

A MAGAZINE *from* BRIO LIVING SERVICES

# Community

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

## Mission in Action



Celebrating PACE Day at the Capitol in Lansing.



# Turning Mission into Action

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

The population of older adults is growing rapidly in the U.S. By 2030, all Baby Boomers will be 65 or older, meaning 1 in 5 Americans will be at traditional retirement age, per the U.S. Census Bureau. It is estimated that by 2034, adults 65+ will outnumber children under 18—for the first time in our country’s history! Already, Michigan is one of the fastest aging states in the nation, with 25%, or approximately 2 million, adults aged 60 and up.

At **Brio Living Services**, we recognize the importance of partnering with other senior living organizations to lend our voice for the benefit and wellbeing of older adults. In fact, “partnering together” is a central part of our mission. We are committed to working with partners and organizations on the local, state, and national levels to advocate for older adults and our team members. We appreciate and value these relationships with such organizations as LeadingAge (national) and LeadingAge Michigan, the National PACE Association, and the PACE Association of Michigan, to name just a few. Many of our Brio team members also serve on the boards of these organizations to ensure our voice is heard in support of the future of aging services. By partnering together, we can have a positive impact on the lives of those we serve and make possible our vision of a world in which all are empowered to age well.



Huron Valley PACE Medical Director Dr. Marjorie Almeda (middle) and Nurse Practitioners Gabrielle McIntyre (left) and Julie Garrett (right) present at National PACE Association meeting.

Several of Brio’s team members and one of our volunteers have been honored recently by our partners, including LeadingAge Michigan and the PACE Association of Michigan. I am delighted to share these stories with you as we continue to live out our mission: welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. ■

In Service,



**Steve Fetyko**  
President & CEO,  
Brio Living Services



# The Home that Love Built

## A Letter from Kelli Smith, President & CEO, UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation

In recent months, I have heard on our campuses, “This is the house philanthropy built.” Philanthropy means the love of mankind, which means our Brio Living Services communities were built with love. It is truly the gift that cares and sustains.

Philanthropy is the superpower we all possess to promote and create a stronger, more compassionate society. We show love through intentional and meaningful gifts of time, talent, and treasure. These gifts continue to benefit people, communities, and organizations, long after the initial contribution — with mission-fulfilling impact. We are all better when we care about today’s needs and create a legacy for the future.

Our legacy is one of care, dignity, and belief that we are called to serve aging adults and ensure the availability of resources for vibrant living. Through the generosity and investment of our supporters, we can put mission into action.

With the Foundation’s four primary fundraising pillars, you can choose the area that sparks joy for you. Maybe your interest lies in education. You can support the Foundation’s Scholarship program for team members, or lifelong learning for older adults. If affordable living is your passion, your gift can support innovative, affordable living spaces for older adults, or provide Benevolent Care for qualified residents who outlive their savings.

Supporting our mission is as important now as it was at our founding and will continue to be, long into the future. Thanks to the generosity of faithful donors like you, we can



Porter Hills Village residents visit John Ball Zoo.



Father's Day at Meadowlark Retirement Village.

work together to improve the lives of older adults of all income levels. Together, we create a legacy for future generations to follow — a home built with love. ■

Best Regards,



**Kelli Smith, CFRE**  
President & CEO  
UMRC-Porter Hills  
Foundation

## LeadingAge Michigan Recognizes Service Excellence

**T**wo Brio Living Services team members and one of its volunteers were honored at the LeadingAge Michigan Member Awards Gala in April. Each award winner was nominated by their peers and selected from among many nominations across the state.

**Michelle Baldwin Henderson**, Brio's Chief Human Resources Officer, received the **LeadingAge Leadership in Action** award, recognizing her achievements in enhancing the work environment at Brio and the quality of life for older adults across the organization.



Michelle Baldwin Henderson

“Michelle is a firm believer and practitioner of a coaching culture, with a focus on valuing the whole person and developing and supporting each team member to be their best possible self. She is a true servant leader who ensures we keep our team members and the older adults we serve at the heart of all we do.” —Steve Fetyko, President and CEO

A certified nursing aide, who chooses to remain anonymous, was honored with the **LeadingAge Caring Spirit Award**, which celebrates direct care team members who demonstrate exemplary care and service to older adults.

**Sherri Rizzo**, independent living resident at **Chelsea Retirement Community**, was named **Volunteer of the Year** for significantly enhancing and enriching the lives of older adults and for making a positive impact on the organization.



Sherri Rizzo and Ziva pay a visit.

*“Sherri is a trusted volunteer across our CRC campus, bringing joy and purpose to our residents. From helping with life enrichment activities and making visits with her therapy dog, to restoring a teakwood bench in CRC’s Chapel Meditation Garden, Sherri sees what matters to individuals and what is important to them. She is so deserving of this award!”*

—Kathy Russell, Executive Director, Chelsea Retirement Community, The Pines, and The Cedars of Dexter ■



## Groundbreaking Choice for Senior Living

On May 14, Brio Living Services hosted a public groundbreaking event to celebrate its newest independent living addition, **The Ravines!** This exciting new construction will be located on the **Porter Hills Village** campus, with plans for completion by Summer 2025.

Named for the picturesque views its residents will enjoy of the nearby woodlands, The Ravines will offer 26 spacious apartments from 1,360 to 1,480 square feet. Each will feature amenities such as a fully-equipped kitchen with full-sized appliances, 9-foot ceilings, high-quality finishes, and individual garage and storage spaces, as well as access to all the care, comforts, and conveniences available at Porter Hills Village.



Cheryl VanBemden, Porter Hills Village Executive Director; Steve Fetyko, Brio President & CEO; Mike Shore, Brio Board Chair; David E. Herbel, LeadingAge Michigan President & CEO; and Todd G. Oosting, CD Barnes Construction President & CEO.

James Kelly, Brio's Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, says, "What separates Porter Hills Village from other senior living organizations is its 50+ years of experience in the Grand Rapids area. Brio Living Services is pleased to continue its investment in Porter Hills Village and in the broader community. We recognize the importance of providing older adults — of varying needs and income levels — with the living accommodations, care, and services they desire to live life to the fullest." ■



Future Ravines residents celebrated at Groundbreaking event.

# Investing in Team Members

## UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation

**T**he UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation was pleased to honor its **Scholarship** recipients at two receptions—one at **Chelsea Retirement Community** on April 22 and one at **Cook Valley Estates** on May 8. We are pleased to share with you the stories of three Scholarship recipients and the impact their Scholarship has had in their lives and careers.



Angela Edward

**Angela Edward:** Thanks to her Foundation Scholarship, Angela, a social worker at **Thome PACE**, has earned her certificate as an End-of-Life Doula.

Angela explains, “An end-of-life doula prepares a terminally ill person for end of life by assuring they feel as prepared and at peace as possible for their transition to death. This can include creating a legacy project, working on wills or advance directives, and completing any final wishes, as well as personal care like hand massages or listening to music that helps the person feel comforted. I am honored to work with our participants until end of life, knowing they are spending some of these precious moments with me. The Foundation’s support of my training means I have the tools to offer dignity at end of life to our elder community and provide the delicacy and grace that our elders deserve.”



Shelly Teesdale

**Shelly Teesdale:** An occupational therapist and Therapy Clinical Manager for **Porter Hills Home Health Care**, Shelly oversees a team of 16 occupational and physical therapists and speech pathologists. “I really enjoy helping my team succeed,” says Shelly.

Shelly’s Scholarship is helping her complete a certificate program for coding the OASIS assessment, a standardized, interdisciplinary tool used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for determining care and billing. “Every time we enroll a new patient, they must complete this more than 100-question assessment,”

## Salutes Its Scholarship Recipients!

Shelly says. “This training will better equip myself and my team and ensure that Home Health patients are getting the proper care they need.”

Shelly is thankful the Scholarship program is offered. “Continuing education is important for all of us, especially anyone who works with older adults. I encourage my team members to apply for scholarships to pursue programs and courses they’re interested in. It’s important to grow our knowledge and better serve our customers.”



JoDee Kelly

**JoDee Kelly:** Formerly a dental assistant in the U.S. Army, JoDee began her career at **Porter Hills Village** 28 years ago—first as a CNA in the Health Center, then as a Shabaz when Brio’s **Green House® Homes** opened in 2009. Today, she continues to care for older adults there as an LPN, thanks to a Foundation Scholarship. A second Scholarship is helping her become a registered nurse.

“I always wanted to be a nurse, but didn’t have the opportunity,” JoDee shares. “The Scholarships have helped me not have to take out another loan. It’s one less worry.”

JoDee encourages others to continue their education. “If you’re going back to school, apply for a Foundation Scholarship. It’s easy to do, and there are lots of opportunities you can pursue. I really enjoy working with the elders and knowing I’ve made an impact in someone’s life.” ■

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



# Reezie DeVet: Having a Ripple Effect Through Her Giving

Catherine “Reezie” DeVet had worked in healthcare for much of her career when she joined the Porter Hills corporate board in the 1990s. Still, the concept of a continuing care retirement community, or CCRC, where older adults could receive the level of care they need—all on one campus—was new to her. “I remember being awed by what a CCRC was, and I was honored to be part of that,” says Reezie. “The more I learned, the more I was hooked.”

While serving at that time, the Porter Hills corporate board worked to launch Cook Valley Estates and to construct the Martindill Wellness Center at Porter Hills Village. “I was supportive and thrilled to know people who had the foresight to want to make life better for older adults. As a faith-based organization which welcomed everyone, I was impressed that we were really living out our Christian values.”

Reezie left the Porter Hills Board in 2000, but continued to give for the next 20 years to the organization that had so impressed her. In 2022, when she was asked to join the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation board, she agreed.

As a nurse, Reezie says she touched many lives, but as a donor, she has the ability to reach even more. “In 1970, people cared enough to create Porter Hills Village to serve older adults then and into the future. They left a legacy of giving. Now 54 years later, it’s



Reezie DeVet

our turn to renovate and create a new, more modern campus for Porter Hills Village. The people who will benefit won’t know our names, and we won’t know theirs, but they will know someone cared and will hopefully be inspired to give in turn.”

Reezie compares this to “dropping a pebble in a pond. Your giving expands to others, and those ripples expand even more. It is a powerful way of touching people’s lives. The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation gives us a meaningful way to do that.” ■



## Sharing Stories



Lisa French

**W**e are pleased to introduce you to our UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation team! This issue, we congratulate Lisa French, Senior Director of Communications, for her nearly fifteen years of service (2005-2009 and 2013 to present) to the Foundation.

“It is an honor to celebrate Lisa,” says Kelli Smith, Foundation President & CEO. “She is a warm, inviting presence on the Foundation and Marketing/Communications teams, sharing the stories of our residents, team members, and communities with care and dignity, and providing a glimpse into the vibrant lives of aging adults.

Lisa’s prolific gift of the pen has helped secure millions in grants to support Brio’s ability to serve the needs of our residents, care recipients, team members, and communities.” ■



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



You may have noticed some hard hats and trucks on our campuses across Michigan. Our comprehensive campaign is under construction—**Live Life with Brio**—to include Capital needs, Team Member Investment, Program Investment, and Benevolent Care. You’ll be hearing more in the months to come, so stay tuned for more information from the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation.

# Promoting PACE

## PACE DAY at the Capitol: “Living at Home: Your Goal, Our Priority”

**T**hree Brio Living Services team members were honored at this year’s PACE Day at the Capitol in Lansing. This annual event celebrates Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and provides an opportunity to advocate for older adults served at PACE centers across Michigan. Huron Valley PACE’s Lindsay Mann-Shanahan, Marketing Director, and Sonja Love Felton, Executive Director, each received Advocate of the Year recognition. Lillian Lovejoy, Therapy Aide at Thome PACE in Jackson, received the Direct Care Worker award.

“It’s a wonderful feeling to be acknowledged for the hard work and dedication we pour into promoting PACE,” says Lindsay. “I’m passionate about spreading the word!”

Approximately 500 policy makers, community members, and PACE team members and participants attended the event on the Capitol lawn. Michigan’s 14 PACE programs were represented, including each of Brio’s PACE partnerships: **Huron Valley PACE** in Ypsilanti, **Thome PACE** in Jackson, and **LifeCircles PACE** with locations in Holland and Muskegon.

“The PACE at the Capitol event helps to raise awareness for flexible care solutions—like PACE—for low-income older adults who wish to remain living in their homes with the help of PACE services,” says Luke Reynolds, Brio Living Services’ Chief of Home &



Lindsay Mann-Shanahan and Steve Fetyko



Lillian Lovejoy and Robyn Abbey-Hardesty,  
Thome PACE Executive Director

Community Based Services and Board Chair of the PACE Association of Michigan. “Brio is honored to provide PACE care and services for nearly 1,100 older Michiganders each year across 11 counties. We congratulate our team members who were recognized at this year’s event and thank all our team members for the work they do each day to help older adults live with joy and independence.” ■



## Avenues can help you **STAY IN YOUR HOME** and **PREDICT FUTURE LONG-TERM CARE COSTS!**

This is **NOT** an ad for another retirement community in Grand Rapids! This is Avenues by Brio Living Services—a unique membership program allowing you to stay in your home, predict long-term care costs, and enhance your lifestyle.



Custom wellness programs from your personal health navigator



Home assessments so you and your home age together gracefully



Technology designed to help monitor your health at home

**WE ARE CURRENTLY HOSTING EVENTS NEAR YOU! CALL TO LEARN WHERE!**



**Avenues**  
BY BRIO LIVING SERVICES

Visit [AvenuesBLS.org](https://AvenuesBLS.org) or call **616.914.1172** for more information.

Brio Living Services, formerly known as UMRC & Porter Hills.



A decorative border at the top and bottom of the central box features a pattern of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, set against a light blue background.

*Save the Date*

**GIVING**

*Gratitude*

**EAST:** Thursday, October 3, 2024  
The Kensington Hotel

**WEST:** Thursday, October 17, 2024  
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

The logo for UMRC Porter Hills Foundation, featuring a green silhouette of Michigan, "UMRC" in blue serif font, "PORTER HILLS" in larger blue serif font, and "Foundation" in green cursive font.

Sponsorship opportunities and individual tickets are available. Proceeds from this year's *Giving Gratitude* events will support the Foundation's **Benevolent Care Fund**.

To learn more, call 734.433.1000 ext. 7397 (East) or 616.577.2297 (West).