



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

UMRC & Porter Hills Celebrates National PACE Month in September

Organization's Five PACE Sites Serve Nearly 1,000 Older Michiganders Annually

Chelsea/Grand Rapids, MI, September 2, 2021 – Senior living organization United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills and its five Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE®) are proud to celebrate National PACE Month in September. The National PACE Association (NPA) has designated September as National PACE Month, an opportunity to celebrate the work of PACE nationwide. This year's theme of "Living at Home: Your Goal, Our Priority" sums up the purpose of PACE – to help nursing-home eligible older adults remain living independently in their home and community for as long as possible.

UMRC & Porter Hills is a partner in five PACE sites across the state and makes up one of the state's leading providers of PACE services, serving approximately 1,000 older adults across 15 Michigan counties. These locations include:

- Huron Valley PACE in Ypsilanti
- Thome PACE in Jackson
- Senior CommUnity Care of Michigan in Lansing
- LifeCircles PACE in Holland
- LifeCircles PACE in Muskegon

"I am proud of the work our PACE team members accomplish each day to help our participants live independently in their own homes," said Huron Valley PACE Executive Director Sonja Felton who also serves on both the NPA and PACE Association of Michigan Board of Directors. "During the COVID-19 pandemic when our PACE Day Centers were forced to close, this meant pivoting to more home-based care, providing telehealth technology for participants to visit with healthcare providers, delivering groceries and medications to participants, and offering respite care, to name a few."

2021 also marks the 50th anniversary of On Lok, a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco that developed the PACE model of care.

“This year, we celebrate National PACE Month as we work to recover from the historic COVID-19 pandemic, which provides a unique perspective to celebrate the original development of the PACE model of care and envision a future where every American will have access to PACE,” said Shawn Bloom, President and CEO of NPA. Nationwide, there are 140 PACE organizations located in thirty states, serving more than 55,000 older adults.

PACE is a proven, cost-effective alternative to nursing home care, designed to specifically meet the social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, nursing home eligible adults ages 55 and over. PACE participants must live within the PACE service area and be certified as meeting the criteria for nursing facility level-of-care as defined by the state, but who are able to live safely and independently in their homes and communities with the help of PACE services.

The PACE interdisciplinary team of professionals provides participants with a “one-stop” shop model for all their healthcare needs. These include comprehensive medical, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy needs, nutrition and meals, health education, social and recreational activities, and door-to-door transportation.

For more information on UMRC & Porter Hills’ PACE organizations in your area, contact:

- Huron Valley PACE, 2940 Ellsworth, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 – 734.572.5777
- Thome PACE, 2282 Springport Road, Jackson, MI 49202 – 517.768.9791
- Senior CommUnity Care of Michigan, 1921 East Miller Road, Lansing, MI 48911 – 517.319.0700
- LifeCircles PACE, Holland Campus, 12330 James Street, Ste. 10, Holland, MI 49423 – 616.582.3100
- LifeCircles PACE, Muskegon Campus, 560 Seminole Road, Muskegon, MI 49444 – 231.733.8686

#####

*Building on a foundation of 165 years of combined service to older adults, **United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) & Porter Hills** is a faith-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. Its vision is: A world in which all are empowered to age well. Together, UMRC & Porter Hills represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, UMRC & Porter Hills and its affiliates combine to serve over 7,000 older adults each year, from 24 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. UMRC & Porter Hills is one of the state’s leading providers of PACE services with five sites statewide, serving approximately 1,000 older adults annually across 15 Michigan counties. umrcph.com/734.433.1000 and 616.949.4975*