

A MAGAZINE *from* BRIO LIVING SERVICES

Community

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

Building for the *Future*



Brio Living Services is planning now for tomorrow's older adults!



Variety of Retirement Options

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

Each day I wake up, knowing I have the privilege of supporting approximately 1,500 team members and more than 8,000 older adults across Brio Living Services! Luckily, I don't have to do it alone! I am grateful to you for making our faith-based mission possible through your gifts of time, treasure, and talent that make our organization such a wonderful place to live and work. Thanks to you, we remain laser focused on our vision of a world in which all are empowered to age well.

That means:

- Building for the future and making sure we offer a variety of retirement options that support vibrant living for the growing number of older adults in Michigan — of all socioeconomic levels.
- Providing the support needed for our outstanding team members to grow in their careers or to lift them up in times of emergency.
- Investing in programming that offers joy, wellness, and purpose and enriches the lives of the older adults we serve.
- Ensuring that our cornerstone of Benevolent Care is steadfast for residents who outlive their resources, now and in the future.



Thank you to Huntington Bank for helping older adults age with dignity and security!

Each of these goals lines up with the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation's four Fundraising Pillars, which you will learn more about in the pages of this magazine. I invite you to join us on this vital journey of providing the best possible care and services for all of us as we age. ■



In Service,

Steve Fetyko
President & CEO,
Brio Living Services

Supporting Vibrant Living

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

Everything we do to care for older adults flows from the faith traditions of our organization, providing love and humanity for all as we age. But where will this journey take us? Our mission to care for older adults has not changed over our nearly 120-year history, but the needs of those we serve have.

There is no one-size-fits-all retirement option for older adults. There are many different stories that shape the beautiful community of people we serve. Brio is committed to assisting older adults of all socioeconomic backgrounds through a continuum of residential care and home- and community-based services to honor people's wishes, and needs, to age as vibrantly as possible.

Brio Living Services is growing to embrace these changing needs with the help of the Foundation, connecting supporters to opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. I am excited to provide you with a sneak peek into our **Live Life with Brio** campaign, with four components to bring invaluable quality of life to our communities:

- **Capital Improvements**, including transformational rebuilding projects at our flagship campuses.
- **Team Member Investment**, serving our Brio team members who give so much of themselves in caring for older adults.
- **Program Investment**, offering deeply meaningful living spaces and experiences for those we serve.
- **Benevolent Care**, at the heart of all we do, ensuring that qualified residents who outlive their savings always have a home where they are loved and cared for like family.



Brio Living Services' Chief of Home and Community-Based Services, Luke Reynolds, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's PACE Day at the Capitol. This award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advance the mission and vision of PACE in Michigan. Luke has been involved with PACE since 2012 and has served as Board Chair of the PACE Association of Michigan for the past ten years. Luke is pictured here with Governor Gretchen Whitmer and PACE Association of Michigan Executive Director Stephanie Winslow.

The following stories illustrate the importance of each pillar as we strive to provide outstanding care for older adults, no matter their income level. Please join us on this quest for vibrant aging! ■



Best Regards,

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

Why Our Work Matters

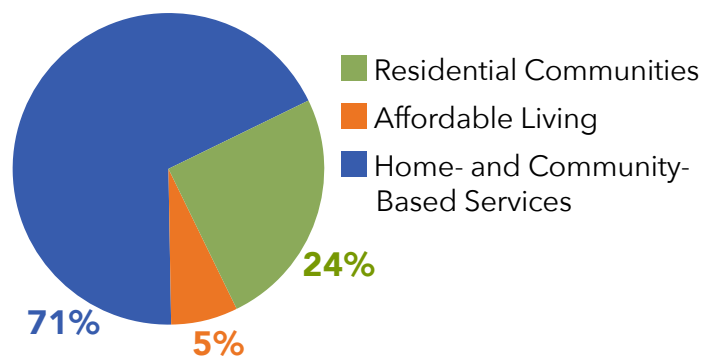
DID YOU KNOW?

Brio Living Services serves the **most economically diverse population of older adults in the state**. While Brio Living Services provides exceptional faith-based care and services to more than 8,000 older adults each year,

- Only **24%** live in traditional residential communities, like Chelsea Retirement Community or Porter Hills Village;
- **5%** live in Brio's Affordable Living communities in Detroit and Kent County;
- **71%** receive home- and community-based services, such as PACE, Avenues by Brio Living Services, and Home Health Care.
- *17 of Brio's 23 locations and service lines provide care for low-income older adults across the state.*

This includes the outstanding, skilled nursing care—consistently rated 5-Star by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)—Brio provides at Chelsea Retirement Community, Porter Hills Village, and Green House® Homes, according to Nicole Maag, Chief Residential Officer for Brio Living Services. “Sixty-eight percent of the older adults we serve in skilled nursing are low-income and receive Medicaid. All of our residents, regardless of income, receive the highest quality care in Michigan.”

THE WAYS WE SERVE MICHIGAN'S OLDER ADULTS

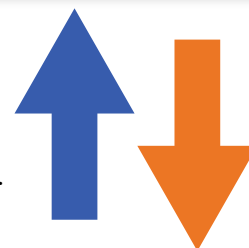


Why our work matters: According to a *State of Health* series article, made possible by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund:

- Michigan has more older adults 65+ than children 18 and under;
- 2 million Michiganders, or 25% of the total population, are over age 60;
- Adults 85 and over are the fastest growing age group in the State.
- In just five years, all Baby Boomers will be 65 or older.

SINCE 1970, MICHIGAN HAS SEEN:

153%
INCREASE
in the number
of older adults.



35%
DECLINE
in number
of children.

(per latest U.S. Census Bureau data)

The State of Aging in Michigan

Preparing Now to Provide Retirement Options that Fit

The Longevity Dividend is a term used to represent the important benefits of healthy aging for our society. Grantmakers in Aging reports that older adults:

- Accounted for more than 20% of consumer **spending** in 2022.
- Accounted for approximately one third of all **charitable giving** in the U.S. in 2019.
- 22% are still in the **workforce**, compared to 12% in 1996.
- One in five provide **caregiving** assistance to a friend or family member.
- Have the highest rates of **volunteering**, up from 19% to 29% in the last twenty years.
- Have **voted** at the highest rate of any age group in each presidential election since 1988.

On the flip side, studies also show that:

- **30%** of older adults have incomes below 200% of the poverty level.
- Nearly **half** of older adults have no retirement savings and expect to work past the age of 70.
- Roughly **one third** of older adults spend one third of their income on housing.
- **30%** experience isolation.
- **88%** of older adults want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, but only one in three report that their homes have the necessary features to allow them to do so.
- **70%** of older adults will need long-term care in their lifetimes.

Because there is no one-size-fits-all retirement option for older adults, Brio Living Services is preparing now for the needs of older adults of all income levels—both today and in the future, said Steve Fetyko, President & CEO of Brio Living Services.

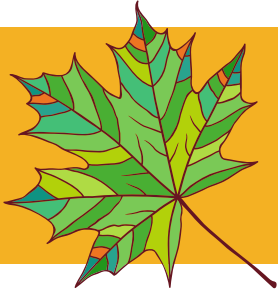
“Our focus on faith permeates everything we do to provide the best possible care for older adults. This includes:

- Transforming our Porter Hills Village community to reflect the exceptional continuum of care our team already provides;
- Expanding opportunities for older adults to remain living independently in their own homes;

- Supporting vibrant programming for older adults and professional development for our outstanding team members; and
- Growing the Benevolent Care Fund to ensure that the older adults we serve who are living longer won’t have to worry about outliving their resources.”

The **Live Life with Brio** campaign, which the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation has embarked upon, supports vibrant living for older adults of all socioeconomic levels served at Brio. We hope you will walk alongside us on this journey. **To learn more, contact the Foundation at 734.433.1000 ext. 7502 or 616.577.2297.** ■

Capital Improvements



LIVE LIFE
VIBRANTLY...

“The core portion of Porter Hills Village has served this community for 55 years, providing a bedrock of exceptional, nonprofit, faith-based senior living in Grand Rapids,” said Steve Fetyko, President & CEO of Brio Living Services. “Now is the time for a replacement building that will serve the community for the next 50 years—for the 400 older adults who call Porter Hills Village home, now and in the future, and for the 250 Brio team members who make their careers here.”

Porter Hills Village opened its doors in 1970, providing exceptional, faith-based care for Grand Rapids’ older adults. Today, Brio is taking the next steps to transform this flagship campus to reflect the quality, continuum of care it offers to older adults—now and in the future.

“We are continually exploring ways to ensure we provide the best possible environments for older adults of all income levels to live and thrive,” said Steve. “Our expansion of Porter Hills Village includes The Ravines independent living apartments, which opened in June, as well as welcoming, modern homes for older adults who require some assistance.”



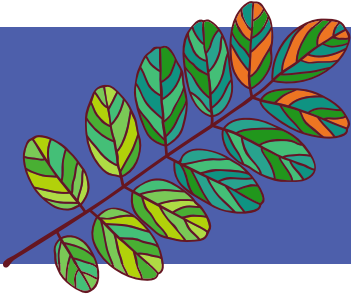
Rendering of new CRC Chapel.

“In other words, we are providing incredible new spaces for residents of all income levels who make Porter Hills Village their home, including those who receive Benevolent Care or Medicaid. All of us deserve beauty, vibrancy, and dignity as we age, and this is the focus for this project.”

Additional Capital Improvement projects include enhancing the **Wellness Centers** at **Porter Hills Village** and **Cook Valley Estates** and revitalizing the **Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC) Chapel**, dedicated in 1952. Thanks to an anonymous gift, renovations to the CRC Chapel are underway to create greater accessibility, improved audio-visual experience, and increased opportunities for not only worship, but concerts, lectures, and other lifelong learning and cultural gatherings for older adults and their families to enjoy. ■

To learn more about how you can help make these projects possible, contact Kelli Smith, CFRE at 734.433.1000 ext. 7502 or 616.577.2297.

Team Member Investment



LIVE LIFE
BOLDLY...

*“**T**he Foundation Scholarship means so much to me, not only because it helps ease the financial burden of having three kids in college this fall, but also because it allows me to continue pursuing my education to become a Certified Wellness Coach,” said Jessica Lincolnhol, Member Navigator for Avenues by Brio Living Services and Foundation Scholar. “This support reinforces my commitment to helping others live vibrant, healthy lives as they age.”*

In April, the **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation** held Scholarship Receptions at Chelsea Retirement Community and Cook Valley Estates to honor our **Foundation Scholars**. The Scholarship Program is made possible, thanks to generous gifts to the **Team Member Support Services Fund**.

Said Kelli Smith, President & CEO of the Foundation, “If you have ever experienced postponed hopes or dreams, you understand how important programs like this one are.



Honoring Foundation Scholars.

Our Scholarship program allows us to invest in team members’ professional growth and personal fulfillment.”

Adam Kipfmiller, Senior Human Resources Business Partner, shared, “Working in Human Resources, I see the positive impact the Scholarship Program has on helping team members grow within the organization. I enjoy hearing from team members who have become a registered nurse or manager, thanks to their Scholarship. This is one of the reasons I give to the Foundation, because I know how it truly impacts the lives of our team members.”

Cristina Manly, Regional Sales Director for Brio, is pursuing a master’s degree in human services counseling with a focus on crisis response and trauma. She expressed her “heartfelt gratitude” to the Foundation and the generous donors who support the Scholarship Fund. “Your support and belief in my potential mean more than words can express.” ■



Foundation Scholars are all smiles.

Program Investment



LIVE LIFE
JOYFULLY...

“I met Mr. V. in the hallway,” said Kristen Kimball, Music Therapist at Porter Hills Village and Green House® Homes. “His speech was nonsensical, and he had difficulty finding words and finishing phrases. He was receptive to a visit, and I had learned from team members, that he loved country music, especially Johnny Cash.”



Kristen Kimball

Kristen encouraged Mr. V., who lives with dementia, to make some music with her, modeling some rhythms for him to play with rhythm sticks, and he began to tap his feet.

“When we were finished, Mr. V. looked at me and started telling me about his siblings,” said Kristen. “He was able to tell me, in a few complete sentences, about his brother’s struggle with alcoholism. It was deeply

meaningful to give him a way to communicate his story with the help of music therapy.”

Kristen’s role as music therapist is made possible thanks to a generous gift from the Hamlin Family Foundation, providing art and music therapy for residents of Porter Hills Village and Green House® Homes.

“Kristen is able to bring a level of support to residents that helps create wonder and happiness, while at the same time, touching on a memory that brings tears of healing,” shared Maegan Garlock, Director of Lifestyle and Wellness at Porter Hills Village. ■

Maggie and her younger brother, George, live together in her home in Jackson. George is a double amputee, and Maggie was providing all his care before they learned about **Thome PACE**, (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly). It was difficult for Maggie, at 76, to be George’s only caregiver, and she struggled to keep up with the house. In particular, the flooring was falling apart, had holes, or had worn away. It had become a barrier for George and Maggie to live safely and independently in their home, even with the help of the PACE in-home care team. Thanks to grant resources from the Jackson Community Foundation, PACE was able to replace the flooring in Maggie and George’s home. **Maggie reports, “We LOVE the flooring!! It looks fantastic! George and I couldn’t be more pleased! Thank you!”** ■



*Your gifts in support of
Program Investment do more
than just provide activities
for older adults—you help
transform lives! To learn more,
visit Foundation.UMRCPH.org*



LIVE LIFE

FAITHFULLY...

“You don’t realize what a joy it is that Benevolent Care is available,” said Bernice Packard. “It’s not something you think about when you’re younger. It is a joy to not have that burden and to know you won’t have to move somewhere else.”

For **Gary and Bernice Packard**, residents at Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC), their love for the community has deep roots. “We grew up in Chelsea and have a long, happy connection here,” said Bernice. Gary and Bernice were both members of Chelsea United Methodist Church. They remember the annual Harvest Offering, when local farmers would bring produce to the residents at CRC. “The youth groups would decorate the tractor trailers, and our group won first place,” said Gary. Their choir also came to sing at CRC.



Gary and Bernice Packard

Both Gary and Bernice had a grandmother who lived at CRC, as did one of Gary’s uncles. When it came time to think about their own retirement, it was an easy choice. “Gary wanted to retire by the time he was 80, and we knew we wanted to remain in Chelsea,” said Bernice, who taught there for thirty years. Gary worked at Chrysler Proving Grounds as a test driver. They moved to CRC in 2015.

“We love living here and have been happy with everything,” said Bernice. Both are active volunteers and enjoy the exercise classes. Gary serves on the Spiritual Life committee.

Their connection to CRC also includes planning ahead to care for older adults in the future.

“We have three children, and we have made provisions for each child to have 30% of our estate when we pass,” explained Gary. “For the last 10%, we have decided to give that remainder to the Foundation. We know the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation takes care of residents in need with the Benevolent Care Fund, and that means a lot to us.” ■



Musician from the Castalia Quartet visits with residents after Foundation-hosted concert at Cook Valley Estates.



Corey Turner: A Warm and Welcoming Presence

We're delighted to introduce you to Corey Turner, who joined the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation team in 2024 as the Major Gifts Officer at Porter Hills Village. She brings with her a wealth of fundraising experience in the Grand Rapids area, having served a diverse group of local nonprofits, including Blandford Nature Center, Grand Rapids Community College Foundation, and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. An active member of the community, Corey also serves as a trustee on the Kenowa Hills Public Schools Board of Education. ■



Corey Turner

"Corey is an invaluable addition to the Foundation, seamlessly engaging with our residents and donors," said Kelli Smith, Foundation President & CEO. "She is a warm and welcoming presence at the Porter Hills Village campus and an outstanding member of our team."

Denese Brown: An Inspiration



Denese Brown

Denese Brown, Center Director for **Huron Valley PACE** in Ypsilanti, shares that her faith has inspired her 35-year social work career, working with people of all ages. "The social work field has so much variety. The main thing is helping people. Social work is so similar to service to God, with similar values."

In addition to her role at Huron Valley PACE, Denese is an ordained teacher and associate pastor, serving with her husband at Faith Assembly Church in Ypsilanti.

Recently, Denese wrote a devotional book: *According to His Kind Intention: A Collection of Inspirational Writings*. "I love to read, and books about God have been especially meaningful in my life," Denese says. "I feel like God led me to write this book, and I hope it will provide encouragement for others." ■



*Scan the code to
order Denese's book.*

*To read more of her story, visit our
blog at Foundation.MyBrio.org/Blog*

Brio Daily News



Building all new Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing!

Kicking off multiple phases of construction!



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VILLAGE
By Brio Living Services

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August is Make a Will Month!

August is **Make a Will Month**, the perfect time to consider the legacy you want to create—for your loved ones, as well as the charities and causes you care about. Why should you have a will?

1. **It's an important legal document** that spells out your specific wishes for your assets and protects your loved ones after you pass away.
2. **It provides peace of mind to you and your family.** No matter your socioeconomic status, a will guides your family in fulfilling your wishes.
3. **It lets you create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime.** You can make a positive impact on the causes you care about, well into the future, by making a gift to benefit your favorite charity, like the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation.



Join our Legacy Society with a gift in your will!

The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation can help you learn more about leaving a lasting legacy that supports tomorrow's older adults. ■

Learn more at Foundation.UMRCPH.org or contact
734.433.1000 ext. 7397 or 616.577.2297.

Brio Living Services – East Corporate Office

734.433.1000 | 805 West Middle Street | Chelsea, MI 48118

Brio Living Services – West Corporate Office

616.949.4975 | 3600 East Fulton Street | Grand Rapids, MI 49546



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