

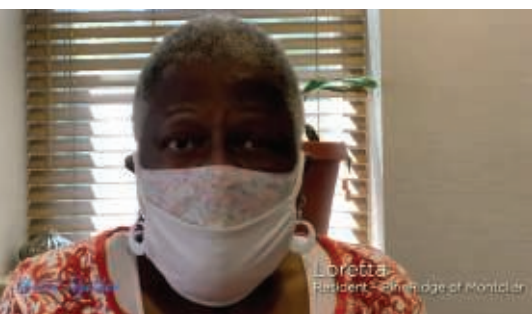


United in Philanthropy

Winter 2022 • Volume 4 • Issue 2

*Motivated
AND Engaged*

A Virtual Banquet with a Practical Impact for Seniors



There's a time-honored saying that "when life hands you lemons, you make lemonade" ...and that is just what the UMC Foundation did on Saturday, October 16.

Unable to have a more traditional gala in proximity to one of our communities due to COVID-19 concerns, the Foundation put together a "virtual gala" that had a much greater impact than expected.

With powerful video testimonials from residents, associates, family members and volunteers, the Celebration of Gratitude "show" was a heartwarming look back on what our communities have experienced over the past year and a half. This Facebook live event and later YouTube video has now been viewed over 1,000 times, a tremendous testimonial to the impact that our communities have across the state.

While the presentation highlights what everyone has gone through, it was also an opportunity for many of the UMC strategic business partners to demonstrate their support for our mission. Over 30 of these businesses contributed close to \$90,000 in sponsorship dollars. In addition, a number of our friends took the opportunity to call in and contribute during the live show.

The Foundation is extremely grateful for the residents, associates, family members, and volunteers who took the time to share their moving reflections. Their words and emotions spoke volumes about the special spirit that exists at all of our communities, a spirit that enabled all to come out of a dark period stronger, together.

To watch the recording of the live celebration, visit our United Methodist Communities YouTube channel, youtube.com/unitedmethodistcommunities

With Great Appreciation,

The UMC Foundation

The UMC Foundation

would like to thank these friends and business partners for sponsoring our virtual event:

PLATINUM SPONSORS



DIAMOND SPONSORS



Gifts of Appreciated Stock Benefit UMC...and You!



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
please contact Linda Hill, Vice President
of Philanthropy, at 732-731-2122 or
via email at lhill@umcommunities.org.

Do you own stock that has appreciated in value?

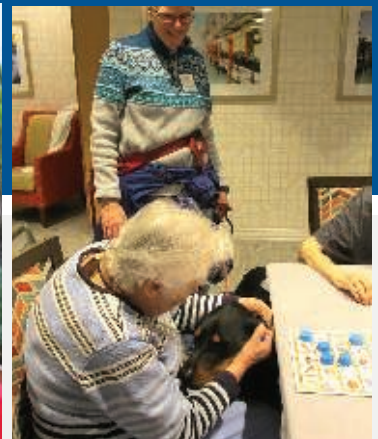
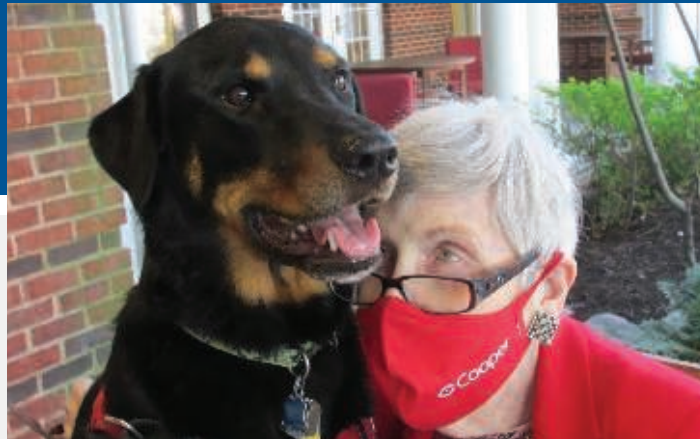
If you have held the shares for a year or more, you have a special opportunity to achieve larger tax savings while also supporting seniors at United Methodist Communities. If you were to sell stock that has increased in value, you would have to pay capital gains tax on the profit. If instead you donate appreciated stock to a charitable organization, like the UMC Foundation, you avoid federal capital gains taxes, while also receiving a federal income tax deduction for the current market value of the gift.

Three Simple Steps to Gift Stock

You might be surprised to learn that gifting stock is actually very simple!

1. Notify your broker that you wish to donate shares to UMC. This is the information that your broker will need:
Our account name:
United Methodist Homes of New Jersey Foundation, Inc.
Our account details:
Merrill Lynch
A/C 830-06440
DTC# 8862
Tax ID# 22-2720958
2. Call 732-731-2121 to notify philanthropy staff that you are transferring shares to UMC.
3. You will receive our thanks and your official gift acknowledgement for tax savings purposes via USPS mail.

Collingswood volunteers Sue Dietz and her pup, Maggie



The Word from one “Top Dog”

Q: How did you get started with volunteering at Collingswood?

A: I help at an Episcopal church in town, doing hoagie sales and yard sales. One of the women I befriended from the church moved to UMC at Collingswood, and she had to leave her many dogs and cats behind when she moved. She was really missing that animal interaction, so some people at church were asking if anyone with a dog could pay her a visit.

Q: Now that visits have resumed since COVID-19 paused them, have you been able to go back inside?

A: Back in June, Maggie and I were able to start outdoor visits. Some of the residents who had grown close to Maggie came down, and we were also able to meet some new friends. A resident who'd been a bit of a loner before befriending Maggie came out, and I could see this woman was in a really negative spot. Her head was down, she was resistant. I called her name and told her to look up. When she raised her head and saw Maggie, her whole demeanor changed. She was just over the moon, it was very emotional. As of mid-December, we've been able to go indoors to visit in the lobby and different sitting areas, depending on the situation that day. We can't yet roam the way we used to, but it's wonderful being able to bring Maggie in to interact with more people again.

Q: What benefits have you seen for the seniors who get a chance to interact with Maggie?

A: People forget about their troubles for the ten or fifteen minutes they're visiting with her. Petting her gives everyone a calming effect. I watch people's

agitation dissipate. There was one resident who was very frail and unable to talk, but you could tell she was still mentally sharp. She would always smile and try to pet Maggie as best she could. When she got upset or frustrated, I'd hand her Maggie's lead and tell her, "It's okay, we're going to take a walk now." She'd hold on to Maggie's lead and I'd hold on lower down to make sure everything was safe. I'd push her up and down the halls in her rolling bed, and by the time we got back she'd be out of that negative place.

But it's not just the residents that Maggie has a calming effect on, there are so many times when a staff member has come up to me and asked to pet her and said something like, "This has been a really tough day, you don't know how much I needed this right now."

Q: How about benefits for you and Maggie?

A: Maggie has never met a person she hasn't adored. I'm just so proud of her. She can sense how much a person needs...if someone is more sturdy and able to play with her or if someone is more fragile and just needs to sit quietly and pet her. When we get home after a visit, she's tired because all her energy and focus has been on the seniors. It's almost as good as taking her for a run. The residents get so much out of it, but it's a really great thing for Maggie too.

I didn't set out thinking it would be this way, but it has turned into a sort of doggie ministry. We're currently on the waiting list to volunteer at another senior community, Medford Leas, and I bring Maggie with me when I help at an AME church food pantry. I'm Quaker, I'm retired, and I'm blessed with this dog that's just so wonderful with people, so volunteering is the right thing to do. It feels like God's work.

It's Never Too Late

Bristol Glen, Collingswood, Pitman, and The Shores chosen for iN2L iNSIGHT project



is a Denver-based company that provides person-centered content and resident experience tools to over 3,700 senior living communities, nursing homes, and adult day cares across the United States and Canada. iN2L, which stands for "It's Never Too Late", describes their products as "innovative touch screen computer systems designed to create fun and meaningful experiences" for

seniors. The computers link to a wide library of games, activities, music, therapy experiences, and even virtual travel tours to engage residents on a physical, mental, and spiritual level.

Through Civil Money Penalty Grant funding from the state of New Jersey, iN2L launched their iNSIGHT project near the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project has two main goals: first, to reduce social isolation among skilled nursing and healthcare residents by providing them a way to connect with family and friends and enhancing resident/staff interactions, and second, to improve residents' quality of life by decreasing isolation and depression and boosting motivation and engagement.

UMC residents and associates have been fans of iN2L products for a very long time. UMC at Collingswood was excited to participate as a stop on the iN2L 60/20 tour celebrating co-founder Jack York's 60th birthday and the company's 20th anniversary. When our UMC Foundation sat down with community life and Tapestry associates to brainstorm community wish lists (see pages 6-7), staff couldn't stop singing iN2L's praises and were desperate to get new, updated machines. With that in mind, applying to participate in the iNSIGHT project was a no-brainer.

UMC was absolutely thrilled when iN2L announced in October that UMC at Bristol Glen, UMC at Collingswood, UMC at Pitman, and UMC at The Shores had all been selected as partner communities! As project participants, our locations received equipment, content subscriptions, and training valued at **\$219,473 at no cost to UMC for the duration of the three-year grant.**

In exchange, each community will regularly check in with an iN2L customer success manager to discuss progress toward project goals, conduct resident quality of life surveys, and report on other data points such as increased in resident engagement and decreases in social isolation.

Making A List, Checking It Twice

Access, Wellness, and Technology for Residents

Over the past two years, so many UMC family members, friends, and neighbors have come together to lift our residents' spirits and strengthen our mission. Their heartwarming show of support and near-constant refrain of "What do the residents need? What can I do to help?" make us think the time was right to bring back Community Wish Lists!

In addition to our core Foundation funds, the Wish Lists offer a tangible way for donors to get involved and make a difference. We've asked our associates which items and programs they wish they could have to boost resident engagement and wellbeing, but simply couldn't keep in their program budgets.

In September, we put together a list of Bristol Glen, Collingswood, Pitman, and The Shores' top requests and shared them via email to families and Foundation donors who we know have a close connection to a particular community. Right away, interested individuals began to respond. As of mid-December we've received donations earmarked for therapy dolls, robotic pets, specialized utensils, outdoor furniture, and even one very generous gift underwriting the cost of a brand new iN2L device and content subscription for Bristol Glen's Tapestries neighborhood.

This winter, we'd like to share a few of the items that are currently on the wish lists:

iN2Ls

Requested for all communities

Our residents and associates have been fans of iN2L for a very long time! The mobile systems look like TVs on wheels, and offer music, brain games, trivia quizzes, educational programming, spiritual life content, holiday activities, and much more, all specifically tailored for older adults. New systems even offer video chatting, so residents can virtually visit with family and friends.

Unfortunately, many of our iN2L units are so old that they're either wearing out or are no longer compatible with iN2L's current operating system and content library. We were thrilled to be chosen to participate in iN2L's iNSIGHT project and bring new units to our healthcare neighborhoods. (See page 5.)

We're looking for a few grateful families or a very generous individual who may be willing to help us start replacing these valuable tools for our assisted living and Tapestries folks.

Donation needed: \$11,000+ per unit



SingFit Prime

Requested for all communities

SingFit takes activities to the next level by allowing Community Life and Tapestries associates to easily run regular music therapy programming for residents. When conducted on a regular basis, the sessions can ease stress, boost endorphins, and provide an engaging social activity for memory care residents. The subscription comes with a whole catalog of music with different categories for memory and ability level, so assisted living residents can also enjoy more complex material.

Donations toward this item will allow associates to receive training and support on the program, purchase the instruction guides, speakers, music playlists, and have access to the constantly updated content library.

Donation needed: \$2,000 - \$3,000 per community (Includes the annual cost of equipment, training, and monthly access to content library)



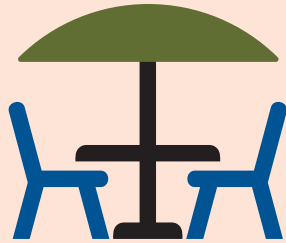
Outdoor Furniture and Courtyard Supplies

Requested for UMC at Bristol Glen

Anyone who's visited Bristol Glen knows how beautiful the community's surroundings are! The Community Life department is wishing for some help procuring new outdoor furniture so residents can fully take advantage of their communal courtyard spaces.

Donations are needed so associates can select sturdy tables and chairs that residents can easily sit down and stand up from, shade coverings so they can safely enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, and some new plants and décor to spruce up the areas.

Donation needed: Donations for multiple courtyard items would be appreciated, ranging from \$100 to \$500.



Outfitted Activities Station/Cart for Tapestries

Requested for UMC at Collingswood

Collingswood's Tapestries team is constantly exploring creative, innovative ways to keep memory care residents healthy and active! Throughout the pandemic, changes to their daily routines have put a damper on some of our seniors' appetites. Ian and his team are planning fun activities in the Tapestries neighborhood, for example a miniature carnival with cotton candy treats, that are social and engaging but also entice residents to eat calorie-rich foods. Supplies and appliances to facilitate group activities would be much appreciated.

Donation needed: Donations for multiple activities items would be appreciated, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000



Smart TVs or Chromecast /Amazon Firestick

Requested for UMC at Pitman

The pandemic has pushed all of UMC's associates and residents to explore all technology has to offer, and the team at Pitman would greatly appreciate assistance upgrading the TVs in resident common areas. Funds for three smart TVs or three Chromecasts or Amazon Firesticks to access streaming services and apps on non-smart TVs would be greatly appreciated.

Donation needed: \$50 (plug-in device) to \$2,000 (65" smart TVs)

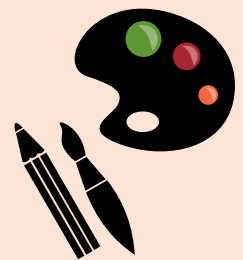


Art Therapy Supplies for Tapestries

Requested for UMC at The Shores

Research shows that painting, drawing, and other artistic mediums can be incredibly therapeutic for people living with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. Art offers individuals with difficulty communicating an alternate way to express themselves, while stimulating their brains and exercising motor skills and coordination. Contributions for creating a dedicated art therapy area would benefit these residents.

Donation needed: \$250 to \$1,000



FOR A FULL LIST, PLEASE VISIT umcommunities.org/foundation/wish-list. Please note that our associates are experts at what they do and have specific products and vendors that they work with on a regular basis. **We are asking for earmarked monetary donations, rather than the physical objects to be dropped off, so our associates can secure the right product that exactly fits our residents' needs.**

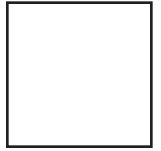
If you would like to contribute towards one of the listed items and make a tangible difference, please contact the UMC Foundation at foundation@umcommunities.org or 732-922-9800 and we'd be happy to share more details!



United Methodist
Communities

Foundation

3311 State Route 33
Neptune, NJ 07753
UMCommunities.org



Motivated
AND Engaged

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.

2021 Tax Statement Reminder

UMC Foundation donors who contributed \$250+ over the 2021 calendar year should have received their Annual Giving Statement for income tax purposes. If you have not received your statement or if you have given less than \$250 but would still like an itemized list of contributions, please contact us at foundation@umcommunities.org or call 732-922-9800 x2121.

Connect Online!



@UMCommunities



@UMCommunities



youtube.com/UnitedMethodistCommunities

Gary Engelstad, *Giving Officer*
engelstad@umcommunities.org

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

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