



For Immediate Release

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

Chelsea/Grand Rapids, MI, Jul. 16, 2025 – The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board of Directors is proud to announce that it has awarded its 2025 Community Grants, totaling \$30,000. This year, the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation supported local nonprofits providing Meals on Wheels assistance to older adults in Michigan communities where Brio Living Services has a presence.

These included the following awards:

- \$5,000 to Chelsea Senior Center Meals on Wheels program, Chelsea, MI
- \$5,000 to Dexter Senior Center Meals on Wheels program, Dexter, MI
- \$5,000 to Friends of Jackson Seniors Meals on Wheels program, Jackson, MI
- \$5,000 to Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels, Ypsilanti, MI
- \$10,000 to Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, Kent and Allegan counties, MI

“Each year, the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board confidently selects local nonprofit organizations to champion through our Community Grant program,” affirmed Kelli Smith, CFRE, President & CEO of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation. “I am proud to work with our dedicated board members, who are resolute in addressing the needs of older adults in the communities we serve through Brio. They clearly understand the vital importance of local programs, like Meals on Wheels, in providing essential care and comfort to older adults.”

Reezie DeVet, chair of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board, shared, “This year, the Foundation Board unanimously chose to make community grants to five Meals on Wheels programs, offering a nourishing meal and companionship for older adults. Often, these are the same older adults Brio serves through its PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) programs. Our Board understands the incredible impact these nonprofits have, especially for low-income older adults who may be isolated. We are grateful to partner with these trusted organizations, providing much-needed resources to improve the lives of older adults in the communities we serve.”

Dave Gilman, Director of Advancement for Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, shared, “The financial support from the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is already working to serve a growing population of Kent and Allegan County seniors that have requested services from Meals on Wheels Western Michigan. By funding our work, the Foundation is a part of making sure no call from a senior goes unanswered.”

Gilman shared this letter from a Meals on Wheels client: “I just wanted you to know how much you help me. I have multiple sclerosis, and I’m a diabetic. I live on disability, which makes it very difficult to pay for basic living expenses. I’m grateful! Thank you!”

“We appreciate your recognition of our senior nutrition program for our older adult community,” added Anna Pekrul, Executive Director of the Dexter Senior Center. “This gift contributes immeasurable benefits to our community by helping us keep our members vital and engaged. For both those that require home delivery and those who come to eat together at our congregate meals, this gift from the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is a significant help to us as we provide service and a welcoming space for members to enjoy each other’s company.”

“Our UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board members are passionate about caring for older adults in our communities who may be struggling with loneliness or financial hardship,” said DeVet. “We are grateful for each of these organizations that provide care to older adults in our areas of service across Michigan. It is an especially meaningful part of our mission, and we hope these Community Grants will assist in their important work of supporting older adults in the areas where Brio Living Services has a presence.”

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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 23 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | MyBrio.org*

*The **Meals on Wheels Western Michigan** mission is to provide quality nutrition services in a supportive environment to promote the health and independence of older adults. To make this a reality, we provide a wide range of meal and nutrition services to seniors in Kent and Allegan counties. 616.459.3111 | Mealsonwheelswesternmichigan.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