



For Immediate Release
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UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Announces Grant from the Jackson Community Foundation

Funds Will Support Home Repairs for Low-Income Thome PACE Participants

Jackson, MI, Dec. 11, 2023—The UMRC (United Methodist Retirement Communities)-Porter Hills Foundation announced that it has received a grant of \$20,000 from the Jackson Community Foundation. These funds will support the Home Repair Program for participants of Thome PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) in Jackson.

A partnership between Brio Living Services and the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, Thome PACE serves the psycho-social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, nursing home-eligible adults, aged 55 and up. Thome PACE's service area extends throughout Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee counties, with a capacity for 300 total PACE participants. Thanks to PACE services, these older adults are able to remain living independently and safely in their own homes and communities.

However, for these low-income older adults, most of whom receive Medicaid, maintaining safe and stable housing is a challenge that can jeopardize their ability to participate in PACE. Susan Decker, Executive Director of Thome PACE, explained, "Many of our participants live in homes that are unsafe due to structural deficits such as unsafe stairs or leaky roofs. Others live in homes which have inadequate plumbing, doorways that are too narrow to navigate a wheelchair through, or broken, drafty windows. This generous grant from the Jackson Community Foundation will enable us to provide repair services and modifications to ensure that our participants are able to remain safely in their homes with our support and services. Much gratitude goes to the Jackson Community Foundation for recognizing the need in the community."

Dana Ashlock, Jackson Community Foundation Program Director, said, "This grant round from the Jackson Community Foundation was made possible with funding from the Community Needs Endowment Fund, the



Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Endowment Fund, and a \$20,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation. The Consumers Energy Foundation recognizes and shares in our commitment to programming that advances Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our community.”

Healthcare disparities for the population served at Thome PACE is a major focus that Thome PACE addresses through its offerings. 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, and door-to-door transportation. Most participants, who have both Medicare and Medicaid, pay no additional fees for PACE services.

Chair of Brio Living Services Board of Trustees and Jackson resident, Mike Shore, said, “As Chair of Brio Living Services, former Chair of the Thome PACE Board, a lifelong Jackson resident, and retiree of Consumers Energy, I am delighted that the Jackson Community Foundation, supported by the Consumers Energy Foundation, has awarded a \$20,000 grant to Thome PACE. The grant will help provide repairs to program participants’ homes in the Jackson area to allow them to remain safely in their residences. PACE programs are designed to keep senior participants safely in their homes while receiving necessary support services. This grant will fill a need that is not currently funded through traditional sources and aligns perfectly with the PACE mission.”

Brio Living Services is one of Michigan’s leading providers of PACE services, including Thome PACE, with five sites statewide, serving approximately 1,200 older adults annually across 15 Michigan counties. To learn more about all that Thome PACE has to offer, call 517.768.9791, or visit thomepace.org.

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Thome PACE, located at 2282 Springport Road, Jackson, is a partnership between Brio Living Services and Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, serving older adults in Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale counties. Our mission is to promote the wellness, dignity, and independence of older adults by providing high quality, innovative residential and supportive services. The primary goal of Thome PACE is to provide members of the community the care and medical treatment they need in order to help them live in their homes for as long as possible. 517.768.9791 | thomepace.org

*The **Jackson Community Foundation**’s MISSION is to “Connect people and resources to causes that build and strengthen our community. For Jackson. For good. For ever.” For more information about the Jackson Community Foundation, go to jacksoncf.org. Contact: Monica Moser, Phone: (517) 787-1321, Email: mmoser@jacksoncf.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*

Region 2 Area Agency on Aging works to improve conditions affecting the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities in Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee counties. Region 2 AAA helps identify concerns and develop a comprehensive and coordinated network of services to help its clients function as independently and safely as possible in their homes and communities. 517.592.1974 | r2aaa.net

The **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation**, in support of Brio Living Services, is the charitable arm for the organization, with headquarters in Chelsea and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The mission of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is: As faithful, philanthropic stewards and steadfast advocates for vibrant aging, we support the mission of Brio Living Services. The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation's fundraising initiatives focus on the health and well-being of older adults, and the education and retention of our outstanding team members. These include Benevolent Care, the cornerstone of the Foundation, as well as Team Member Support Services, Capital Improvements, and Life Enrichment for older adults. 734.433.1000 | 616.577.2297 | Foundation.UMRCPH.org