

Fellowship, Fundraising, and Fond Memories: From Donor to Family Care to Full-Time Resident



If you ask **Ginny Scheetz** about her earliest memories of UMC, she'll first tell you that she recalls participating in fundraisers over 60 years ago when UMC was known as United Methodist Homes. Then, she'll likely share heartfelt stories of supporting the organization alongside her late husband, Carl.

In the 1960s, Ginny and Carl lived in Glassboro, NJ, attending Richwood United Methodist Church and celebrating holidays with their congregation by volunteering at Pitman Manor. Rooted in the area for over 25 years, they became deeply involved in church fundraising, especially the annual Mother's Day and Walk for All Ages events. Raised in families that valued charitable giving, Ginny and Carl instilled the same in their children.

In 1976, Ginny's parents moved to Ocean City, NJ, prompting regular summer treks to the shore for the couple's growing family, during which they attended St. Peter's United Methodist Church. A decade later, Ginny and Carl also retired to Ocean City. The family mourned the loss of Ginny's father soon after the move, and Ginny's mother transitioned to The Homestead, a now-closed UM Community. When The Homestead was retired from service, Ginny moved her mother to The Shores, where she enjoyed apartment living for two years before receiving skilled nursing care.

When Carl's father needed increased healthcare support in 2001, Ginny and Carl trusted The Shores to provide innovative, compassionate care based on their experience with Ginny's mother. They also knew that, eventually, that's where they'd retire.

When asked, *"Why The Shores?"* Ginny reflects, *"We always planned to move here. The activities, the care our parents received, and knowing we wouldn't have to live with our children made it an easy choice. I love my children, but I want my independence!"*

Please scan the QR code or visit UMCFSpringAppeal.org to make an easy, secure online donation. To give by check, please complete both sides of this form and mail with a check made payable to United Methodist Communities Foundation using the enclosed envelope.



Yes, I will join Ginny and celebrate UMCF's 40th Anniversary by making a gift to the Spring Appeal!

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Seeing their loved ones receive excellent care deepened Ginny and Carl’s commitment to UMC. They started attending auxiliary meetings, with Ginny eventually serving as Auxiliary President, and after moving to The Shores, they also became involved with the Resident Council. Ginny helped rewrite the Resident Council bylaws, and Carl later served as Resident Council President for several years. The pair also played a key role in fundraising, including encouraging the Gift Shop to donate proceeds to the Gift of Care Circle, which helps residents needing financial assistance.

Reflecting on her time living at The Shores with Carl before his passing in June 2024, Ginny exudes gratitude. *“I can’t imagine if we were still in a condo when he needed extra care because his Parkinson’s affected his walking. With both of us living here, I could check in on him every morning, still watch football and M.A.S.H., visit with our girls and granddaughters, and have dinner together every night. The care was terrific—there was nothing the staff wouldn’t do for him. It was a gift to have that time with Carl – a few hours a day, just the two of us.”*

Carl’s memory motivates Ginny to continue supporting the Gift of Care Circle. *“It’s special and not something many places offer. I want my donations to make a real difference, and by giving to the UMC Foundation, they do. Residents like Louise, who benefit from Gift of Care, are so grateful, and that’s why I encourage everyone to support the UMC Foundation. It helps our communities thrive and eases the financial burdens of so many residents.”*

As Ginny approaches her 91st birthday, she feels fortunate. *“The team here is incredible, and I take advantage of everything offered. Life changes—instead of running, we walk; instead of driving, someone takes us. But we still make our own choices. Here, I can be independent without relying on or inconveniencing my family. And when you don’t stress, you live longer!”*

In celebration of the UMC Foundation’s 40th year of supporting compassionate care, innovative health technology, and abundant living for New Jersey seniors, please consider joining supporters like Ginny by making a special gift to our 2025 Spring Appeal. Your generosity directly touches the lives of residents and family members, not only at The Shores, but at all nine UMC locations and through every level of care.



To update your contact information, change your communication preferences, or opt out of communications, please call us at 732-731-2121 or email foundation@umcommunities.org. Thank you!

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