



For Immediate Release

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UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Awards Community Grants in Support of Local Older Adults

Chelsea/Grand Rapids, MI, Aug. 29, 2024 – The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board of Directors is proud to announce that it has awarded its 2024 Community Grants, totaling \$30,000, to four nonprofit organizations which serve older adults in Michigan communities where Brio Living Services has a presence.

These included the following awards:

- \$5,000 to Dexter Senior Center, Dexter, MI
- \$7,500 to the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Grand Rapids, MI
- \$7,500 to the Alzheimer’s Association—Greater Michigan Chapter, West Michigan Office, Grand Rapids, MI
- \$10,000 to the Chelsea Main Street Park Alliance, Chelsea, MI

“Each year, the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board determines what local nonprofits to support as part of our Community Grant program,” explained Kelli Smith, President & CEO of UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation. “I am so proud to serve alongside these individuals who serve on our board and are committed to the needs of older adults in the communities where Brio has a presence. They recognize the vital work of local programs in providing care and comfort for older adults, whether it’s creating intergenerational outdoor spaces, providing support for care partners whose loved ones are living with dementia, or offering a nourishing meal and companionship for older adults. We are grateful to partner with these incredible organizations, providing much-needed resources to improve the lives of older adults in the communities we serve.”

Reezie DeVet, chair of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board, shared, “This year, the Foundation Board unanimously chose to make community grants to four nonprofit organizations providing care to older adults in our areas of service across Michigan. We are grateful for each of these trusted organizations and hope these Community Grants will assist in their important work of supporting older adults in the areas where Brio Living Services has a presence.”

Joe Ziolkowski, member of the Board of Directors of the Chelsea Main Street Park Alliance, explained: “This grant from the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation will help develop an intergenerational park where community members of all ages and abilities can gather. While the park will feature many active spaces, it will be balanced with passive spaces that are restorative, yet close to the activity. In addition, the perimeter of the park will feature a quarter-mile, universally accessible walking loop. The early support of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation will be instrumental in the success of the Main Street Park project.”

Abby Hurst, President of the Board for the Chelsea Main Street Park Alliance, agreed. “This generous gift will bring tremendous benefit to the community and enhance the quality of life for residents, their families, and visitors for years to come. This grant will help us expand vital recreational opportunities and further enhance the mental and physical well-being of our community.”

Dexter Senior Center (DSC) Executive Director, Anne Williams describes the center as “a welcoming space for older adults to gather, socialize, and participate in activities, programs, and services promoting health and well-being. The DSC board and staff are redesigning programs and services and re-imagining aging, making a positive impact on not only our members, but the community at large beyond the walls of the center, now and for future generations. The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation support and partnership is helping to create transformation for DSC and the community.”

“Our UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board members are passionate about caring for older adults in our communities who may be living with dementia or struggling with loneliness or financial hardship,” said DeVet. “It is a part of our mission that means so much and creates a ripple effect of caring for older adults in the areas we serve.”

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*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 the Foundation’s cornerstone—Benevolent Care—as well as Team Member Investment, Capital Improvements, and Program Investment. 734.433.1000 | 616.577.2297 | Foundation.UMRCPH.org*

*Building on a foundation of serving older adults since 1906, **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 22 locations and service lines, across 20 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | MyBrio.org*

*Through grassroots volunteerism and public-private partnership, **Main Street Park Alliance (MSPA)** will revitalize the currently blighted downtown Chelsea property into a safe, active, accessible, and inclusive public space. Mainstreetpark.org*

Dexter Senior Center's mission is to provide programs and services which enable members to remain an active and integral part of the community and to empower them to retain their independence, dignity, and sense of well-being. 734.426.7737 | Dexterseniors.org