



United in Philanthropy

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A Community
EXPERIENCE



Celebrating Community Volunteers, *Creating a Community Legacy*

A Special Friendship

Before her passing this May, Lula Dougherty enjoyed nine happy, activity-filled years as a resident of United Methodist Communities at Pitman. Originally drawn to Pitman for its warm family environment and strong Christian values, Lula developed a deep appreciation for all of the activities and opportunities for socializing the community provides. She attended evening chats and ladies' teas and became an avid book borrower in the resident library. Lula's combined love of reading and playing games led her to become involved in a Scrabble group. At times when no one else was interested in playing, Lu would

play with an aide. One day, volunteer coordinator Sharon Yesner invited a pair of high school volunteers to join Lu for a game. The rest, as they say, was history...and the beginning of a beautiful friendship!

Honoring Commitment

Every Wednesday evening, from their junior year of high school all through four years of college, local volunteers Chrissie and Leighann visited Pitman to play Scrabble and spend time with Lula. The two originally volunteered at Pitman through their high school's Interact Club, but their commitment to the



Wednesday games reached extraordinary levels as a true bond developed. Lu's daughter Tracy recalls many a mother-daughter outing where she had to make sure Mom was back at Pitman in time for the girls' visit. Chrissie and Leighann's dedication and loyalty was second to none, as they kept the appointments even through busy school weeks and summer vacations.

When Lula passed away, Tracy knew she needed a special way to honor the friendship. "I wanted to find a way to honor the girls while also creating a memorial specific to what my mom loved," Tracy says, explaining her motivation for creating a scholarship. "I didn't want this to be a one-and-done situation, but a lasting legacy that can positively impact other residents and students in the Pitman area."

Although the scholarship is named after the board game that brought Lula, Chrissie, and Leighann together, it is certainly not limited to Scrabble players. Any student who displays a high level of dedication and commitment in their volunteer efforts at Pitman will be eligible for the award.

It is Tracy and her family's wish that by recognizing student volunteers at United Methodist Communities at Pitman with the Scrabbler Award, teens will be encouraged to form strong relationships with their elders and get a taste for belonging to something larger than themselves. Tracy also hopes the Scrabbler Award will shine a light on the senior living community and draw the local area's attention to the great work UMC at Pitman does to offer its residents a truly abundant life.

How to Get Involved

The United Methodist Communities Foundation is accepting donations to ensure the future of Pitman's Scrabbler Award volunteer scholarship. If you would

The Scrabbler Award

Beginning with the 2018/2019 school year, a total of \$2,000 will be awarded to a selected student volunteer in recognition of their commitment and hours of service at United Methodist Communities at Pitman. Scholarship recipient(s) will be chosen each year by a committee made up of United Methodist Communities at Pitman and Foundation representatives. More information on the application process will be made available after the school year begins.

like to contribute, please make your check payable to United Methodist Communities Foundation with "Lula Dougherty Memorial" or "Pitman Scrabbler Award" in the memo line or accompanying note.

Volunteers make a world of difference at each and every United Methodist community. If you'd like to follow in Chrissie and Leighann's footsteps and become a volunteer, visit foundation.umcommunities.org/volunteer.

Building Community Creating Experiences in Ocean City

Socialization plays a major role in the mental and physical health of all people, especially older adults.

That's why, when discussion of renovating The Shores' first floor began, creating a new space that promotes socialization and community interaction became the project's main goal.

We all know that seniors who have regular opportunities to socialize and participate in group activities are less likely to become depressed. But did you know that these social seniors also tend to enjoy better physical health, such as stronger immune systems and lower blood pressure? They also maintain healthier, more nutritious diets, since they don't skip meals as often as lonely, isolated seniors.

The renovated first floor will have plenty of space for sharing meals and spending time with other residents, associates, and visiting family members.

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With additional spaces for events, meetings, and lectures, more members of the Ocean City community will have the opportunity to drop in at The Shores and interact with the residents.

United Methodist Communities hopes to begin the renovation project this fall.

You're Invited!

The Foundation is incredibly excited to announce we'll be hosting our first gala on Friday, October 12, in support of The Shores' renovation project. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal at the Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point, have the opportunity to bid on items in a silent and live auction, and enjoy the music of Tim McLoone and the Shirleys.

**Special thanks to our Event Sponsor,
Sweetwater Construction Corporation!**

Tickets \$100 per person

For more information or to purchase your tickets, contact us at 732-922-9800 or foundation@umcommunities.org.

foundation.umcommunities.org/shores-gala



I Give Because...

Barbara Crane was looking for a way to get involved with community life. When she moved to United Methodist Communities at Collingswood five years ago, she was already sure that she wanted to volunteer in the community Gift Shop. A small room off of the main lobby, Collingswood's Gift Shop is packed with knick knacks, decorations, cards, blankets, and lots of jewelry. It's a hopping spot, and Barbara knew working there would be a great way to meet other residents.

Over the years, Barbara has eagerly assumed the role of Gift Shop manager, leading a group of five other resident volunteers. "All of us gals work well together, everyone is a good worker and very cooperative," she explains. "We all clean the items, set up displays—I love to do themes in the shop's front window—and then I set the pricing. Greeting cards and jewelry are our best sellers, so four times a year we organize a big jewelry sale."

Another feature that attracted Barbara to the Gift Shop is the fact that all proceeds have always been donated to UMC's benevolent care fund, the current iteration being the Gift of Care Circle. The residents volunteering in the shop see three big positives to donating their profits:

First, it proves to be an excellent vehicle for educating new residents and visitors about UMC's benevolent care program. When the ladies notice it's someone's first time dropping in, they always give a little lesson on the Gift of Care Circle.

In addition, Barbara finds that donating profits keeps the shop successful. Knowing that the Gift Shop supports such a worthy cause motivates people to donate goods and make purchases, and it keeps the shop busy and well-stocked.

Finally, and most importantly, the Gift Shop ladies know that the time and effort they put in makes a real impact. Their work is literally helping to keep residents, their friends, and neighbors in the communities they have all come to call home. In the past year alone, the Gift Shop has donated thousands of dollars to benevolent care.

"We know not everyone is in a position to afford living here for their whole life, so [benevolent care] gives people security," Barbara commented, explaining why donating to the Gift of Care Circle is so important. "It's wonderful to have something like this in place, and we are happy to support it."

Come Visit Us!

United Methodist Communities at Collingswood's Gift Shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30-11:30am, and 12:30-3:30pm. If you live in the Collingswood area and would like to contribute to the shop's outstanding work, the staff do welcome visitors and accept donations. Items should be in good condition; and please, no clothing or shoes due to space restrictions.



Gift of Care

– CIRCLE –

New Name, Same Community Heart

Our Tradition of Care

Since United Methodist Communities' inception, the concept of benevolent care—continuing to care for residents who have outlived their financial resources—has been at the heart of our mission. For many years, our residents, associates, churches, and donors all referred to United Methodist Communities' policy as the Fellowship Fund.

What has Changed?

In the last decade alone, UMC has felt the effects of the rising cost of food, housing, and *especially* healthcare. To put the increasing costs in perspective, consider this: In 2006, the annual cost of care for one resident receiving benevolent care was \$15,000. By 2016, that annual cost had skyrocketed to an average of \$81,000. Even though the number of residents receiving benevolent care any given year continues to hold steady around fifty, our annual benevolent care expenses peaked at a whopping \$6 million in 2016.

It became increasingly evident that the Fellowship Fund model would quickly prove unsustainable as this upward trend continues. Last fall, UMC leadership began studying and searching for new, proactive ways to ensure the future of providing compassionate care to our most vulnerable residents without sacrificing responsible stewardship.

Welcome, Gift of Care Circle

More than a simple name change, the Gift of Care Circle was created to reflect our updated benevolent care program, clearly describing the fund's purpose while honoring all of the individuals and groups who make our work possible. Like the Fellowship Fund before it, this fund will quite literally bless residents in need with the gift of continued care, allowing them to remain in the United Methodist communities they call home. The word "Circle", as well as the actual circles in the fund's logo, represent the many compassionate friends, family members, associates, corporate sponsors, and churches whose support and generosity make this program possible.



TO LEARN MORE about the specifics of our policy update, please visit foundation.umcommunities.org/gift-of-care-circle and read the announcement letter from our President & CEO and the Chair of United Methodist Communities' Board of Directors.

Questions about the Gift of Care Circle?

Contact Susan Sharp, VP of Philanthropy at 732-732-2122 or SSharp@umcommunities.org

Summertime Success

Mother's Day Made Possible by Your Community Generosity

Our list of tribute gifts is longer than usual. We're thrilled to share that your enthusiastic response this spring surpassed our goal of raising \$20,000 for benevolent care through this year's Mother's Day appeal—a significant increase over last year's results!

We're touched that so many of you chose to remember your loved ones by giving a gift to support older adults in need. A very special thank you to the Ostrove family for sharing their story and inspiring so many others to give.

To view the list of tribute donors from the last quarter, please visit us online at foundation.umcommunities.org/mothersday.



What Can I Give?

It's a myth that you need to be wealthy in order for your financial gifts to have an impact on the ministries you love. In fact, with the strategic preparation of a legacy plan, you can not only make a lasting impact on the ministries close to your heart, but also bless your heirs more fully than you could imagine. When it comes to legacy planning, there are many options that can impact future generations through your investment in United Methodist Communities Foundation. Let our partners at Ambassador Advisors open your eyes to the possibilities!



Ambassador Advisors knows that all we have has been given to us by God, and each of us is called to be good stewards of what He has entrusted to us. If you are like most people, you probably have misconceptions

about planning and may be unaware of the appropriate strategies to move toward your goals. Our goal is to give donors the information they need to help enhance and protect their assets while making smart financial decisions.

Creative gifts can bless both the giver and the receiver. Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust to secure lifetime income for you and your spouse, while also benefiting United Methodist Communities Foundation. Even without cash now, you can donate a life estate or create a Donor Advised Fund. You can also reduce or eliminate taxes to keep the government from taking your carefully stewarded money upon death by making United Methodist Communities Foundation the beneficiary of an IRA or 401(k).

Contact Susan Sharp, VP of Philanthropy at 732732-2122 or SSharp@umcommunities.org for more information on legacy planning options.

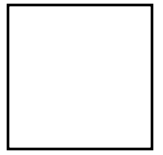
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United Methodist Communities

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DON'T MISS A MOMENT!

Stay in Touch

Updating your contact info or requesting removal from our mailing list is easy! To make any changes, please call 732-922-9802 x2121 or email foundation@umcommunities.org.

Ways to Give

Please make all checks payable to United Methodist Communities Foundation and mail to 3311 State Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753. Your choice of fund (Gift of Care Circle, Tapestries Memory Care Fund, Senior Wellness Fund, Area of Greatest Need) can be listed in the memo area or in a separate note.

Online credit card donations are secure and easy at foundation.umcommunities.org/donate. For assistance, please call 732-922-9802 ext. 2121.



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