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Huron Valley PACE Welcomes State Senator Jeff Irwin, 15th District, to its Ypsilanti Day Center

Ypsilanti, MI, Nov. 16, 2023 – Huron Valley PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) welcomed Michigan State Senator Jeff Irwin of the 15th District for a visit to its Day Center in Ypsilanti on October 27. The Huron Valley PACE service area includes Washtenaw and Monroe counties, as well as parts of Oakland, Wayne, and Livingston counties. Senator Irwin represents many of the same communities served by Huron Valley PACE, including Ypsilanti.

A program of Brio Living Services, Huron Valley PACE serves the psycho-social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, nursing home-eligible adults, aged 55 and up. It currently serves 293 older adults at its Day Center in Ypsilanti who speak twelve different first languages.

Senator Irwin sat with a group of Huron Valley PACE participants, most of whom live in his district, to hear their thoughts and concerns about how to better serve older adults, as well as to learn more about PACE from their perspective. Topics included the need for affordable housing for older adults and the need to make PACE more accessible for older adults of moderate means who are just above the threshold to qualify for PACE.

Senator Irwin also shared his focus on caregivers, to ensure that those who care for older adults receive a living wage. “If we don’t care for them, they can’t care for you,” said Senator Irwin. “It is vital that caregivers are able to make a living and pay their bills. We don’t want them to leave their profession.”

One participant shared that he had lived in a nursing home for a year, but now, with the help of Huron Valley PACE, he is able to live in his own home and receive services at the PACE Day Center.

“Programs like PACE that offer support make a lot of sense,” said Senator Irwin. “It is important to invest in programs like PACE to help older adults live independently, to be happier and healthier, with more flexibility for people, and less expensive, too, than nursing home care.”

Senator Irwin said, “Everyone deserves dignity, and we are falling short in many cases with older adults. PACE elevates the importance of caring for older adults. It is great to hear the positive feedback about PACE.”

Huron Valley PACE Executive Director, Sonja Love Felton, who also serves on the PACE Association of Michigan Board of Directors and the National PACE Association, said, “I am delighted to have Senator Irwin visit our Day Center today and take time to listen to our participants. It is so important for our state lawmakers to learn more about the good work we do at PACE to serve low-income, vulnerable older adults. Their support is key to making our efforts possible, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work together.”

Brio Living Services is one of Michigan’s leading providers of PACE services, including Huron Valley PACE, with five sites statewide, serving approximately 1,200 older adults annually across 15 Michigan counties.

PACE’s 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, behavioral health, home care, and door-to-door transportation. Most participants are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and pay no additional fees for PACE services.

To learn more about Huron Valley PACE, visit HuronValleyPACE.org or call 734.572.5777.

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*The mission of **Huron Valley PACE** is to partner with aging community members to provide integrative care and promote successful community living. Huron Valley PACE serves older adults age 55 and older who have ongoing healthcare needs and live within our service area. PACE provides all the care and services covered by Medicare and Medicaid, as well as additional care and services regarded as necessary by the interdisciplinary team. PACE provides coverage for primary and specialty care, prescription drugs, medical transportation, hospital visits, dental care, medical equipment, home care, as well as physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and other services. Our interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals will work together with you and your family to develop the most effective plan of care for you. 734.572.5777 | HuronValleyPACE.org*

*Building on a foundation of over 165 years of combined service to older adults, **Brio Living Services**, formerly 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. Brio Living Services represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan and serves the most economically diverse population of older adults. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, Brio Living Services and its affiliates serve approximately 8,000 older adults each year, from 23 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | MyBrio.org*