



UNITED METHODIST
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release
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SE MI Senior Living Organization Awarded Grant for Staff Caregiver Training

***United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC)
Foundation receives \$275,000 Grant from
the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation***

Chelsea, MI, December 14, 2017 – The UMRC Foundation has been awarded a two-year grant of \$275,000 from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to support caregiver training at UMRC’s Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center (Kresge Center) in Chelsea. This project is part of UMRC’s efforts to implement the Green House® model of person-centered attention for its residents requiring 24-hour skilled care.

“We are thankful for this award from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, which will support best practice training in the Green House® culture change model for our Kresge Center staff,” says UMRC Foundation President Wendy Brightman. “This project will engage and empower our caregivers, resulting in greater care for the older adults we serve, most of whom are low-income.”

Kresge Center Administrator Jena Wisely explains: “Using the Green House® model, the culture of Kresge Center will change from a traditional ‘institutional’ setting to one that feels like home and focuses on the needs and wishes of our residents.”

In the Green House® model, caregivers are trained to be universal workers; instead of specializing in one role, they perform multiple tasks. Dividing care areas into households creates smaller groups of residents, enabling staff to better meet their needs and develop closer relationships, thus improving care for older adults and decreasing caregiver burn-out.

Staff training will coincide with expansion and renovations to the Kresge Center, currently underway on UMRC’s historic Chelsea campus. Part of the UMRC Foundation’s \$26 million ***Growing to Serve*** campaign, this new project will create an atmosphere and physical setting that looks and feels like home, in keeping with the Green House® Model. This includes private

rooms and bathrooms for each resident, as well as welcoming common areas and gathering spaces.

“As our nation is aging, the need to support caregivers has never been more important,” adds Brightman. “The UMRC Foundation is grateful that the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation also shares our goal to honor and elevate the role of the caregiver. This investment in our staff will give them the tools they need to provide the best possible care for our residents and help us provide the outstanding and innovative care and best practices for which our Kresge Center is known.”

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*Building on a foundation of more than 110 years of service, **United Methodist Retirement Communities** is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that promotes the wellness, dignity and independence of older adults, by providing high quality, innovative and compassionate senior residential care services across Southeast Michigan. umrc.com/734.433.1000*

***The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** is a grantmaking organization dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. The two areas reflect Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.’s devotion to his hometown of Detroit and greater Buffalo, home of his Buffalo Bills franchise. Prior to his passing in 2014, Mr. Wilson requested that a significant share of his estate be used to continue a life-long generosity of spirit by funding the Foundation that bears his name. The Foundation has a grantmaking capacity of \$1.2 billion over a 20-year period, which expires January 8, 2035. This structure is consistent with Mr. Wilson’s desire for the Foundation’s impact to be immediate, substantial, measurable and overseen by those who knew him best. rcwjrf.org/313.885.1895*