

A MAGAZINE *from* BRIO LIVING SERVICES

Community

Special Edition: A SUMMER UPDATE FROM BRIO LIVING SERVICES AND UMRC-PORTER HILLS FOUNDATION

See What's
Cooking at
Brio!



Read Inside About All That's New at Brio Living Services.



Enhancing Vibrant Living

A letter from Steve Fetyko, President & CEO, Brio Living Services

There is always something new at our residential communities, Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) centers, and service lines across Brio Living Services. Together, we are constantly working to promote and enhance vibrant living opportunities for all the older adults we serve.

In this Summer issue of the **CommUnity** magazine, I am excited and honored to share some of these recent stories with you. These include the announcement of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation's new President & CEO, Kelli Smith, and new independent living construction and renovated gathering spaces at Porter Hills Village. I am also delighted to share with you some of our recent

awards, introduce you to one of our corporate sponsors, and share with you the impact of your support for those we serve. I hope this gives you a glimpse into the ways your love and caring for older adults helps us live out our mission: *Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives.* ■



In Service,

Steve Fetyko
President & CEO,
Brio Living Services



Jackie Taylor (middle), with her granddaughter, Alexandra, and son, Kevin.

UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board member Jackie Taylor, Ph.D. recently received Davenport University's 2023 **Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award**. Says Steve Fetyko, "A respected leader and passionate volunteer, Jackie's knowledge, vision, and dedication are invaluable to the older adults we serve across Michigan at Brio Living Services. We admire and applaud Jackie's work and leadership over her career, and we congratulate her on this much-deserved award."

Kelli Smith Takes the Helm of UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation

After an extensive national search, the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelli Smith, CFRE as the Foundation's new President & CEO. Kelli started her role on June 26.

"Kelli is an accomplished fundraising professional with experience in the healthcare and education fields in both the Detroit and Grand Rapids areas, which Brio Living Services serves. She has a demonstrated track record of leadership and fundraising success as well as building successful relationships and programs," says Steve Fetyko, President & CEO of Brio Living Services.

Kelli comes to the Foundation with more than 25 years of philanthropic experience in healthcare, education, aquariums, zoos, and botanical garden sectors. She most recently served on John Ball Zoo's executive team as Chief Development and Engagement Officer. She spearheaded an \$18.5 million campaign in this role and led teams responsible for philanthropy, marketing, government affairs, community engagement, and membership.

Committed to civic, professional, and community service, Kelli serves on the Grand Rapids Chamber's Create Great Leaders Council (CGL) and is Immediate Past Board Chair of the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners to name a few.

Foundation Board Chair, Catherine "Reezie" DeVet says, "I am thrilled to have the



Kelli Smith – New Foundation President & CEO

opportunity to partner with Kelli who is such a gifted and experienced professional. She will be instrumental in our mission and success in serving older adults across Michigan."

"Raised closely with amazing grandparents and great-grandparents, advocating for vibrant aging has long been a personal mission and now a professional one," says Kelli. "I am honored to take the helm as President & CEO of UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation and work alongside a stellar team and community dedicated to sustaining and improving the quality of life of aging adults. With adults 65 and older projected to outpace births in the U.S. by 2034, the Foundation's mission is more critical than ever." ■

Scholarship Spotlight: Jenny Levandowski

Jenny Levandowski began her work as a dining server at **Cook Valley Estates** when she was a senior in high school. “I really enjoy our team and being able to provide quality service to the residents,” says Jenny, who has recently become a lead server. “You get a sense of satisfaction in your work and knowing you’re doing a good job.”

Jenny completed her associate’s degree in health and exercise science and wanted to go on to study at Grand Valley State University. But she didn’t want to have to take out loans. Thanks to scholarships from the **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation**, Jenny is realizing her goal of completing her bachelor’s degree, studying public and nonprofit administration with an emphasis in community health and minor in advertising and public relations.

In addition to going to school, Jenny continues her job in dining services and also works at the front desk as a community liaison at Cook Valley Estates on the weekends. Her mother, Mary Jo, is a Brio Living Services team member as well, working with the supply chain team at Porter Hills Village.



Cheers to Jenny!

Working with older adults “is really interesting and not always what you would expect,” says Jenny. “It’s something new for different age groups to learn about each other and break down pre-conceived notions.”

“I am super grateful to the Foundation for helping me get my education,” says Jenny. “It’s been amazing and will allow me to have a degree because of them.” ■

You can help team members like Jenny reach their educational dreams!

To learn more about the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation’s **Team Member Support Services Fund**,
Contact Leah Tremaine at 616.577.2297.



PORTER HILLS VILLAGE

By Brio Living Services

THE

RAVINES



The Ravines at Porter Hills Village

offers a premier-style retirement living experience on par with the best Independent Living options available in the Grand Rapids area.



2-bedroom apartments start at over 1,300 square feet!

- Full-size kitchen featuring modern, energy-efficient appliances
- Open-concept floor plan designed to maximize living space
- Indoor/outdoor engaging community spaces with lush, scenic views
- Custom upgrade options and packages



**Now accepting Priority List reservations! Call 616.319.9947
Or visit www.PorterHillsVillage.org/TheRavines**

Introducing The Ravines . . .



Brio Living Services recently announced plans for a new Independent Living addition, as well as the opening of beautifully renovated, state-of-the-art dining room and gathering spaces, at its flagship **Porter Hills Village** location in Grand Rapids.

Called “**The Ravines**” for the picturesque views its residents will enjoy of the nearby woodlands, this new construction will offer 26 spacious apartments starting at 1,360 square feet. Each will feature amenities such as individual garage and storage spaces, a fully equipped kitchen with full-sized appliances, and access to all the care, comforts, and conveniences of Porter Hills Village.

More than twenty individuals have already made deposits to secure a spot at The Ravines, according to James Kelly, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer for Brio Living

Services. “We are thrilled with the early number of deposits and the demand for The Ravines,” says James. “Those who join the priority list now will be among the first to choose their apartment and preferred views and to customize their apartments to suit their desires.”

The dining room and other common-use spaces within Porter Hills Village have also been recently transformed, thanks to an investment of over \$8 million from Brio Living Services, which includes a \$5 million grant from the Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

A highlight of these newly renovated spaces is the **Fairway Grille** dining room, which opened on July 5, offering exceptional chef-prepared cuisine and stunning views of the Cascade Hills Country Club golf course.

Charming Spaces

... at Porter Hills Village!



Fairway Grille



“The Fairway Grille was designed to offer panoramic views of the golf course on three sides of the building,” says

Kate Collins, Brio Living Services’ Chief Project Development Officer. “We’re excited to create this unique opportunity for all Porter Hills Village residents to experience the beautiful vistas of the Cascade Hills Country Club. A slate fireplace in the dining room and outdoor seating make this a truly lovely and charming space.”



The new Learning studio at Porter Hills Village

Newly renovated common spaces at Porter Hills Village include:

- Learning studio
- Enhanced, user-friendly library
- Mosaic Market resident store
- Movie theater with recording studio, for recording residents’ life stories
- Music conservatory
- Resident coffee bar
- Café Vander Mey, named after long-time Porter Hills Village resident Dori Vander Mey who passed away in 2022
- 19th Hole Lounge, a new “hangout” space for residents to play games, enjoy leisurely visits with neighbors, and bring their own beverage of choice.

“We recently hosted grand opening parties for our Porter Hills Village residents who were enthusiastic about these new spaces,” says James.

To learn more about The Ravines and Porter Hills Village's exciting new spaces, call 616.319.9947.



Residents explore Mosaic Market offerings.

Intus Care: Using Technology to Improve Care for Older Adults

Robbie Felton grew up around PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly); his mother, Sonja Love Felton, is the Executive Director of **Huron Valley PACE** in Ypsilanti. It's no wonder, then, that his passion for older adults led to Intus Care, the company he created while still in college.

Robbie met his future business partners, Evan Jackson and Will Mims, as athletes at Brown University. The trio became friends, and Robbie's enthusiasm for wanting to serve older adults rubbed off on them.

Will, the company's head of Marketing & Partnerships, admits, "If you had asked me when I was 18 if I was passionate about elder care, I would have said 'no.' Robbie pitched the idea of PACE to us, and we wanted to learn more. It was the best thing that could have happened."

With Robbie's passion for PACE, Will's interest in acute healthcare, and Evan's financial focus, "the lightbulb just clicked," says Robbie, and Intus Care was born. "Our vision is to help PACE programs build and scale the most positive care model for low-income, elderly adults with complex health issues. We wanted to do our part through technology to improve care for older adults and to help make care teams' lives easier, too."

As a new startup, they received grants of \$50,000 from MassChallenge, the only college student-run startup in the final



Robbie Felton, Will Mims, and Evan Jackson at 2022 Giving Gratitude event.

round, and \$25,000 through the Brown Venture Prize competition, specifically for Brown University students. "These grants gave us the motivation and validation to continue," says Robbie.

With \$75,000 in hand, their fledgling company had the venture capital to delve into PACE and do the research needed to build their platform. But that meant taking a break from college.

"We were drop-outs for a little bit," says Robbie. "We knew we were either going to do this or not. At worst, we've missed a semester. At best, though, we've developed something special for older adults. We decided to take a leap of faith."

"It was such a difficult conversation with my parents who didn't know what PACE was," says Evan, now Intus Care's Chief Operating Officer. "Now my mom is looking at PACE

A Passion for PACE

programs for her family.”

Robbie and Evan left school in Spring 2020 to research PACE and develop their company. They finished school remotely and graduated from Brown University in 2022.

Intus Care has grown from its founding team to a staff of 33, and from serving one PACE program to nearly 60 by the end of 2023. In Q4 of 2022, the company closed its Series A funding round, securing over \$14M led by Deerfield Management.

Intus Care provides data analytics, pulling from a variety of disparate, complex PACE data sources, to improve clinical outcomes for PACE participants. “We’re looking for a range of factors such as new diagnoses, changes in medications, fall risks, infections,

and social determinants of health, such as if they live alone,” explains Will. “Intus Care creates a holistic model to bring all this information into one place and flag any concerns, helping the PACE team better care for each participant.”

The three are grateful for the early encouragement they received from Brio Living Services and the chance to learn from its PACE leaders. It’s why Intus Care has supported the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation’s *Giving Gratitude* events as a sponsor. “It’s amazing to come to the event and see the individuals who are impacted,” says Will. “Seeing those benefits goes a long way for us.” ■



Human Resources team members Courtney Phiscator and Adam Kipmiller accept the Best of the Best Medium Business ELITE Award for Brio Living Services.

Brio Living Services was honored for the 21st consecutive year as a Best and Brightest Company to Work For® in West Michigan. Brio also received an ELITE award as The Best of the Best Medium Business at the annual Best and Brightest awards celebration in May.

“We are so honored to receive this recognition,” said Michelle Henderson, Brio Living Services Chief Human Resources Officer. “This award is a direct reflection of our Brio Living Services team members who consistently deliver on our mission each day: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. We extend gratitude to our dedicated team members who care so passionately for older adults.”

Trust and Teamwork

Thome PACE: “One of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

When Chris Reed first enrolled at **Thome PACE** in Jackson, he struggled with stability, trust issues, and frequent visits to the hospital, according to Angela Edward, LMSW, social worker at Thome PACE. Today, Chris says signing up for PACE “is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

The PACE interdisciplinary team has done much in Chris’s first months as a participant to help turn his life around, starting with his home. Thome PACE Center Director Robyn Abbey-Hardesty and Social Work Assistant Kristi Benn helped set up trash services for Chris, and PACE aides worked hard to clean his home — something Chris had neglected because of his health. Angela identified a contractor to clean his backyard.

Chris also now has a stable way to get to and from dialysis, thanks to the PACE transportation department, and the Thome PACE clinical team was able to prevent Chris from being hospitalized in his first month as a participant. When he did require a hospitalization in the following month, Angela helped ease Chris’s mind by taking care of his



Chris Reed

three beloved dogs, so he could receive the care he needed. “My dogs are my life,” says Chris.

Angela believes the biggest accomplishment of all is that Chris has learned to trust the PACE team in less than two months of service. “We often meet our participants and see how much they’re struggling,” says Angela. “Chris today is much more stable than he was prior to enrollment. He has voiced so much gratitude and I, too, am so happy we’ve been able to help him!” ■

To learn more about Brio Living Services’ five PACE sites across Michigan, visit <https://MyBrio.org/Medicare-PACE-Program-Michigan/>

Supporting Local Partners in Caring for Older Adults

Providing annual **Community Grants** to local nonprofit organizations that care for older adults in the communities served by Brio Living Services is a faithful part of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation's mission. This year, the Foundation Board unanimously chose the following six agencies to receive grants of \$5,000 each:

- Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, Grandville
- Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance, Detroit
- MCHS Family of Services, Redford
- ICCF Community Homes, Grand Rapids
- Senior Neighbors, Grand Rapids
- Home Repair Services, Grand Rapids

"Each year, the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board determines what local nonprofits to support as part of our Community Grant program," explains Kelli Smith, President & CEO of UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation. "I am so proud to serve alongside these individuals who recognize the vital work of local programs in providing care and comfort for older adults, whether by delivering nutritious meals, providing housing and home repair, or offering the warmth of companionship. 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."

Meals on Wheels West Michigan (MOWWM) Board Chairperson, Shannon Heads, shares her gratitude:

Thank You!

"Thank you for generously supporting MOWWM! Because of you, thousands of local seniors have access to nutritious meals, wellness checks, and human connection. I can't thank you enough for making sure no senior is hungry or forgotten."

"Our UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board members are passionate about caring for older adults, especially those in our communities who are low-income," says Kelli. "It is a beautiful part of our mission." ■



A decorative poster for the "Giving Gratitude" event. The background is light gray with a white horizontal band. The top left and bottom right corners are decorated with autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and green. In the top right corner, the UMRC Porter Hills Foundation logo is displayed. The main text reads "Save the Date" in a brown cursive font, "GIVING" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, and "Gratitude" in a green cursive font. Below this, the event details are listed: "WEST: Wednesday, October 11, 2023" and "Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park"; "EAST: Wednesday, October 25, 2023" and "Chelsea Comfort Inn and Village Conference Center".

Sponsorship opportunities and individual tickets are available. Proceeds from this year's *Giving Gratitude* events will support the Foundation's **Team Member Support Services Fund**. To learn more, call 734.433.1000 ext. 7397 (East) or 616.577.2297 (West).

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