



# United in Philanthropy

Summer 2020 • Volume 4 • Issue 1

## *Finding Unity Through Community*



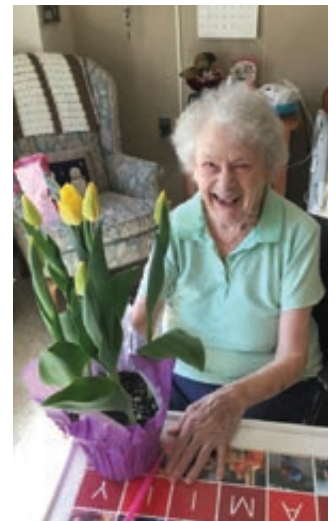
# Thank You for Keeping Residents CONNECTED!

At United Methodist Communities, we firmly believe that we were not meant to live in isolation. We were made to live in community! When COVID-19 severely limited our residents' regular person-to-person interactions, our communities united to keep the seniors we serve feeling connected.



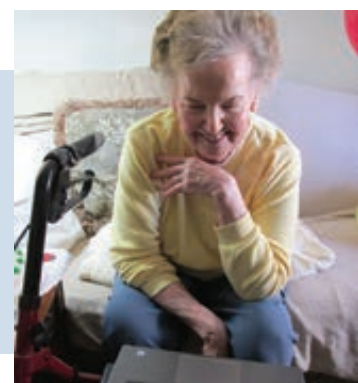
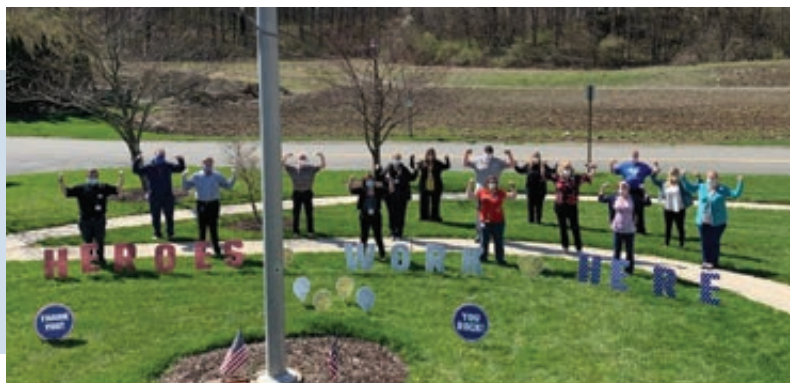
## VISITING BOOTH

■ With safety as their top priority, UMC at Bristol Glen created a visiting booth off of their main lobby, so residents could have one-on-one time with a family member. Word of Bristol Glen's visiting booth spread, and inspired visitor windows at other UMC communities as well.



## ENCOURAGEMENT

■ Local students, youth groups, and many of our regular volunteers made sure residents and home-care clients knew they were thinking of them, by sending them encouraging cards and messages with prayers, encouragement, and well wishes.

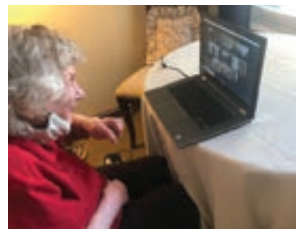






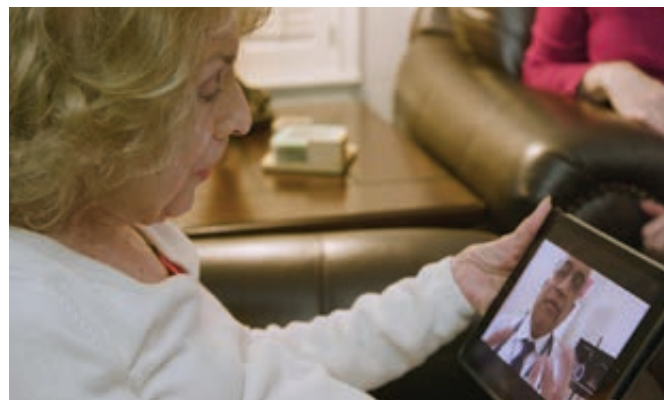
## TECHNOLOGY

■ Technology has played a massive role in keeping residents connected to loved ones, as well as to their doctors. With the help of UMC associates, residents are becoming experts at video chatting via Zoom and Facetime. For residents with difficulty hearing, Eversound headsets help them hear loved ones during virtual and social distanced visits. The Foundation was fortunate to receive “communicative technology” funding from the state of NJ, which allowed us to procure extra iPads for each community so more residents could video chat at one time. A few generous individuals and churches also increased the supply!



## TELEHEALTH

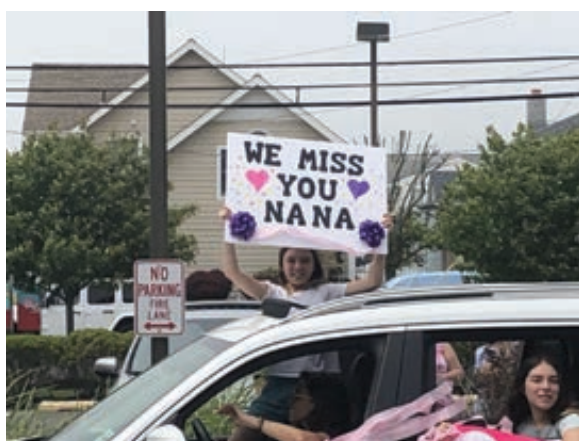
■ Finally, as part of the FCC’s COVID-19 Telehealth Program that was authorized by the CARES Act, UMC was awarded a grant for over \$900,000.00 for telehealth software and a remote patient monitoring program. This funding will allow our skilled nursing teams to better prevent falls and other dangerous conditions, without requiring excessive in-person monitoring. The cutting-edge technology also allows for remote consultations in settings where either provider shortages or COVID-19 impacts would delay or prevent access to specialty or nursing care.







*Staff and first responder vehicles from the Collingswood parade*



*Family members decorated cars for The Shores parade*

# Parades of Love

If it is indeed true that absence makes the heart grow fonder, then there were hearts nearly bursting with fondness in our communities as family members and local clergy were reunited at a safe distance with our residents and associates. The emotions were evident and strong as just a brief glance of a loved one or a friend made everyone's respective day. These parades were a reminder of the impact that our communities and associates make in the lives of our residents, their families and those in the community who understand and appreciate what we do.

## IT'S A "THREE-PEAT"

**UMC is a great place to do great work!**

United Methodist Communities has officially been certified as a Great Place to Work for the third year in a row! Now more than ever before, it's clear that UMC associates view their work as more than just a job, and take great pride in making a difference in the lives of the seniors they serve.



# I Give – and Create – Because...

Spotlight on  
Elizabeth Maslowska

The beautiful thing about art is that it can turn up in unexpected places.



Recently, the UMC Foundation was introduced to Elzbieta “Elizabeth” Maslowska, a resident of UMC at The Wesleyan (Red Bank, NJ) when we were searching for a resident who could create artwork for a card. Elizabeth was very generous with her

time and talent, and actually created two floral scenes for us: a rose design we’ve used to thank the many kind donors who’ve supported our #UNITEDagainstCOVID19 appeal, and a daisy scene that has encouraged frontline staff and managers who have selflessly served our seniors throughout this pandemic. Daisies are one of Elizabeth’s favorite flowers, and we discovered that they’re a symbol of cheer, renewal, and hope for the future. Just what we all need right now!

Painting is actually a talent that Elizabeth discovered later in life. She was born in eastern Poland to patriot, activist parents during Stalin’s regime of repression and violence. Shortly after her birth, her parents left her in the care of her grandparents for her own safety. Her father was captured by the NKVD secret police at only 25 years old, and sent to a Siberian prison camp. When her grandfather, a wealthy mill owner, also became a target, Elizabeth was sent to live with her grandmother in Russia. At the age of six, Elizabeth bravely boarded an International Red Cross train, an initiative to help Polish children escape Russia, and to reunite them with their parents in Poland.

Elizabeth describes herself as loving art from the time she was a small child, saying that creating felt like magic to her. Art wasn’t viewed as a career option, however, and she didn’t have many opportunities to create growing up. Instead, Elizabeth went on to marry, have children, and run her own business in Poland.

By the time her husband passed away, Elizabeth’s son had already moved to the United States. Her daughter urged her to join him in the U.S. and begin a new chapter in her life. After attending art school in Poland -art runs in the family!- her daughter also emigrated.

Elizabeth took an eight month course to become fluent in English, became a U.S. citizen and a certified

cosmetologist and aesthetician, and loved working in Manhattan and exploring New York City. After an accident left her unable to work, her daughter helped her find a new place to live outside of the city. They discovered The Wesleyan, one of United Methodist Communities’ senior housing communities, and yet another new chapter began for Elizabeth!

After moving in, she was itching to create again, but never having received any proper training, she worried she wouldn’t succeed. Elizabeth’s daughter knew how much her mother loved art, so she signed her up for a six week painting course at the Monmouth Art Center as a birthday present. (In the two months between Elizabeth’s birthday and the start of the course, Elizabeth took to YouTube and got a head start on learning the basics of painting, mixing colors, and working with different mediums.) She was absolutely thrilled with the class, and now, she paints all the time. She started with oils, and now enjoys working with watercolors.

Elizabeth shared that she loves living at The Wesleyan, and while she no longer considers herself “materially wealthy”, she’s found herself rich in so many other ways. She feels happier, more spiritual, and lives her life on her own terms. She’s watched the Red Bank neighborhood and UMC family come together during the COVID-19 crisis, and shared that never before in her life has she seen “such a sense of community and strangers caring for one another” as she is experiencing at The Wesleyan right now.

The joy and authenticity that Elizabeth finds in painting inspires us all. If you have received one of our cards with her beautiful artwork, we hope you enjoyed learning a bit more about the artist behind the paintings. If you would like to hear more from Elizabeth, in her own words, be sure to watch Episode 1 of United Together on our YouTube channel!







# Making an Investment in the *Future*

**L**egacy giving is instrumental to United Methodist Communities' mission. Through legacy gifts, our most faithful supporters both touch the lives of the seniors we serve now, and ensure we can keep serving seniors long into the future.

A bequest is one of the easiest legacy gifts to plan. It's the best option for members of the UMC family who don't have resources on hand to make a major gift in their lifetime, but would like to use their legacy to promote abundant life for seniors in our care.

For example, many bequest contributions have helped fund our Gift of Care Circle over the years, allowing our residents to stay in the communities they call home. Bequests that have been restricted to a particular UMC community close to the donor's heart have helped with capital improvements and keeping our communities up to date and best able to serve. For instance, bequests restricted to Collingswood helped fund their healthcare floor's transition from a medical model to a homey neighborhood setup.

Unrestricted bequests have made a world of difference as well, especially as we battle COVID-19. In addition to the dollars raised through the #UNITEDagainstCOVID19 appeal, the UMC Foundation committed \$650,000.00 to continue the \$2/hour appreciation bonus through the end of June. These funds were only available because some members of the UMC family chose to make our mission a part of their legacy.

Though they are no longer with us, their desire to make a difference lives on and has directly blessed our residents and associates during this difficult time.

**Roughly 70% of the funds raised last year came from legacy gifts. That's over a million dollars!**

# United in Gratitude

## GRATEFUL RESIDENT PROGRAM

**B**ack in February, the UMC Foundation introduced a new giving opportunity in our communities: **United in Gratitude, a grateful resident program.** A survey earlier this year showed that one of the top three reasons why donors give to the Foundation is out of appreciation for the care they or a loved one received. United in Gratitude was designed to help people do just that, with contributions through this new program being used for staff enrichment opportunities and scholarships, as well as emergency assistance for sudden financial hardships.

We're very excited to share that four UMC associates have already been recognized through this program:

- **Yvette Sibblies**, *UMC at Bristol Glen*
- **Chef Rich Schleeter**, *UMC at Pitman*
- **Lisa Kozlowski**, *UMC at Pitman*
- **Jerry Thompson**, *UMC at Pitman*

Thank you Yvette, Rich, Lisa, and Jerry for going above and beyond to serve your residents with such compassion and dedication!

If a UMC associate has gone above and beyond in making a difference in YOUR life or a loved one's life, you can learn more about the United in Gratitude program by visiting [foundation.umcommunities.org/grateful-resident-program](https://foundation.umcommunities.org/grateful-resident-program) or by calling us at 732-922-9800.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRIBUTE GIFTS!

We've been blessed that so many donors have chosen to remember their loved ones with a gift to the UMC Foundation. For a complete list of third and fourth quarter tribute gifts, please visit [foundation.umcommunities.org](https://foundation.umcommunities.org).

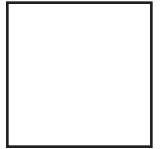




# United Methodist Communities

Foundation

3311 State Route 33  
Neptune, NJ 07753  
UMCommunities.org



*Finding Unity  
Through Community*

## 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](mailto: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](http://umcommunities.org/donate). For assistance, please call 732-922-9802 ext. 2121.



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