



For Immediate Release
Contact: Lisa French
UMRC & Porter Hills
Phone: 734-433-1000 ext. 7426

Huron Valley PACE Hosts Socially Distant Blood Drive

Team Members' Donations Support American Red Cross and Local Ypsilanti Area

Ypsilanti, MI, September 8, 2020 – Huron Valley PACE, or Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, located in Ypsilanti, Michigan, hosted a socially distant blood drive supporting the local American Red Cross. Thirty Huron Valley PACE staff team members and spouses took part in the event held on August 31.

“Our goal was 25 donors,” said Lindsay Mann-Shanahan, Marketing Director for Huron Valley PACE. “We were delighted to exceed this goal, with 26 successful donors, several of whom were first-time blood donors.”

There is currently a critical shortage of blood due to cancellations of blood drives during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the American Red Cross. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, which can only come from volunteer donors. Each blood donation can potentially save up to three lives (redcrossblood.org).

“Up to 78 people in our community will benefit from this one blood drive,” says Gerry Abejuro, regional representative for the Southeast Michigan American Red Cross. “Our region, including Washtenaw County, is responsible for collecting 600 units of blood per day and servicing 28 local hospitals like University of Michigan and C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital-Michigan Medicine.”

In addition, through January 2021, all successful blood donors will be tested for possible COVID-19 antibodies, according to Abejuro. “We hope some will be able to donate their convalescent plasma to use in transfusions for those with the coronavirus, a treatment which has proven successful.”

“We are so proud of our Huron Valley PACE teammates,” said Mann-Shanahan. “Thank you to all of our wonderful team members for stepping up and donating for the greater good of the community.”

Huron Valley PACE plans to schedule another blood drive in November.

PACE serves the social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, older adults, ages 55 and up, who live within the PACE service area. Huron Valley PACE serves Washtenaw and Monroe counties, as well as parts of Oakland, Wayne and Livingston counties. PACE participants must be certified as meeting the State of Michigan criteria for nursing facility level of care, but be able to live safely in their homes and communities, thanks to PACE support. PACE offers a cost-effective alternative to nursing home care, providing overall savings of 40% to the State.

To learn more about Huron Valley PACE, visit <https://www.huronvalleypace.org> or call 734-572-5777. To learn about American Red Cross and blood drives in your area, visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org>.

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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](https://www.huronvalleypace.org/734.572.577)*

*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](https://www.umrc.com/734.433.1000) and [porterhills.org/616.949.4975](https://www.porterhills.org/616.949.4975)*

***American Red Cross** prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org)*