



United in Philanthropy

Spring 2021 • Volume 4 • Issue 2

*Inspirational
Generosity*



FAMILY INSPIRATION Brings New Leadership to UMC Foundation

Meet Linda Hill



A new season has brought new leadership to the United Methodist Communities Foundation! We're happy to share that Linda M. Hill, PharmD, joined the team as the new VP of Philanthropy on November 30, 2020.

Q: You have over fifteen years of philanthropy leadership experience, with the bulk of your work in healthcare and education. What inspired your move to senior services?

A: I've seen firsthand the difference a compassionate, caring environment can make in an older adult's life. After my grandfather passed away, my family was very concerned about my grandmother becoming withdrawn and lonely. We know that social isolation can quickly lead to mental and physical decline, especially in our senior population.

When my grandmother made the move to an assisted living facility, she flourished. It was truly a second act for her. Her apartment was down the hall from the Executive Director's office, so she was always in the thick of things. She made so many friends and even became the community's designated flower arranger, touching up the bouquet deliveries and deciding where they should be displayed. My family often joked that she was like the mayor of her community.

My goal at United Methodist Communities is to apply my years of experience to advance our mission of abundant life for seniors. I want all our residents to enjoy the same type of positive experience my grandmother had in her later years.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

A: I am certainly looking forward to getting to know my colleagues, our residents, and our wonderful UMC Foundation supporters. With the vaccine rollout, I know that better days are ahead. I hope to be able to visit our communities and meet everyone in person very soon!

To learn more about Linda and her goals for the UMC Foundation, be sure to check out our January episode of United Together on YouTube!

You can reach Linda by phone at 732-731-2122 and by email at LHill@umccommunities.org.

Creating a Legacy of Care for Seniors



Like many of our Foundation supporters, Adrienne Vacanti learned the importance of giving back to her community at a very young age.

Her mother, Edith, emigrated to the U.S. in 1952, at the age of 8. Her family had been sponsored by a United Methodist church in New York. The congregation's generosity changed the course of Edith's life and became a driving force behind her desire to help others.

Adrienne's father George dedicated his life to serving his community as a United Methodist pastor. He was in the midst of his ministry at Denville Community Church when United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen opened in 2001. George, along with many other Skylands District clergy, lent his support to UMC's mission of caring for older adults.

United Methodist Communities' tradition of caring for seniors who've outlived their financial resources stuck with Adrienne. When she graduated from college and was deciding which causes to support through her own charitable giving, United Methodist Communities was one of the organizations she and her husband Michael chose.



In 2019, Adrienne and her family's relationship with UMC grew deeper. George and Edith were ready to make the move from a 55+ neighborhood to a continuing care retirement community. When they toured United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen, it immediately felt like home.

Adrienne and Michael feel a deep appreciation for the care her parents receive at Bristol Glen, especially during the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19. Executive Director Jeff Lisk keeps an open line of communication with frequent Family Town Hall meetings via Zoom, and associates help residents navigate technology like Amazon Echos ("Alexas") and iPads to connect with loved ones. UMC's efforts to implement Essential Caregiver visitation guidelines have also made a world of difference.

When asked why her family continues to support the UMC Foundation each year, Adrienne explains, "In the faces of the residents, you can imagine your own relative and the care you'd want for them. My parents are not just taken care of but celebrated for who they are. Older people have so much value, knowledge, and excitement to share, and I am happy to support an organization that recognizes and celebrates that."



The Vacanti family also appreciates the efforts Bristol Glen and the local community is making to keep residents' spirits up. Edith loves singing, and the thought of a Christmas with no choirs, caroling, or the usual festivities was making her feel down. When she went out for a walk in early December, she was thrilled to discover Sussex County's North Star Theater Company singing under the portico. North Star's performance brought a much-needed taste of Christmas cheer and normalcy, and Edith couldn't help but join in!

Positivity

IN A Pandemic

Let's Stay "United Together"



It's no coincidence that our YouTube channel has grown dramatically this past year! We're all finding new ways to stay connected. Watching our videos is one of the best ways to stay up to date on UMC news and advice pertaining to COVID-19, and there are plenty of archived videos with general tips and advice for seniors, resident stories, and more.

Born out of a desire to share good news during the pandemic, the UMC Foundation's United Together series is still going strong at 13 episodes and counting. Each installment shines a light on how our residents, associates, volunteers, and donors are staying positive and making a difference.

It's free to subscribe and get notified whenever UMC posts a new video.

Visit youtube.com/unitedmethodistcommunities and start watching today!



Leave Your Own Legacy of Generosity

Become a Monthly Donor in 2021

Monthly giving can make a real impact! Regardless of amount, each monthly gift helps sustain United Methodist Communities' mission and allows the UMC Foundation to think strategically and plan ahead. Breaking charitable giving up throughout the year can also be much more manageable for the donor. Think about it – a monthly gift of \$50 is usually much easier on the wallet than one a one-time gift of \$600 at year end.

If you would prefer to make monthly donations by check, we can supply you with prepaid envelopes to save you a stamp and make supporting seniors even easier!

If you prefer to give via credit or debit card, you can take advantage of the easiest way to invest in our mission. Our secure online donation page gives you the option of having your gift recur automatically. Just click the "Make this a monthly gift" check box on your initial donation, and we'll take care of the rest.

Have questions or need assistance? Please call 732-731-2121 and speak with Pamela.

Generosity of Time and Talents

Volunteers Make Spirits Bright

Thank you to the many local performers and groups who've gone the extra mile to keep our residents smiling! United Methodist Communities is fortunate to have so many talented friends and volunteers.



■ Residents at Bristol Glen can't get enough of the **Hontz Family Band**. The band visited in August for a special summer concert, and returned in December to provide live music for Bristol Glen's traditional tree fluffing.



■ **Brownie and Daisy troops** from Collingswood gathered outside our building for some socially distanced singing. Residents were able to watch from their apartments, and were so excited to see the kids!



■ Pitman's very own **Young at Heart choir** has taken to the web! While the memory care and assisted living residents are unable to perform together for the whole community, associates Don, Terri, and Melissa have taken to streaming socially distanced, masked practices on UMC at Pitman's Facebook page. Past practices and performances are saved on the page for everyone to enjoy!



■ The **St. Damien's Community Brass Players** entertained residents, associates, and visitors at UMC at The Shores' outdoor Christmas Tree lighting. With help from the Players and our friends at Journey Hospice, everyone got in the festive spirit!

PREPARING YOUR TAXES? Annual tax statements have been mailed to supporters who contributed \$250 or more during the 2020 calendar year. If you have questions or if you didn't fall into that category but would still like a statement, please contact Pamela at 732-731-2121 or psenatore@umcommunities.org.



‘Adopt a Grandparent’ Inspires a Christmas Surprise

13 Years of Christmas Cheer – and Counting!

As a little girl, Colleen Meyers participated in an “adopt a grandparent” program with her local Brownies troop. She fondly remembers visiting seniors in local nursing homes and sending letters and cards back and forth. Colleen wanted her own children to have a similar experience, so in 2007 she reached out to United Methodist Communities at Pitman about putting together some small Christmas gifts as a family project.

The project began with three gift baskets and has grown exponentially over the years. Colleen uses social media to reach out to friends and family who are willing to donate gifts and goodies for UMC at Pitman residents, and all of her children participate in a “basket making

day” to assemble the packages. Some years, the Meyers family’s efforts result in over 60 Christmas baskets!

Colleen is proud that this year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, her family was still able to assemble and deliver 36 Christmas baskets.

She shared, “I was very close with my own grandmother. I spent a lot of time with her, and I would’ve never wanted her to feel lonely. These baskets are something small that we can do as a family to make sure that the seniors at Pitman won’t feel alone, especially this year. Even if they don’t have any family or friends nearby, they know that someone is thinking of them.”

Share Your Legacy Through the Wesleyan Society

Twenty years ago, no one could have imagined the way the COVID-19 pandemic would disrupt our residents’ and associates’ daily lives and create unprecedented challenges for our ministry.

When one thoughtful donor included a bequest to the UMC Foundation in her will those twenty years ago, she never could have anticipated the impact her generosity would have.

This friend of our mission passed away in late 2019. When her estate gift arrived in the frightening early days of the pandemic, her legacy became a beacon of much needed hope. It was a reminder that, thanks to our many friends and supporters, UMC’s commitment to providing abundant life for seniors will never waver.

We honor individuals who’ve named UMC as a beneficiary of their estate or pension plans, gifted an insurance policy, or established a charitable gift annuity as members of our Wesleyan Society. As you consider your own legacy – your gift to the future – we hope you will consider becoming a member yourself!

For more information on how to include UMC in your planning, please contact Linda Hill at 732-731-2122 or LHill@umcommunities.org.



Memorial and Honors

IN MEMORY

In Memory of Alice Ryan

Daniel and Susan Ryan

In Memory of Anna and Ernest Harris

Lois H. Mitchell

In Memory of Barbara Kappeler

Michael Skabla
Dr. Carl and Mrs. Virginia Scheetz
Madeline Fitzgerald
Kristine and Rory Thomas
Jeffery and Joanne Auletto
Barbara Ebner

In Memory of Carolyn Girone

Carolyn Tedeschi

In Memory of Cora B. Heiser

Brian and June Heiser

In Memory of Doris Blom

Leah Kinnear

In Memory of Edith McCandless

Gary S. McCandless

In Memory of Eleanor S. Rosica

Steven McManaman
Brian Riley
Lois-Ann DeJesus
Robert A. Yeung
Daniel Welch
Barbara Hoyt
Cheri Abernethy
Paul Rosica
Rebecca Wafer
Richard Booth
Jack & Ellen Kessler
Carl and Virginia Scheetz
Ben and Robyn Lazarus
James and Virginia Weber
The Feitel Family Giving Fund
Helen Hanel

In Memory of Esther C. Weil

Judith Perkins

In Memory of Evelyn and Bob Hales

Deborah Hales

In Memory of Flo Worrad and Kitty Fuller

Douglas and Pamela Fuller

In Memory of Florence Diehlman

Michael and Dorothy D'Ottaviano

In Memory of Frank Dennis

Gail L. Dennis

In Memory of Frankie N. Whiting

Robert T. Whiting

In Memory of Haig Kazarian

Douglas and Diane Robinson

In Memory of Harry A. Seese

Rose M. Seese

In Memory of Henry McKinnon

Michael J. McKinnon

In Memory of Herbert Sprowl, Jr. & Herbert Sprowl, Sr.

Barbara L. Sprowl

In Memory of Hewett Williams

Rosa Williams

In Memory of Hildur Hedberg

Mary H. Schips

In Memory of Ida F. Orr

Frances Eloise Orr

In Memory of Joseph Moffa

Donald and Annette Ogle

In Memory of Juanita Mason

Bernice C. Gangaware

In Memory of Kathryn Hagerman

Suzanne H. Hampton

In Memory of Leland "Stan" Buzby

Thomas and Maria Reynolds
James and Martha Grant
Joyce and Ralph Putiri
David and Donna Buzby
Judith Sames
Rick and Julie Continisio
Liboria Witasick
Lois Fried

In Memory of Lillian C. Wolfe

Lisa C Cinotti

In Memory of Loretta Poplaski

Claudia Poplaski Kirby and Frank Kirby

In Memory of Lorraine and William Mauthe

Alan and Jean Bard

In Memory of Margaret Kinsing

Carl and Virginia Scheetz

In Memory of Mary Dwyer

Rosemary McMullen
Isabella and Tony Pullella
Margaret Ann Myers
Marybeth Bynon
Christine Cortese
Mary Dwyer

In Memory of Mary R. Lochel

M. Lynne Lochel

In Memory of May Porter

Barbara Swope

In Memory of Mildred Nay

Bernice Nay

In Memory of Mildred Young

Christian and Juliet Runhaar

In Memory of Morris L. Smith

Ed and Gabriele Carl
H. Alden and Dorothy Welch
Leonard and Ann Rowell
Margaret J. Williams

In Memory of Naomi Morrison

Marilynn Bernstein
Robin and Albert Bazzel
Joyce Morrison
Karen Bellingier
Wendy Bazzel
Thomas Haase
E.L.C.W. of Apostles
Beverly Morey

In Memory of Nicholas Dinger

Karoline Dinger

In Memory of Patricia Kalena and Helen Avery

Kathleen Kalena

In Memory of Rev. Dr. William Reasner

Carl and Virginia Scheetz

In Memory of Robert W. DelPercio

Sue Marple

In Memory of Robert W. Hansell

Leona M. Hansell

In Memory Ronald and Carolina Smith

Carol Siro

In Memory of Rupert T. Edwards

Violet M. Edwards

In Memory of Ruth Probert-Taenzer

Jonathan Eron
Greg and Nancy Newcomer
Elizabeth and Lynn Johnson
David Tocher
Kathleen and Walter Mander

In Memory of Sam Dubel

Anthony Dolegowski

In Memory of Sara Z. Ginther

Kenneth and Nancy Trauger
Carolyn K. Ginther

In Memory of Sylvia Frank

Violet M. Edwards
Colletta Golson

In Memory of William and Alice Felmey

Kathleen H. Felmey

In Memory of Mary Lou and Martha Ballentine

Clifford L. Ballentine

HONOR

In Honor of Albert Cordero

Catherine and James Hulitt

In Honor of Anna and Richard Faust

Karen and Will Stryeski

In Honor of Anna Bradford

Susan and Robert Nichols

In Honor of Barbara and Frank L. Signorelli

Clifford L. Ballentine

In Honor of Barbara L. Harris

Lois J. Stilwell

In Honor of Carl and Virginia Scheetz

Robert Uyehara and Staci Scheetz

In Honor of Concetta Stone

Kathleen Lally

In Honor of David E. Dutcher

Marilyn Kneeland

In Honor of Edna White

Thomas White

In Honor of Elizabeth Cannon

Denise Bennett

In Honor of Eloise Biggin

Michael and Lynn Houdart

In Honor of Geraldine Calore

Trisha Gentile

In Honor of Hattie Brown

Haywood Brown

In Honor of Helen N. Hay

Carl and Virginia Scheetz

In Honor of Jeff Deal

Joanne Deal
Lisbeth D. Copes

In Honor of Louise Lloyd

James and Anavia Lloyd

In Honor of Marcella Wall

Mary Louise and Jerry Wall

In Honor of Marilyn Ott

Catherine and Neil Corrado

In Honor of Marjorie Piazza

Frank Wester

In Honor of Natalie J. Hirt

Dolores Barker

In Honor of Thomas Sharpe

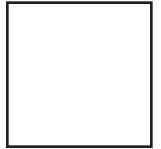
Frances and Patrick Montgomery



United Methodist Communities

Foundation

3311 State Route 33
Neptune, NJ 07753
UMCommunities.org



*Inspirational
Generosity*

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 umcommunities.org/donate. For assistance, please call 732-922-9802 ext. 2121.



Looking for a past issue of United in Philanthropy?

Previous issues can be viewed or downloaded on our website, foundation.umcommunities.org, in the News & Events section.

Connect Online!



@UMCommunities



@UMCommunities



[youtube.com/UnitedMethodistCommunities](https://www.youtube.com/UnitedMethodistCommunities)

Gary Engelstad, Giving Officer
engelstad@umcommunities.org

Rebecca Roe, Grant Funding & Communications Manager
rroe@umcommunities.org

Pamela Senatore, Philanthropy Assistant
psenatore@umcommunities.org

Linda Hill, Vice President of Philanthropy
lhill@umcommunities.org