



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

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United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation Receives \$20,000 from United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Gift Provides for Emergency Needs of Older Detroiters Served at The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood

Detroit, MI, June 23, 2020 – The UMRC Foundation is pleased to announce it has received a grant of \$20,000 from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. These funds will support emergency needs such as food and personal hygiene essentials as well as iPads and technology for low-income older adults living at The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood Affordable Assisted Living in Detroit (Rivertown). A partnership between UMRC and other senior living organizations, Rivertown is an innovative model of affordable healthcare and housing options located in Detroit’s East Jefferson corridor.

Ninety-five percent of Rivertown residents live well below the poverty level, with an average income of just \$700 per month. Although Rivertown provides outstanding, one-of-a-kind housing, services and programs for frail, low-income older adults, many basic needs may still go unmet. “Some of our residents come to Rivertown with basically nothing,” said Julia Szuper, Executive Director of Rivertown Affordable Assisted Living. “Their needs are amplified now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for this grant from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and its partnership in caring for our Rivertown residents.”

“COVID-19 has been especially catastrophic for older adults, persons of color, and those with limited means – the very population we serve at Rivertown,” said Wendy Brightman, President of the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation. “We are thrilled to receive this gift from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan that will mean so much to our assisted living residents and their families and help us enhance the health, well-being, and dignity of those we serve.”

To learn more, visit The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood at 313.567.8045 or RivertownInfo@umrc.com.

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Located in Detroit's East Jefferson corridor, **The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood** is an innovative model of affordable healthcare and housing options for low-income, at-risk older adults, ages 62 and older. A partnership between UMRC and other senior care organizations, Rivertown is the first retirement community in the nation to bring together a comprehensive range of services specifically designed for low-income older adults. This includes affordable assisted living and independent living, Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the Green House® model of skilled nursing care.
RivertownAssistedLiving.com|313.567.8045

Building on a foundation of 114 years of service, **United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC)** is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that promotes the wellness, dignity and independence of older adults, by providing high quality, innovative and compassionate senior residential and supportive services. Celebrating 50 years, the mission of **Porter Hills** is to be trusted experts serving seniors with grace. Its vision is to be nationally recognized as an unparalleled leader and partner in senior services. In March 2019, UMRC & Porter Hills affiliated, under shared governance and leadership. Together, UMRC & Porter Hills represent the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, these faith-based organizations and their affiliates combine to serve more than 6,700 older adults each year, from 24 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan's lower peninsula. umrc.com|734.433.1000 and porterhills.org|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.com|734.433.1000

United Way for Southeastern Michigan, a member of the United Way Worldwide network and an independently governed 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works to help households become stable and ensure children have the support they need to thrive. For more than 100 years, United Way has been a leader in creating positive, measurable, and sustainable change in communities throughout southeast Michigan. United Way works in partnership with donors, agencies, corporate and municipal partners to help families meet their basic needs of housing, food, health care and family finances, and ensure children start school ready to learn and graduate ready for life. To give, advocate, volunteer or learn more, visit UnitedWaySEM.org.