



For Immediate Release

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Formal Rededication Event Marks Opening of Chelsea Retirement Community Chapel & Performing Arts Center

Brio Living Services Celebrates Newly Renovated, Expanded Space for Worship, Arts, Lifelong Learning

Chelsea, MI, Aug. 27, 2026 – Senior living organization [Brio Living Services](#) and [UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation](#) celebrated the opening of [Chelsea Retirement Community](#) (CRC)'s newly renovated and expanded Chapel & Performing Arts Center at a formal rededication ceremony in this new space on August 26, 2026.

Nearly 150 guests were on hand, including special guest Bishop David A. Bard of the [Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church](#) who led the blessing and dedication of the new space. Other speakers included Russ Ives, Chair of the Brio Living Services Board and grandson of Bishop Marshall Reed who presided over the opening dedication of the CRC Chapel in 1952. Musical entertainment included [Brass Animals](#) and a surprise video from Chelsea native Jeff Daniels.

An anonymous gift to the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation has allowed for the transformation and expansion of this space to enhance worship and create an inviting space for cultural activities, including concerts, art displays, and lifelong learning. Key components include state-of-the-art technology to support hearing and vision needs, as well as improved accessibility for all. The new space has more than doubled in size—from 3,300 square feet to nearly 8,400 square feet.

The CRC Chapel has reflected the faith-based mission of Brio Living Services for more than 70 years, according to Brio President and CEO Steve Fetyko. "This is far more than a renovation—it is a profound investment in the heart and spirit of the CRC community," said Fetyko. "This space will become a cornerstone of daily life at CRC. It will be where individuals deepen their faith, where our community gathers in meaningful ways, where we honor and remember loved ones, and where the arts bring joy, inspiration, and connection. The impact of this gift will be felt in countless moments—both quiet and celebratory—for years to come."

Kelli Smith, CFRE, President & CEO of the [UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation](#), the charitable arm of Brio Living Services, said, “Because of the generosity of those who helped make this possible, a dream materialized—a celebration of us coming together. There is nothing more powerful than that. Worship, prayer, remembrance, storytelling, and performances in this space give voice to life experiences. In our community, it is especially meaningful. Our residents care deeply and carry deep wisdom, history, resilience, and stories of their own. This space allows for those stories to be shared, celebrated, and passed on. In that way, this Chapel & Performing Arts Center is not simply a building, but a living expression of a song’s message, a place where community gathers, voices rise, hope is renewed, and people of every age and generation are reminded that glory is found in faith, perseverance, memory, music, and togetherness.”

In his dedication, Bishop Bard said, “There are places and spaces that have been important in our own spiritual journeys. This can be such a place, where we hear one another well and listen deeply for the voice of the Spirit. May you find strength here to engage the world with love. May your hearts be tranquil here. May you find comfort here; laugh and weep and sing here. May you hear the whispers of God here. May the gentle breeze of the Spirit whisk your soul here.”

Fetyko added, “What moves me most is the lasting legacy this space creates. It reflects our faith-based roots, strengthens our sense of belonging, and elevates the quality of life for everyone who calls CRC home. The donor’s generosity will touch lives in ways that are both seen and unseen, shaping experiences and memories across generations. I cannot wait to see all the joyous life and wonderful works that will happen in the decades to come in this amazing space.”

An internal event for CRC residents was held on Sunday, August 23 with entertainment by the [Detroit Youth Choir](#).

Learn more about [Chelsea Retirement Community](#) and how you can [support future programming](#) through the CRC Chapel & Performing Arts Center Endowment Fund.

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*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 9,000 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 **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, as part of the **Live Life with Brio** comprehensive campaign. 734.433.1000 | 616.577.2297 | [Foundation.UMRCPH.org](#)*



Speakers at the Chapel Rededication event from left to right:

Russ Ives, Chair of Brio Living Services Board; Kate Collins, Brio Chief Project Development Officer; Bishop David A. Bard, MI UMC Conference; Steve Fetyko, President & CEO of Brio Living Services; Kelli Smith, CFRE, President & CEO of UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation; and Rev. Dr. Julie Kilmer, Director of Spiritual Life, Chelsea Retirement Community.