



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

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UMRC Foundation Receives Capital Grant to Support Thome PACE Expansion in Jackson

Weinberg Foundation grant of \$250,000 Helps Serve Low-Income Older Adults in Jackson, Hillsdale & Lenawee Counties

Jackson, MI, October 27, 2020 – United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation is thrilled to announce it has received a capital grant of \$250,000 from Maryland-based funder, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. This generous award supports the expansion of Thome PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), serving low-income, nursing home eligible older adults living in Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties.

“We are thrilled to receive this grant from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation,” says Wendy Brightman, President of the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation. “The Weinberg Foundation is known nationally and internationally as a champion for vulnerable older adults. The support of the Weinberg Foundation highlights the important work UMRC and Thome PACE are doing to serve a growing number of older adults in this tri-county area.”

“The population of older adults continues to grow in our state, and the three counties served by Thome PACE are no exception,” says Thome PACE Board Chair Michael Shore. “Thome PACE currently serves 189 older adults and receives nearly 40 referrals each month. The expansion of our Day Health Center is vital to keep up with the demand for PACE services. We are grateful to the Weinberg Foundation for its commitment to the needs of vulnerable older adults.”

This grant from the Weinberg Foundation will help complete a 2,000+ sq. ft. addition to the Thome PACE Day Health Center, located at 2282 Springport Road in Jackson, in order to provide more space for activity programming, meals, exercise and fitness, an additional care and shower room, and more for Thome PACE participants.

“Thome PACE provides such a vital and valuable service to low-income, older adults in this region,” says Thome PACE Executive Director Susan Decker. “During the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for everyone to respect social distancing, the Day Center has served only about 10-15 people per day compared to approximately 75-80 per day prior to COVID. With the expansion, we will be able to serve even more participants each day. This is good news for our participants who have been living alone and experiencing social isolation for the past many months. Thome

PACE team members have done an excellent job in bringing services into participants' homes, but it will greatly improve participant morale to be able to socialize with their peers again. We are grateful to the Weinberg Foundation for its support.”

A partnership between UMRC and the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, Thome PACE serves the social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, older adults, ages 55 and up, who live within the PACE service area. 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 proven, cost-effective alternative to nursing home care, providing overall savings of 40% to the State. Its 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.

Says Brightman, “With everything that PACE offers to participants, who pay nothing out-of-pocket, it is truly a win-win for older adults and our communities.”

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*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*

***Thome PACE**, located at 2282 Springport Road, Jackson, is a partnership between UMRC and Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, serving older adults in Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties. umrc.com/thomepace|517.768.9791*

*The **Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, is dedicated to meeting the basic needs of people experiencing poverty. In 2020, the Foundation will provide approximately \$130 million in total grant activity supporting nonprofits that provide direct services in the areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, Education, and*

Community Services. The Foundation's priority communities include Baltimore, Chicago, Hawai'i, Israel, New York City, Northeastern Pennsylvania, San Francisco, and Rural Communities (primarily rural areas within proximity to priority communities). The Foundation's trustees are Ambassador Fay Hartog-Levin (Ret.), Chair; Robert T. Kelly, Jr.; Paula B. Pretlow; Gordon Berlin; and Nimrod Goor. Rachel Garbow Monroe serves as President and CEO. For more information, please visit www.hjweinbergfoundation.org.