United in Philanthropy

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A Heart for Community,

A Heart for Giving
In the fall issue of *United in Philanthropy*, we revealed that UMC’s first gala would be taking place in October, to benefit the renovation project at The Shores. We’re so excited to announce that the physical work will begin in January! The new spaces and enhancements will promote social interaction and create enriching experiences and community engagement at The Shores, benefiting residents, associates, and members of the local community alike. This project wouldn’t be possible without your enthusiastic partnership, and we are proud to share our progress!
A very special thank you to the following business partners, who helped make Creating Experiences a wonderful event!

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Creating Experiences Gala

The Creating Experiences gala was a great success! The Foundation is thrilled to share that over $128,000 was raised from a combination of sponsorships, ticket sales, auction sales, and gifts from those who couldn’t attend but still wanted to show their support.

Over 200 people joined us to recognize Ocean City’s OEM Coordinator and longstanding friend of The Shores, Frank Donato III, and raise funds for the renovation. Attendees enjoyed a silent auction and exciting live auction, plus live music and dancing, courtesy of Tim McLoone and the Atlantic Coast Band.

We were honored to have a group of The Shores’ residents in attendance, including event steering committee member Nancy Longenecker.

As the renovations kick off, there are still several ways to make a contribution. Several Gift Designations are still available for new spaces at The Shores. To find out more, visit https://foundation.umcommunities.org/new-spaces-and-features/

For a full list of sponsors and links to their websites, please visit https://foundation.umcommunities.org/gala-sponsors/
Stephen Wescott’s relationship with United Methodist Communities stems from his deep affinity for Bristol Glen. An active member of the Sussex County community, Steve’s church, community groups, and professional work have all intersected with a UM community at one time or another.

In 2011, opportunity came knocking—in the form of Rev. Alden Welch—for Steve to get involved with United Methodist Communities’ ministry as a whole. Welch, a United Methodist Communities board member, recognized that Steve’s financial expertise and commitment to community service made him an ideal candidate for the finance committee of UMC’s Board of Directors. Since then, Steve has served on the Board as a member of the finance committee, headed the strategic planning committee, and become a member of the UMC Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Steve is also a proud UMC donor, and believes that when a resident has paid for their care for many years and is fortunate enough to live a long life, they should not be forgotten just because they’ve run out of funds. They are still an important part of their community and need our support.

Through his work as a financial advisor, Steve found he enjoyed educating and helping older adults with their money management. He often assists them in planning for moves to senior living facilities, and he’s also volunteered his time and expertise at Bristol Glen, hosting presentations on financial planning topics and tips.

As for his future with United Methodist Communities, Steve is focused on memory support offerings. It’s an area close to his heart because his own mother is living with dementia. He recognizes the care anyone living with dementia requires and has seen first-hand the difference a specialized environment can make to their quality of life. Steve is especially pleased with the strides the ministry has made so far, and he looks forward to further growth in this area.

Steve says his passion for UMC’s mission is motivated by the resident-centered, family atmosphere he feels sets the organization apart from other senior living providers. Steve describes the communities as “a home away from home” where residents aren’t asked to give up their own routines and lifestyles in order to move in. “At UMC, the caring and compassionate from the mission statement are much more than just words on paper,” Steve explained. “When you walk into one of our communities, you can really see it and feel it.”
During the last week of November, the United Methodist Communities Foundation celebrated associate giving in a new way. In addition to being listed in the annual report’s Associate Honor Roll, all employees who have participated in payroll deduction or made a direct gift this year to support the Gift of Care Circle were awarded a red heart pin.

UMC associates are some of our best ambassadors! While just a small token of gratitude, the heart pins will also help start conversations and spread the word about philanthropy at UMC. **On average, associates contribute almost $2,000 per month to the Gift of Care Circle.**

Over 100 associates choose to go above and beyond and support the UMC Foundation. Thank you for supporting our mission with your time, talents, and treasure!

We Love Our Associate Supporters

**Keep an Eye on UMC!**

Learn what life is really like at United Methodist Communities by visiting our **YouTube** channel! We have a collection of over 75 engaging videos to watch and share, including resident stories, tips from associates, and great information on aging. Fan favorites include the ever-growing *This Abundant Life* series, *Seniors Try Boardwalk Candy*, and *85-Year-Old Bodybuilder*. It’s free to subscribe and be notified whenever a new UMC video is posted.
Here at United Methodist Communities, one of the most common types of gifts we receive are what we call tribute gifts: donations in memory of a loved one who has passed away or in honor of a special person in your life. These tributes are beautiful celebrations of a resident or UMC supporter’s legacy, or a way to mark a milestone while making a difference.

This winter, we’d like to share one woman’s experience with United Methodist Communities, and what led her family to support the Gift of Care Circle with tribute gifts.

The following is an excerpt of a letter from Nancy Trauger, whose mother, Sara, lived at United Methodist Communities at The Shores:

Mother enjoyed her life at The Shores. Prior to moving in, she was worried what would happen to her if she lived long enough to exhaust her resources. She was assured that if she was fiscally responsible for the funds she had when entering The Shores, she would never have to leave. That was a huge factor in her choosing to reside at The Shores! We, as family members, agreed with Mother’s decision and supported her in choosing The Shores. It was comforting for all to know that funds from the Gift of Care Circle would be available for her use, if needed, and this need would remain confidential. When I think back upon her years there, I know, if she had had to leave The Shores, and move to another ‘home’, she would not have lived to be three months short of 100 years of age! The care and support of the staff allowed her to maintain a good quality of life to the end.

It is important for us to help fellow citizens remain in their homes and maintain their quality of life. It is through our collective donations that our elderly neighbors are able to remain in their residences at United Methodist Communities like The Shores. Mother realized just how important it is for us to help one another and through her example, we learned it, too.

Since the security of knowing she’d never have to move again was a big part of Mother’s choosing The Shores, in lieu of flowers, Mother wanted her memorial gifts sent to the UMC Foundation, to be used for the Gift of Care Circle (formerly, Fellowship Fund). She didn’t want to see any residents have to leave their home at The Shores, and neither do we!

I write this on behalf of my family, with gratitude and appreciation for almost 20 years of service and care for our mother, Sara Ginther.
Leaving a Heartfelt Legacy

Your life insurance policy could make a lasting impact for generations to come if you name United Methodist Communities Foundation as a beneficiary. Each life insurance premium dollar buys, generally, thousands of dollars of eventual benefit for UMC Foundation, and giving a new or current life insurance policy to our organization allows you to deduct any ongoing premiums you pay. And since life insurance premiums are not correlated to market performance, these benefits are sure to produce the benefits you envision, regardless of economic conditions. United Methodist Communities Foundation is pleased to have Ambassador Advisors as our planned giving partner.

Ambassador Advisors is a Registered Investment Advisor.

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DORIS M. COSTILL
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JOSEPH DESMOND
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