

A MAGAZINE *from* UMRC & PORTER HILLS

Community

Special Edition: AN AUTUMN UPDATE FROM UMRC & PORTER HILLS CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION

Honoring our History.

*Looking to
the Future!*



Our Team Members Ensure a Bright Future for UMRC & Porter Hills!

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PORTER HILLS

UMRC &
PORTER HILLS
Foundation



Porter Hills Village was formally dedicated on May 24, 1970 with its first 99 residents.

Steve Fetyko, President and CEO UMRC & Porter Hills



UMRC & Porter Hills has some important milestones to celebrate! **2020 marked the 50th anniversary of Porter Hills, while**

2021 signifies 115 years since the launch of UMRC! While we have seen many changes, UMRC & Porter Hills has remained unwavering in its commitment to providing outstanding care and services for older adults.

Throughout our collective history, our visionary, faithful leaders have sought innovative approaches and partnerships to ensure the very best care for older adults of various needs and income levels. These have included state-of-the-art memory care for those living with dementia, home- and community-based programs such as PACE (Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), and serving older adults with limited means through Affordable Housing communities and The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood in Detroit.

Today, UMRC & Porter Hills offers Michigan's most diverse collection of care and services to more than 7,400 older adults in 22 Michigan counties across 24 service lines. **Why is this important?** Not only does it mean we can offer a variety of needed care and supports to a larger population of older adults, it also gives us a healthy, diversified portfolio. Our financial standing is solid as a result. **We are truly stronger together!**

I am grateful to you for being on this amazing journey with UMRC & Porter Hills. I think our founders would be pretty proud of the work you have helped us accomplish – together – to provide compassionate, quality care and programs to older adults, their families, and our team members. We're just getting started! ■

In Service,

Steve Fetyko
President & CEO
UMRC and Porter Hills

Wendy Brightman, President
UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation



The UMRC and Porter Hills Foundation boards have continued to identify and honor the similarities of our missions to best serve

older adults across our state. As you will read in this magazine, we have much in common.

2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the Porter Hills Foundation! We look forward to celebrating at this year's **ThanksForGiving** event, sharing stories of those who helped launch and shape Porter Hills. I am grateful to each of you who helped with this history project!

Over the past year, the UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation has worked on initiatives like the Team Member Support Services program, implemented best practices, and aligned our policies and initiatives to create consistency shore to shore.

In doing so, we have adopted these four fundraising priorities:

- ***Benevolent Care***
- ***Team Member Support Services***
- ***Life Enrichment***
- ***Capital Improvements***

Working together simply makes sense. Our foundations share similar origins. Each was developed by thoughtful men and women of faith and designed with Benevolent Care as the cornerstone.

The UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation exists to support the work of our organization and to ensure that the older adults we serve are living their very best lives. It's a path we are committed to following together, and I thank you for walking this path with us. ■

With warmest regard,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Brightman".

Wendy Brightman

President

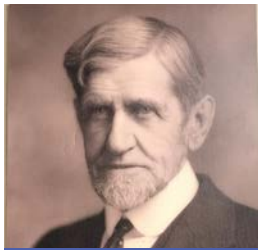
UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation

Made from native stone, the pillars at the entrance of Chelsea Retirement Community became a symbol of home for residents.



A Faith-Based History...

UMRC & Porter Hills shares a lot in common, including the vision of our faithful founders representing the United Methodist Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids. Each of them not only imagined, but planned and created a better way to care for older adults.



Rev. James Jacklin

In 1905, some thirty years before Social Security, the county poorhouse may have been the only option for older adults without finances or family to take them in. Methodist pastors and lay leaders, including **Rev. James Jacklin**, envisioned a better way to provide a lifetime of caring and dignity for “the lonely aged.” A sod-turning event in October 1906 set the stage for what is now Chelsea Retirement Community, UMRC’s flagship campus.

“The old, as the young, need more than bread. They need rest, peace, comfort, care, fellowship, and love.”

– Rev. James Jacklin, co-founder



Frank Glazier

Local Chelsea industrialist **Frank Glazier**, who made his fortune in the cook stove and oil heater business, donated 33 acres from a former county fairground site to build the Chelsea “Old People’s Home” as it was first known. Word traveled fast – just a month after the sod-turning, two

couples arrived in Chelsea, eager to move into the place they had heard about. Glazier generously offered up a house he had just built for his son where these early residents could live.

The **Kresge family** and **Kresge Foundation** have been instrumental in supporting UMRC since the beginning – everything from installing steam heat and an elevator in the 1910s and 20s; to the construction of Kresge Chapel in 1947 and the Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, built in 1985 and named for Dorothy McVittie Kresge for her work as Board Chair. Says her son, Dr. Bruce Kresge:

“Her interest in caring for people and the Methodist connection of UMRC meant so much to her.” ■



Dorothy McVittie Kresge

...Dedicated, Visionary Servants

"The Lord gives us so much, if we are successful and fortunate, it seems only fitting and proper to give some back." — Horace Barton



Harold Hartger

Harold Hartger, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, planted the seed that led to Porter Hills back in 1956 in a letter to the Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr.

Frederick W. Wyngarden. The U.S. Congress had just passed an act that made federal funds available to build homes for the aging. Later, Harold spoke about the idea to the church. Mrs. Marion Steketee, who loved the idea, challenged him: "Young man, why don't you do something about it?" With his expertise in financing, Harold became instrumental in the founding of Porter Hills.



Ruth and Don Porter

Ruth and Don Porter first met while visiting Westminster Presbyterian Church and married soon after. Ruth's father had been a farmer and, eventually, left the land to Ruth and her brother. When

the church decided to build a retirement home, Ruth offered 35 acres of these rolling hills to develop this project. Porter Hills had a location and a name. Don served as one of the original members of the Porter Hills Board of Directors.



Horace Barton

Horace and Martha Barton's son, Jim, remembers his family would go to the Morton House for lunch after church and talk about plans for the new retirement community

with others from Westminster. His mom volunteered at the Isabella Home for Aged Women which was closing. Discussions followed with the Isabella Home, and an agreement was reached – the Isabella Home provided seed money for Porter Hills in return for providing care for the women living there at that time.



Cal Owen

Owen-Ames-Kimball Company was chosen to construct Porter Hills Village which was completed in 1970. The superintendent of construction was **Cal Owen** (later president

of the company). In addition to serving the Isabella Foundation board, Cal devoted 24 years to the Porter Hills Board (1976 to 2000) and the next nineteen years to the Porter Hills Foundation Board. His wife, Ann, was one of the early members of the Porter Hills Women's Board. They made Cook Valley Estates their home in 2000. ■

How Firm a Foundation...

The UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation each got their start in the 1990s, thanks to visionary men and women who recognized the need to build an endowment that would support Benevolent Care as well as the growth of the organizations to serve future generations of older adults.



Dick Young



Roger Oetting



Marianne Conner



Judy Dow Rumelhart, Carole Holmes

In 1995, **Dick Young**, who had served for 18 years on the Porter Hills Board, saw the need to create a foundation. He invited his friend and fellow Rotarian, **Roger Oetting**, who was both a CPA and an attorney, to share his expertise and join him in researching and completing the financials for this endeavor. “It was clear to me from the start that, if Porter Hills was to be successful, long into the future, there would need to be an endowment to support and maintain it into perpetuity,” says Dick. He and Roger served as the Porter Hills Foundation’s first and second Board Chairs and both served the Foundation for the next 20 years.

“Roger volunteered innumerable hours and truly enjoyed being part of the success of this fine organization,” says Marcia Oetting of her late husband.

At about the same time, **Bruce Franklin**, then UMRC Board Chair, also envisioned creating a Foundation, says fellow board member **Marianne Conner**. She had served on the Board’s Development Committee that became a subgroup to study bylaws and determine the goals of the Foundation. Benevolent Care was an important reason, as was the development of Towsley Village Memory Care Center on the Chelsea Retirement Community campus. “Many of the original UMRC Foundation Board members were selected based on that project,” says Marianne. This included people like **Carole Holmes** and **Judy Dow Rumelhart** who were passionate and dedicated to serving those living with dementia. The UMRC Foundation was launched in 1998. ■

Similar Histories Mirror Innovation

The histories of UMRC and Porter Hills mirror each other in many ways, from their faith-based beginnings, to their commitment to Benevolent Care, and constant seeking of innovative approaches and partnerships to best serve older adults. Here are a few examples:



Towsley Village

Throughout their history, UMRC and Porter Hills have provided care for older adults living with dementia. In 1972, UMRC partnered with the University of Michigan Institute of Gerontology to study this disease. As more became known regarding optimal care and dignified treatment, this research led to the creation of **Wesley Hall** in 1984, a unit dedicated to more person-centered care for residents living with dementia at Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC). In 1986, Porter Hills developed **Harmony Hall** at Porter Hills Village, caring for sixteen residents with Alzheimer's and other dementias in a similar way. **Towsley Village Memory Care Center** was completed on the CRC campus in 2000. "It was very exciting to be part of the Foundation when Towsley Village was built," says Marianne Conner. "For many years, it has been the epitome of quality memory care in the area."



Affordable Living

In the 1990s, Rev. Dr. William Evertsberg of Westminster served on the Porter Hills Board and urged the group to do more charitable work, including the idea of **affordable living** for older adults of limited means. He felt it was in keeping with the organization's faith-based mission, and the Board agreed. In 1997, Porter Hills worked with HUD to create **Walker Meadow Retirement Community** in Walker, Michigan, the first of Porter Hills' six HUD 202 rent-subsidized independent living communities for older adults developed in the Grand Rapids area through 2005.

UMRC also saw the need to provide affordable **assisted** living for older adults living in Detroit. Together with a number of partners and stakeholders, UMRC helped launch **The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood** which opened in Detroit's Riverfront area in 2013 – offering the city's first and only affordable assisted living community.



Huron Valley PACE

UMRC and Porter Hills also saw the importance of collaboration to launch **Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE**, allowing low-income, nursing home-eligible older adults to remain living independently in their own homes and communities. In 2009, Porter Hills launched **LifeCircles PACE** with locations in Muskegon and Holland; while UMRC opened three PACE centers over the next decade – **Huron Valley PACE** (Ypsilanti) in 2014, **Senior CommUnity Care of Michigan PACE** (Lansing) in 2015, and **Thome PACE** (Jackson) in 2016. ■

The Future of UMRC & Porter Hills

With such similar faith-based backgrounds and a shared penchant for innovation and collaboration to best serve older adults, it made sense when UMRC and Porter Hills announced their affiliation in March 2019.

As the UMRC Foundation Board Chair at that time, **Marianne Conner** was an ad hoc member to the Operating Board and served on the Affiliation Committee. “It was very interesting to spend that time with the Porter Hills Board members and to see how many things were alike and how people came to serve on the boards, including their family or church connections,” says Marianne. “We were all in it with the same passion and strong connections and feelings that the affiliation would work. It really is a testament to the mission. **I definitely think there are more opportunities for the organization moving forward, and I see the value of it as a model of strength in the state.**”

Emeritus Board Member **Jim Preston**

agrees. “I believe our similarity, including the belief in Benevolent Care and a desire to serve a much larger swath of the population through programs like PACE and affordable




Jim Preston

housing are why the affiliation came together so nicely. The COVID-19 pandemic was a litmus test, and we have thrived during this time because of the affiliation. The two organizations together are stronger than we were apart. **We now continue to live out our promise, to always put those we serve first and do it honorably. We have put ourselves in a position of strength to continue providing outstanding services for older adults into the future.”** ■



Celebrating the affiliation are:
(standing) J. Nixon, M. Wagner,
K. Hoppe; (sitting) S. Fetyko,
and Bishop D. Bard.



We're Here. *For You.* Stronger Than Ever.

Throughout our history, UMRC & Porter Hills has provided the highest quality care for older adults. As we emerge from the pandemic, we're proud of the traditions of our organization, the vitality of our people, and the vision for our future.

We're thrilled to share some new *videos* with you that highlight our phenomenal team members, communities, and services.

Visit our website at UMRCPH.com to check out these exciting new videos and see all the ways we are *Stronger Together*.

A rock-solid history. An innovative future. *Join us!*

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Starting from the Heart

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids has a long history of making a difference in the community, going back to its founding by a group of abolitionists before the Civil War. Its ministries include Camp Henry, the Westminster Child Development Center, and the Downtown Food Pantry. Westminster was even instrumental in the founding of Alma College! So it is no surprise that, when members of the church saw a need for enhanced care for older adults, they would do something about it.

“Providing a service to the larger community is what motivated our members to create Porter Hills,” says Rev. Dave Baak who served Westminster Presbyterian Church in several roles over the years. “It’s still a very important relationship.”

Westminster Presbyterian Church



Over the last fifty years, this relationship has included a Westminster representative on the Porter Hills Board. Most recently, Barbara Goodspeed, President of Westminster’s Trustees and on the staff at Spectrum Health, filled this role from 2015 to June 2021.



Barbara Goodspeed

Barbara served on the search committee when Porter Hills was looking for an affiliate partner. “The faith-based similarities between UMRC and Porter Hills made a huge difference,” says Barbara. “We felt that UMRC was a really genuine organization and a really fine fit for Porter Hills.

“It felt very comfortable. It was great to find UMRC who shared our values for caring for older adults of a diverse range of income levels, who treasured affordable housing and was committed to PACE.

“As a faith-based organization, we start from the heart,” says Barbara of UMRC & Porter Hills. “We are a caring, nurturing, care-about-our-community place. As a volunteer, it makes me feel good about spending my time with UMRC & Porter Hills.” ■

Chuck and Carol Jennings

Devoted Volunteers

As head of Human Resources for the former Old Kent Financial Corporation, Chuck Jennings was encouraged to volunteer. So when his friend, Dick Young, invited him to join the Porter Hills board in 1985, Chuck accepted, devoting over 30 years of volunteer service to the organization.

Today, Chuck and Carol are residents of Cook Valley Estates. They love Porter Hills and support the organization with a planned gift. "It's part of our being to support the things we love," Chuck says. "Porter Hills is first on our list." ■



Carol and Chuck Jennings

YOU, TOO, CAN LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY!

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO THE UMRC & PORTER HILLS FOUNDATION:

- ◆ Costs you nothing today ◆
- ◆ Makes a difference in the lives of older adults ◆
- ◆ Still allows you to take care of your family ◆

*"Porter Hills has always shown
goodness and value and cares
about people first."*

– Chuck and Carol Jennings

**READ MORE OF THE JENNINGS' STORY AND OTHERS
ON OUR WEBSITE AT UMRCPH.COM.**

For more information, call:

East Foundation Office
734.433.1000 ext. 7502

West Foundation Office
616.577.2297



Marjorie Bjork Concert Series Begins in October at Cook Valley Estates

The UMRC & Porter Hills Foundation is thrilled to announce the launch of the Marjorie Bjork Concert Series to bring the joy of music to our residents! Thanks to a generous gift from the Hartger family in memory of their mother, Marjorie, this series will feature their mother's exceptional Steinway piano in the beautifully-renovated Cook Valley Estates Theatre, along with Conductor Robert Nordling and world-class musicians from the Shoreline Music Society!

We are delighted to offer this unique concert series for our residents, both in person and live-streamed. ***You won't want to miss a note!***

For more information, contact Joanna Hogan at JHogan@PorterHills.org or 616.577.2297. ■

"Concerts don't happen without partnerships – this is a partnership between composer, artist, audience, and supporters who play an absolutely valuable role. I am so grateful to the Hartger family for its generosity in bringing the Marjorie Bjork Concert Series to life."

– Conductor Robert Nordling

