mother, Daisy, a twenty-year UMRC employee herself, suggested he take a job at UMRC to help with that. "Eventually, Plan B became Plan A," says Danny who still enjoys music, but loves the older adults he has gotten to know over the years.



Danny Smith's personality shines through.

"Danny is known across campus for his contagious smile, can-do attitude, and willingness to help," says Courtnee Knepley, Director of Environmental Services. "His commitment to serving our residents and team members is exemplary."

# Virginia Lewis

Virginia Lewis' heart is in caring for others, which she has done at UMRC for the last 39 years.

Virginia has served older adults all over campus, as both a CNA and housekeeper, including at Wesley Hall, the predecessor of Towsley Village, where she helped care for those living with dementia.



Glazier Commons resident Peggy G. visits with Virginia Lewis.

Today, Virginia helps make Glazier Commons feel like home for the residents there. "I have made so many relationships over the years," says Virginia. "It's so important to respect our residents, to be

kind and treat them like family. People trust us to care for their loved ones. I'm proud that I can help make the later years of older adults as good as they can be."



Stacey Syrek shares a smile with Kresge Center resident Cathy B.

# Stacey Syrek

Stacey Syrek, LPN, has been a nurse at Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center for nearly 20 years. "I know how important it is to provide continuity of care and to be that familiar face for our residents," says Stacey. "Building relationships and having that rapport with older adults and their families is all that matters."

The final phase of renovations to Kresge Center, a focus of the UMRC Foundation's *Growing to Serve* campaign, is underway, as is training and implementation of the Action Pact culture change model. "There have been a lot of changes," says Stacey, a member of the Action Pact steering committee. "Our residents are so excited about their new private rooms."



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