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# A WORD FROM THE CEO



**Rev. Kenneth Daniel**  
President and CEO

## ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER RING AROUND OUR TREE

This time of year, we are reminded about the passing of time as the leaves change color around us. My favorite season, fall, is a good time to reflect on the year's accomplishments.

At United Church Homes, our newest ring marks a tree that will be 104 years old in 2020. Our growth comes from our dedication to our vision, which is to create those places where the Spirit creates abundant life in community.

This year, we made some major steps forward in advancing our mission. We launched three initiatives to expand our impact on more people's lives — people who are experiencing the Spirit's presence in new ways through United Church Homes.

In April, we launched a joint-venture partnership with Ohio's Hospice to meet the needs of people who will benefit from palliative and end-of-life care. This strategic relationship will bring high-quality, person-directed care to people at an important time in their lives. We've rolled this program out in our four Dayton communities, and over the coming months, we will expand throughout the rest of Ohio.

In November, we celebrated the integration of our newest community, Trinity Community at Miami Township, an independent living residence south of Dayton, into UCH. One of our goals has been to expand our residential communities and services. This latest achievement adds over 100 people to our ministry. We are also hard at work designing a new model for independent residential and supported living that we plan to launch next year.

Much of this growth can be credited to the vision and leadership of Chuck Mooney, our senior vice president of senior living services and chief operating officer. Chuck will retire at the end of the year, concluding over 40 years of service to older adults, seven at United Church Homes. Chuck has been a valued colleague and mentor to many. It is impossible to overstate his impact on our organization. He has achieved a dramatic redesign of our long-term care services and improved quality performance and fiscal sustainability. We dedicate this issue of *Spirit*, with appreciation and admiration, to Chuck. His impact will be felt for many years to come.

United Church Homes continues to grow and strengthen our ministry. The colors of autumn help us give thanks to God, whose Spirit brings new life to all people and to United Church Homes.



**ON THE COVER:**  
The Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging's Contribution to Abundant Aging Award that was presented to keynote speaker Dr. Joseph Coughlin at the 2019 symposium.

# Spirit

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# Yellow Springs Man Joins Parker Center Staff for Encore Career

Del Mar Fellow Funded Through Dayton Foundation



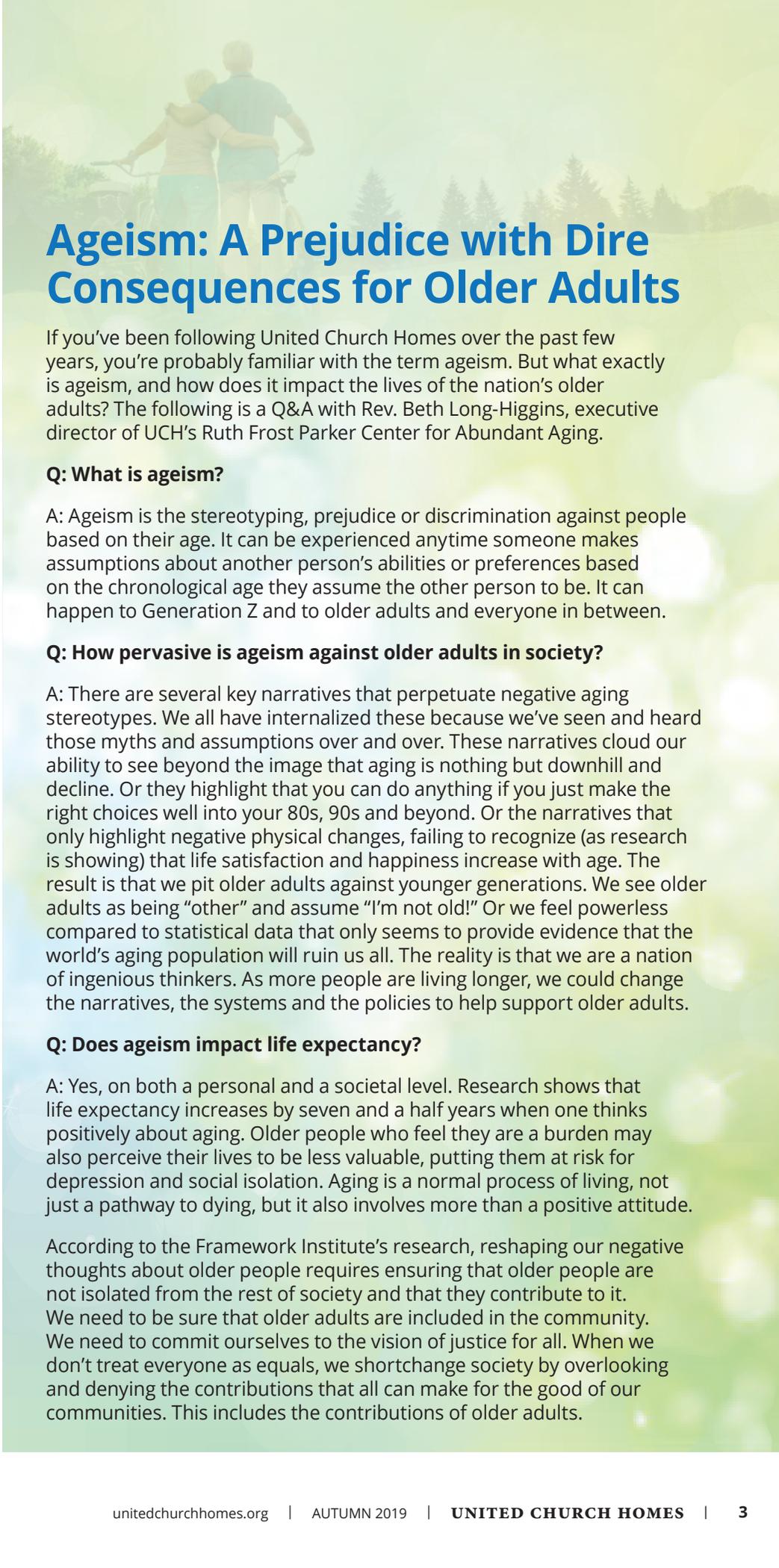
*Eric Johnson of Yellow Springs has joined the staff of United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging.*

A Yellow Springs retiree has joined the staff of United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, thanks to a grant from the Dayton Foundation, with plans to develop a video-based curriculum about ageism. It is the latest way the Parker Center is supporting UCH's mission to transform aging.

The Dayton Foundation selected the Parker Center to participate in the Del Mar Fellows Encore Initiative. The foundation matched nonprofits with highly skilled, older professionals who work on significant community issues. The Parker Center was chosen based on community needs, its ability to create systemic change and opportunities for collaborations. The position was funded for a year with a potential renewal for up to two years.

Eric Johnson, whose first career included developing video-based learning programs for youth and educators, is working with Parker Center Executive Director Rev. Beth Long-Higgins to create the curriculum and videos for small-group education. The goal of the program is to reframe participants' perceptions of aging and challenge the prevalence of ageism in American culture.

How people define retirement is changing. Most people expect to work in the second half of their lives, and many Americans are seeking encore careers to help them continue to express purpose and stay engaged. According to the Age Wave study by



## Ageism: A Prejudice with Dire Consequences for Older Adults

If you've been following United Church Homes over the past few years, you're probably familiar with the term ageism. But what exactly is ageism, and how does it impact the lives of the nation's older adults? The following is a Q&A with Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of UCH's Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging.

### **Q: What is ageism?**

A: Ageism is the stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination against people based on their age. It can be experienced anytime someone makes assumptions about another person's abilities or preferences based on the chronological age they assume the other person to be. It can happen to Generation Z and to older adults and everyone in between.

### **Q: How pervasive is ageism against older adults in society?**

A: There are several key narratives that perpetuate negative aging stereotypes. We all have internalized these because we've seen and heard those myths and assumptions over and over. These narratives cloud our ability to see beyond the image that aging is nothing but downhill and decline. Or they highlight that you can do anything if you just make the right choices well into your 80s, 90s and beyond. Or the narratives that only highlight negative physical changes, failing to recognize (as research is showing) that life satisfaction and happiness increase with age. The result is that we pit older adults against younger generations. We see older adults as being "other" and assume "I'm not old!" Or we feel powerless compared to statistical data that only seems to provide evidence that the world's aging population will ruin us all. The reality is that we are a nation of ingenious thinkers. As more people are living longer, we could change the narratives, the systems and the policies to help support older adults.

### **Q: Does ageism impact life expectancy?**

A: Yes, on both a personal and a societal level. Research shows that life expectancy increases by seven and a half years when one thinks positively about aging. Older people who feel they are a burden may also perceive their lives to be less valuable, putting them at risk for depression and social isolation. Aging is a normal process of living, not just a pathway to dying, but it also involves more than a positive attitude.

According to the Framework Institute's research, reshaping our negative thoughts about older people requires ensuring that older people are not isolated from the rest of society and that they contribute to it. We need to be sure that older adults are included in the community. We need to commit ourselves to the vision of justice for all. When we don't treat everyone as equals, we shortchange society by overlooking and denying the contributions that all can make for the good of our communities. This includes the contributions of older adults.

Merrill Lynch, roughly 72 percent of Americans under age 50 say they want to keep working after they retire.

Eric describes himself as semiretired. He still creates teacher education kits with Bloomington, Indiana-based Solution Tree and runs an Airbnb at his residence. "I'm working at home, at my own pace, but I'm very excited to have an encore fellow job," Eric said. "Beth has given me many book recommendations, and I've already learned so much about the field of aging services."

The Center for Abundant Aging provides a forum for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration through advocacy, education, engagement and outreach. Each year, the center hosts a symposium (see related story, pages 10-11) and, in 2018, was awarded the Aging Services Impact Award by LeadingAge Ohio.

This year, the Parker Center received the Outstanding Area Agency on Aging/Provider Partnership Award for its work with the Planning and Service Area 2 Area Agency on Aging, Rainbow Elder Care of Greater Dayton and the Public Health Department of Dayton & Montgomery County to plan the first LGBT Horizons of Aging Summit in Dayton.

The encore fellow position has already created new opportunities for UCH. Eric attended a class on creating podcasts and is excited to move in that direction.





*"I used to be really shy. As soon as I came here, I changed," Anisha said.*

"Anisha was mature as an 11-year-old, and even I was surprised by the way she came out of her shell to communicate with the residents," her mother, Charu, added. "Volunteering at Parkvue has been a true blessing for her. It has helped her grow in so many ways."

In her second summer of volunteering, Anisha, who loves to draw and paint, became a one-on-one volunteer for Opening Minds through Art. OMA is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with Alzheimer's and related conditions. It is a failure-free program designed to provide opportunities for creative self-expression and social engagement for those with dementia.

The program is an excellent way to build a relationship with a resident living in UCH's memory care neighborhoods.

Anisha said she saw a remarkable change in the demeanor of the resident whom she was paired with. "At first, he didn't want to come down (to the life enrichment center)," Anisha said. "On some days, he was really grumpy. But he would always leave each OMA session smiling."

Following that experience, Anisha chose Alzheimer's as the topic of her eighth-grade science fair project. She researched the condition and said her experience with OMA made it more personal. Separately, Anisha, who reported 120 hours of community service in just one year, received the national President's Volunteer Service Award.

In addition to volunteering at Parkvue, Anisha serves on her high school's bloodmobile committee and student council. She also participates in band, orchestra, the Great Lakes Visual and Performing Arts Academy, Model United Nations, tennis and competitive dance.

No wonder everyone's smiling!



## Youth Experiences Aging Services Through Volunteerism

Anisha Chopra walks into Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio. She strolls confidently toward Frosty's Life Enrichment Center. There, she waves at some of the residents, giving them a sweet smile. It's another day of volunteering.

Anisha is getting her first taste of the aging services profession through her volunteer work. "I love seeing how happy the residents are when they see me," Anisha said. "They know that I'm there for them. It puts a smile on their faces, and that feels really good."

Anisha, a freshman at Sandusky High School, started volunteering at Parkvue at the end of sixth grade. She spent that summer visiting residents and helping with life-enrichment programming. At the time, Anisha was very much an introvert.

You'd never know that if you met Anisha today.



# UCH Board Welcomes New Member



For J.B. Boothe, volunteering for the United Church Homes Board of Directors felt predestined.

J.B.'s experience complements the 17-member UCH Board. Board member Karl Ulrich introduced J.B. to UCH after they met at Nexus United Church of Christ.

"I have worked with older adults most of my career," J.B. said. "I'm familiar with the financial and age-related challenges they face."

Her first Board meeting was the annual retreat. "I absolutely loved the culture. I felt like it was the culture that I wished I had been part of my entire career," she said. "I believe so strongly in helping those in need, as well as the all-inclusive nature of the organization to serve all, regardless of their walk of life. It's just an open and accepting culture."

J.B. believes she was meant to serve on the Board.

"I don't believe in coincidences. Things happen the way they're supposed to," she said. "Right about the time Karl had contacted me about the Board, I had been thinking that I was in a position to give back. As CEO of a nonprofit, I work with a board, so I know how vital it is for organizations to have a solid board and a great team."

J.B. earned her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy with a minor in psychology from Eastern Kentucky University. She also holds an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. J.B. and her wife, Lyn, have a 16-year-old son and live in West Chester, Ohio.

About four years ago, J.B. began serving as CEO of the Hearing Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati. This nonprofit provides Deaf advocacy, American Sign Language interpretation, job development and programming for the D/deaf and hard of hearing. It also offers speech-language pathology and audiology services for children and adults and occupational therapy services for children. (Deaf with a lowercase "d" refers to the condition of partially or complete lacking in the sense of hearing to the extent that one cannot understand speech for everyday communication purposes. Deaf with a capital "D" refers to embracing the culture norms, beliefs and values of the Deaf community.)





## UCH EXPANDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, Offers New Opportunity Through Foundation



United Church Homes once again offered the UCH nurse/healthcare scholarships in 2019 and also partnered with a community foundation for a new scholarship.

Twelve individuals received the UCH nurse/healthcare scholarship in the amount of \$1,350 each. Recipients and their communities were Dakota Bring and Nicole Decker, Parkvue Community; Jacinta Brodman (daughter of Ann Brodman), Collin Fredritz (son of Darlene Fredritz), Serenety Hooper, Sadie Moss and Maria Shane, from Fairhaven Community; Brittany Burbage, Chapel Hill Community; Charmain Edwards, Trinity Community at Fairborn (formerly Patriot Ridge); Tiffany Sprouse, Harmar Place; and Rachel Clark and Caleb Reed (son of Julie Reed), central office.

The scholarship is offered through the Ruth F. Parker Endowed Scholarship Fund, which supports the continuing education of UCH employees and

eligible family members. The fund helps UCH improve its ability to attract and retain competent, dedicated people. By offering the scholarship program, UCH provides a work environment of empowerment in which all employees are encouraged to grow and expand their abilities to achieve their full potential through education. It also secures the future by developing potential leaders from within UCH's ranks while meeting the growing need for individuals trained in nursing.

As the cost of higher education continues to increase, the financial challenges associated with accessing those educational opportunities does also. Through these scholarships, UCH staff and their dependents set educational goals, achieve more and fulfill their academic dreams.

For the first time, UCH partnered with the Marion County Community Foundation for a \$1,000 scholarship for a student from Marion County

or Wyandot County who is pursuing a degree in a healthcare-related field. Olivia Markley, a 2018 graduate of Pleasant High School, was the first recipient. Olivia is a junior at Bowling Green State University, where she is majoring in social work.

Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes, said the organization wants to support young people who are considering careers working with older adults.

"This scholarship recognizes students of promise whose academic and personal achievements are most needed in healthcare fields, such as senior living," Rev. Daniel said. "United Church Homes works with a number of undergraduate and graduate schools to provide internships, field education practicums and summer jobs, so we can expose as many young people as possible to careers serving older adults. We call these 'careers that love you back.'"





Rosie was sworn in June 28 as a member of the local chamber of commerce by Covington Mayor Justin Hansen. She is proud to represent her community through this prestigious opportunity. Rosie brings awareness to the greater community about why Fox Hollow, with 39 residents, and Glendale Commons, with 44 residents, are so vital for low-income older adults in the area.

Rosie also plans to use the opportunity to further promote UCH's mission. "I live our mission and core values on a daily basis," she said passionately.

After being named to the chamber, the Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association recognized Rosie with the 2019 Outstanding Volunteer Award. SAHMA is a membership organization of owners and managers of affordable, multifamily housing in the Southeast and a partner of the National Affordable Housing Management Association. SAHMA and its members, including UCH, champion the preservation of the nation's stock of affordable housing.

Rosie serves as the Tennessee Trade Show coordinator extraordinaire, organizing vendors for the one-day event during the week-long SAHMA annual meeting and setting up the stage to match the theme each year.

"We thank Rosie for all her efforts to make sure the trade show vendors are welcomed and thanked for their participation," SAHMA said in a written statement. "She always spearheads a great group of volunteers to help decorate, and truly make, the SAHMA Tennessee Trade Show a spectacular event."

Rosie has now received three SAHMA awards — Volunteer of the Year twice and Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

Rosie has been a true servant leader over more than two decades of service at United Church Homes. Fox Hollow Community is nationally recognized by SAHMA as a Community of Quality. It's a distinguished award that recognizes the superior services provided to residents.

"I'd like to congratulate Rosie on being selected for the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce and receiving SAHMA's volunteer award," UCH Vice President of Housing Services Cheryl Wickersham said. "We are happy to share her talents with the chamber and know that she will perform her responsibilities with the same enthusiasm and commitment she has given Fox Hollow and Glendale Commons for the past 25 years."



## Tennessee Housing Manager's Career Reaches New Heights

Rosie Hughey, a 25-year United Church Homes staff member, is having a sensational year. The manager of Glendale Commons and Fox Hollow Community in Covington, Tennessee, Rosie was named to the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce in June and won a regional association award in September.



# 2019 Donor Appreciation



Fairhaven Community: Point Place UCC (Toledo), Diakonie Award; Jim Frank, Spirit Award; and Dr. D.P. Smith, Ben M. Herbster Award

Housing Services: Disciples United in the Quad Cities, Spirit Award

United Church Homes: Robert C. Kutschbach, Rev. Dr. Diller Legacy Leadership Award; and Cathy Maurer Green, Ben M. Herbster Award

Glenwood Community: Sharon Sutton, Spirit Award; Roger and Sally Roberts, Ben M. Herbster Award

Harmar Place: Stephen Carr, Spirit Award; and the late Phyllis Buckley Ayers, Ben M. Herbster Award

Parkvue Community: Sharon Lichtscien, Spirit Award

Pilgrim Manor: First Park UCC, Diakonie Award; Stephen Vickery, Spirit Award; and Loyd E. Winer, Ben M. Herbster Award





# Dinner Honorees



## Former Board Member Recognized with Legacy Leader Award

A former United Church Homes Board member received a standing ovation when he was recognized with the Rev. Dr. Diller Legacy Leadership Award for outstanding leadership at the Housing Services Donor Appreciation Dinner.

Robert C. Kutschbach served on the Board of Directors during the 2007 recession and helped guide the organization through a difficult financial period. He became chair of the Board in 2012 and helped shape UCH into the dynamic organization it is today.

"There is no doubt in my mind that serving on the Board is the greatest thing I've ever done," Bob said. "Miracle after miracle happened on that Board, and United Church Homes survived."

UCH President and CEO Rev. Kenneth Daniel said Bob approached him shortly after he joined the organization in 2012, saying it was time for UCH to become Open and Affirming, a designation within the United Church of Christ that encourages the inclusion of members of the LGBT community. The statement came from the Board's theological understanding of caring for the whole person, but the Board also saw this as a justice issue.

LGBT people are often not afforded the same rights to equal treatment to access healthcare, housing and employment. UCH is intentional in its actions to combat this and other forms of discrimination. UCH was the first organization in the UCC's Council for Health and Human Service Ministries to become Opening and Affirming, thanks in part to Bob's leadership.

# The Promise of Technology

## FOR AGING ABUNDANTLY

On Oct. 11, 2019, academics and healthcare professionals joined United Church Homes leadership, staff and friends to participate in the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging Fourth Annual Symposium: The Promise of Technology for Aging Abundantly. Set in the beautiful Renaissance Westerville-Polaris Hotel in central Ohio, the conference offered attendees a day filled with learning and fellowship, featuring a top-notch keynote speaker, quick-fire presentations, technology demonstrations and moderated panel discussions.

The day began with keynote Dr. Joseph Coughlin, founder and director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab, who spoke on "Inventing Life Tomorrow in Today's Longevity Economy." In his lively presentation, he engaged the crowd with such compelling statistics as, "By 2020, the 60+ population will control 30 percent of global spend" and "Only 35 percent of people age 75 report that they 'felt old' (but) 100 percent of people know personal emergency response pendants are for old people."

One attendee noted that Coughlin's discussion of the importance of design was eye-opening, noting that "no one wants to use stuff that looks like it's for 'old' people."

Next up, facilitator Dr. Cynthia Dougherty, director at the Office of Geriatrics and Interprofessional Aging Studies at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, introduced three timed Ignite presentations. Limited to five minutes each, Ignite presentations consist of 20 presentation slides that advance automatically, every 15 seconds — challenging, to say the least.



The first session highlighted Nesterly, a home-sharing concept where older adults open their homes to students and young professionals, offering not only a safe place to rent but also an opportunity for friendship and life enrichment across generations. Age Friendly Columbus' Frances Krumholz shared Nesterly with conferees, with Columbus serving as the pilot community for Nesterly's Ohio presence.



Following Nesterly, Linda Mauger and Kathryn Brod, from LeadingAge, explained the Optimized Care Network, a revolutionary telehealth service that connects individuals to world-class healthcare teams, no matter their location. OCN promises lower healthcare costs and greater accessibility.

In the third Ignite presentation,  CaringWire Michael Sentz enlightened the room with his network CaringWire. After watching how his mother struggled while caring for her aging parents, Michael realized the lack of support for adults with parents nearing the end of life. CaringWire serves as a resource for people going through this difficult time, using technology to offer information and support for caregivers. CaringWire's mission is to reduce caregiver burden and increase the quality of life.

During lunch, Rev. Kenneth Daniel, United Church Homes president and CEO, presented Dr. Coughlin with the Parker Center's Contribution to Abundant Aging Award. Both surprised and humbled, Dr. Coughlin addressed Rev. Daniel and the room with heartfelt words of appreciation.



Following lunch, Parker Center Executive Director Rev. Beth Long-Higgins facilitated the research and development demonstrations, with research from OSU and Vanderbilt University. Dr. Lorraine Mion, from the OSU College of Nursing, shared her team’s work on socially assistive robots. Her presentation included videos that showed the robots interacting with people, which included pairing robots with older adults living with dementia or cognitive impairment. The robots have been engineered to interact and engage individuals facing these and other social challenges. After Dr. Mion spoke, Vita Berezina-Blackburn and her team from OSU’s Advanced Computer Center for the Arts and Design presented “Building Empathy in Dementia Care With Virtual Reality Simulation for Practitioners.” Their research included using virtual reality to demonstrate what it’s like to have dementia.

In the final session of the day, Rev. Daniel took the stage again to moderate a conversation with Dr. Majd Alwan, senior vice president of technology and executive director at LeadingAge’s Center for Aging Services and Technology, and Scott Collins, president and CEO,

LinkAge Connect. The presentation, “Building the Future: Technology. Ethics. Security. Accessibility.,” featured a thoughtful discussion.

Several overarching messages emerged throughout the day. Technology only will increase in its applicability to improve the quality of life for older adults. And as Boomers enter into these last 8,000 days of life, they already are bringing experience and interest in using technology, increasing the demand and opportunity for the intersection of technology and aging. We are aging in an interesting era in which the opportunities for us to use technology only will increase as together our imaginations create new tech solutions for us to age abundantly.

Next year, the Parker Center will host its fifth symposium — Aging Abundantly: Power in Community on Friday, Oct. 9.



# UCH Executive Leader Retires After 40 Years

**C**huck Mooney, senior vice president of senior living services and chief operating officer, will retire from United Church Homes in December after seven years of service to UCH and a fulfilling career in nonprofit senior living and healthcare management that spans four decades.

*Chuck has been an integral part of UCH's journey to transform aging and has made outstanding contributions in the field of senior living services.*

Arguably, Chuck's biggest impact at UCH has been in the areas of growth and quality. UCH has added four communities since 2015 — Glenwood Community and Harmar Place in Marietta, Ohio; Pilgrim Manor in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Trinity Community at Miami Township in greater Dayton, Ohio. A new regional brand, Trinity Communities of Greater Dayton, debuted in August. UCH also manages SEM Haven in Milford, Ohio; Friendship Village Columbus in Ohio's capital; and Uplands Village in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. Since 2014, UCH has increased the total number of residents served by 40 percent, from 900 to 1,492.

Also during Chuck's tenure, UCH completed many capital projects, including a \$10 million renovation at Friendship Village Columbus and a \$7.2 million renovation at Fairhaven Community. During this time, UCH also expanded its independent living services by adding 52 village homes or cottages at Kroft Commons at Chapel Hill, the Cove at Parkvue and Trinity Community at Beaver Creek.

With Chuck's guidance, UCH leadership developed campus master plans for Parkvue, Trinity and Chapel Hill. For instance, Parkvue now has all private suites in its short-term rehab neighborhood, a renovated therapy center and a new Aquatic Center. Parkvue's Follett Court memory care neighborhood is now a state-of-the-art home for people living with Alzheimer's and dementia-related conditions.

Chuck's leadership has centered around mentorship and support, Chapel Hill Executive Director Debbie Durbin said.

"Chuck has demonstrated confidence in me by allowing autonomy in my leadership at Chapel Hill, while providing support, sprinkled with compassion and sage advice," she said. "I will miss Chuck as my mentor, but with his retirement, I am proud to consider him my friend."

David Zack, corporate director of operations, has worked with Chuck in a variety of positions spanning seven years. He said Chuck is skilled at communicating in an articulate and empathetic manner.

"Chuck is not one who relishes being in the spotlight — he is quick to shine the light on others who excel at their work," David said. "He is compassionate, especially toward those who are most in need. He is passionate about his profession, and he continuously seeks ways to improve the senior living industry and the care provided to older adults."

Chuck spearheaded a joint venture for UCH with Ohio's Hospice,

**Chuck Mooney (left), senior vice president of senior living services and chief operating officer, with Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes**



# in Healthcare Management and Senior Living



which launched in 2019 as Ohio's Hospice at United Church Homes. UCH residents needing hospice and palliative care can receive services while remaining in the comfort of their community. The team is committed to increase access and service offerings to reduce suffering, pain, helplessness and unwanted waiting for people in need of hospice, palliative care and chronic disease management services.

"This partnership will improve the well-being of older adults who choose hospice and palliative care when they are seriously ill or approaching end of life," Chuck said. "It's more compassionate to keep residents in a comfortable setting, with care teams they know, and provide additional services as needs change."

Quality has been a strategic priority for UCH during Chuck's tenure. UCH uses the American Health Care Association's national quality awards program as a framework for its quality management program, and all UCH senior living communities have achieved the Bronze Award or better in the AHCA program.

Under Chuck's leadership, UCH senior living communities have added specialized memory care programs, such as Comfort Matters®, Music & Memory and Opening Minds through Art, that aim to help residents living with memory impairment to engage more fully in life. Additionally, UCH communities have added new technology, such as It's Never 2 Late (iN2L), a state-of-the-art system using touch-screen

technology and picture-based software, and Eversound, a group-oriented headphone solution that enables residents with profound hearing loss to be more engaged in life-enrichment programming.

Through all the changes and advancements, support from other staff members has been critical to the success of these major projects. Chuck said he can't take credit for all UCH has accomplished.

"Many people are doing really good work, and should get recognition," he said. "I've been blessed with great working relationships. The aspirational quality of our mission statement — to transform aging — is inspiring and makes you want to get up in the morning and contribute to the mission."

Chuck also has made significant contributions to the senior living profession. He serves on the Kent State University Nursing Home Administrator Advisory Committee and served on a LeadingAge Ohio workgroup to determine the feasibility of members developing an insurance company to offer Medicare Advantage plans to consumers.

Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes, said it has been the privilege of his career to work with Chuck.

"At this point, United Church Homes is a better, stronger, more forward-looking organization because Chuck has been a part of our leadership team," Rev. Daniel said.





# TRINITY COMMUNITIES OF GREATER DAYTON

Fairborn • Beavercreek • Fairwood • Miami Township

## Offering Full Range of Residential Living and Healthcare Options

In August, United Church Homes unveiled Trinity Communities of Greater Dayton, announcing its four senior living communities in the Miami Valley will operate under the Trinity name as it works to evolve services for tomorrow's older adults. Together, the four communities offer a full range of senior living and healthcare options for adults 55 and older.

UCH also renamed Patriot Ridge Community as Trinity Community at Fairborn, which rededicated its café as the Café at Patriot Ridge to honor its longstanding veteran relationships. Trinity at Fairborn has the same dedicated staff but now joins sister communities Trinity Community at Beavercreek, Trinity Community at Fairwood, located in Beavercreek, and Trinity Community at Miami Township in providing services to the region.

UCH has served older adults in greater Dayton for over 45 years at Trinity at Beavercreek, at the former Patriot Ridge since 2001, at Trinity Community at Fairwood since 2016 and at Trinity Community at Miami Township since May of this year.

Trinity at Beavercreek is in the final construction phase for 30 two-bedroom independent living cottages. It also offers independent and assisted living apartments, short-term rehab, memory care and long-term skilled care. Trinity Community at Fairborn provides assisted living, short-term rehab and long-term skilled care along with memory care.

The other two communities serve independent living residents.

Senior living options are evolving rapidly to meet older adults' changing needs. Many people are remaining at home longer, and those who do opt for a retirement community are usually seeking an easier lifestyle and the fellowship of others.

Making a move is a big decision, and people generally don't want to move more than once.

"Our Dayton communities offer flexible living options and levels of care combined with an enriching community life," said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO. "We aim to meet people wherever they are on life's journey, and that requires expanding our menu of services for a growing population of older adults who want more choices."

Laura Farrell, senior executive director of senior living services, is excited about the changes.

"We understand that every person has unique needs, and that means our approach to serving them is highly personalized," she said. "We're able to coordinate care needs across our four communities, which gives residents and families options and peace of mind."

Combining all four Trinity communities under one banner is expected to lead to additional collaborations that will benefit older adults in the Miami Valley.



Residents of Trinity Community at Fairborn pose for a photo with their new sign after the community name changed from Patriot Ridge Community.



Our newest community, Trinity at Miami Township, offers a beautiful view of the pond from a boardwalk, deck and gazebo.



Dr. Venkatesh was board certified in internal medicine in 2009. She has a private practice in Xenia as part of the Kettering Primary Network, previously served as medical director of Greene Oaks Retirement Community in Xenia and offered comprehensive geriatric care at Widow's Home and Sycamore Glen Rehab in Mason.

The new medical director said she wants to improve care for older adults in the Miami Valley.

**“As Baby Boomers age, their care needs to be more focused,” Dr. Venkatesh said. “My parents (who live in India) are 90 and 86, and I hardly get to see them. Once every three years, I visit them in India. So, I feel better doing something for older people. I enjoy getting to know my patients well and improving the continuity of care.”**

Dr. Venkatesh's goals include standardizing care in the communities, training nurses toward more complete resident care and introducing geriatric treatments to those nurses, who Dr. Venkatesh said are extremely talented and passionate about their roles.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Venkatesh to the Trinity family,” said Laura Farrell, senior executive director of senior living services. “Her expertise and experience will be great additions to our care teams.”



## Trinity Communities Welcome New Medical Director



**A**mid the launch of Trinity Communities of Greater Dayton, two United Church Homes locations that offer long-term and skilled nursing care welcomed a new medical director, Dr. Latha Venkatesh.

Dr. Venkatesh has joined the teams at Trinity Community at Beavercreek and Trinity Community at Fairborn (formerly Patriot Ridge). Hailing from India, she has lived in the Dayton area for 24 years and has been providing care in long-term care communities for over a decade.

Medical directors work with the administrator, nursing director and other health professionals to develop formal resident-care policies. These policies provide for the total medical and psycho-social needs of residents, promote residents' rights and assure medical care is available to residents, among other duties.



Joining seven other United Church Homes-owned and managed senior living communities in their commitment to improve the quality of life and quality of care for older adults, three more UCH communities have been recognized by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living with quality awards.

The Pines Assisted Living at Glenwood Community in Marietta, Ohio, received the Bronze Award from the AHCA/NCAL for the first time, while Trinity Community at Beavercreek near Dayton, Ohio, and Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio, were recertified after first receiving the award in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

The annual award is the first of three distinctions possible through the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program, which honors long-term and post-acute care providers that have demonstrated their commitment to improving the quality of care for older adults and people with disabilities. Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the award program has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Providers begin the quality-improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with fundamental performance elements such as vision and mission statements and key strengths and challenges.

Parkvue Executive Director Dan Miller credited administrator-in-training Heather Eckert for playing an instrumental role in the community receiving the award this year. As an AIT, Heather got hands-on experience in the quality program while observing a cornerstone element of the awards program — person-directed care.

“That’s one area where Parkvue excels,” Heather said. “Person-directed care comes in many forms. Parkvue offers Music & Memory and Opening Minds through Art, as well as other programs to help residents with memory impairment. I was privileged to watch some of these programs in action, and I have



GLENWOOD  
COMMUNITY



TRINITY  
COMMUNITY  
AT BEAVERCREEK



PARKVUE  
COMMUNITY



***“AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award ... honors long-term and post-acute care providers that have demonstrated their commitment to improving the quality of care for older adults and people with disabilities.”***

witnessed the effect that person-directed care has on residents.”

Adults make hundreds of choices every day, and maintaining control over personal decisions remains important, especially as people age. Person-directed care honors each person’s independence through an ongoing dialogue between residents and caregivers where the older adult exercises autonomy over choices affecting their life.

Decisions over schedules, such as when to wake, eat, bathe or go to bed, are based on personal preference instead of staff convenience. The goal of person-directed care is to promote dignity, respect, self-determination, choice and purposeful living.

One way UCH implements person-directed care is through individualized care plans developed for each resident. Care teams, residents and families work together to meet the needs and goals appropriate for each resident. Person-directed care helps staff connect with each resident as a unique individual. Staff learns about each resident’s lifestyle, history and preferences, finds new ways to communicate, even nonverbally, and identifies ways to anticipate resident needs.

At Parkvue, OMA is just one of several specialized memory care programs. Heather said she observed a resident, who had been mostly withdrawn, sad and tearful, start to experience abundant life through the evidence-based art program.

“The day I was observing the class, (the resident) had created a painting. I will never forget the look on her face, the light in her eyes and the giggle of laughter the result of her painting brought her,” Heather said. “It was a glimpse of the woman she had been. Some would say that was just a moment, but to her, that was an important moment — a moment when things made sense and she felt good. That is what quality measures are all about.”

Another program that promotes person-directed care is Comfort Matters®, a memory care, dementia education and palliative-care program dedicated to improving the quality of care and quality of life for those living with dementia. It was developed by the Beatitudes Campus, which, like United Church Homes, is a member of the United Church of Christ’s Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

UCH is implementing the evidence-based program throughout its senior living communities.

“This program is empowering our teams to better know the person and anticipate their needs,” said Amy Kotterman, director of hospitality at United Church Homes.

Other UCH communities and the level of their awards include Chapel Hill Community, Canal Fulton, Ohio, Silver; Fairhaven Community, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Silver; Four Winds Community, Jackson, Ohio, Silver; Harmar Place, Marietta, Ohio, Silver; Pilgrim Manor, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bronze; SEM Haven (managed), Milford, Ohio, Silver; and Trinity Community at Fairborn (formerly Patriot Ridge), Fairborn, Ohio, Silver.

UCH President and CEO Rev. Kenneth Daniel commended the three communities for achieving the first step on their quality journeys.

“United Church Homes is fully engaged with embedding the culture of quality in all our communities,” Rev. Daniel said. “Glenwood, Parkvue and Trinity have long been recognized as quality providers. The Bronze Award from AHCA demonstrates their ongoing commitment to the excellence that this award recognizes.”



# UCH Celebrates New Funding Source for Affordable Housing Capital Projects

United Church Homes is planning for capital improvements to several affordable housing communities. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in September gave organizations instructions for accessing new resources for renovations to project rental assistance contract (PRAC) properties.





The guidance expands Rental Assistance Demonstration to preserve PRACs, referred to as RAD for PRAC. RAD is a voluntary HUD program that seeks to preserve public housing by providing agencies with access to more stable funding to make needed improvements to properties. HUD's guidance follows the March 2018 victory by LeadingAge and other affordable housing advocacy groups when Congress passed the fiscal 2018 omnibus spending bill, which provided HUD the authority to include certain PRAC properties in the evolving RAD program. The move gave PRAC-subsidized Section 202 property owners new options to pay for capital improvements — from new roofs to HVAC systems to window upgrades or fresh paint in community rooms — previously unavailable to them.

As a result of the guidance, owners of more than 125,000 202/PRAC homes can decide whether to leverage financing for preservation and position themselves for sustainable futures. RAD was authorized by Congress in 2011 to allow for the conversion of primarily public housing to the Section 8 platform. RAD has allowed public housing agencies to leverage billions of dollars in financing to preserve these homes. After years of advocacy by LeadingAge and other stakeholders, Congress expanded the RAD program in March 2018 to include 202/PRACs.

Properties may have their PRAC rents adjusted from \$15-\$27 per month if needed to provide effective supportive services for older adults.

Throughout the U.S., more than 130,000 older adults live in Section 202 housing built using HUD's PRAC subsidies, which became available in

1990. As of 2017, there are 125,141 PRAC-subsidized apartments in use, according to HUD. United Church Homes Housing Services assists about 3,600 residents in 13 states and two Native American nations, making it one of the nation's largest providers of affordable housing for low-income older adults.

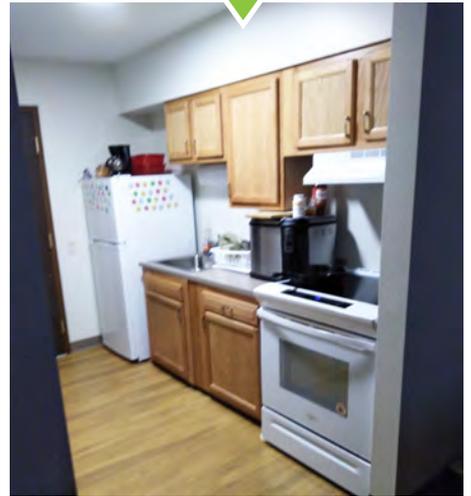
Eleven of UCH's affordable housing communities are 30 years or older, and 14 are 25-29, with close to half of those being PRACs. Twenty-two communities — all PRACs — were built 20-24 years ago.

Friedenheim Community in Burlington, Iowa, was UCH's first PRAC. It opened April 1, 1993.

"We are excited about the RAD for PRAC opportunity," said Cheryl Wickersham, vice president of housing services at United Church Homes. "Replacement reserve balances have not kept pace with the aging buildings and equipment. RAD for PRAC will permit us to obtain financing for much-needed repairs. It is extremely important that the PRAC communities are adequately funded and preserved as the average resident in our PRAC communities pays just \$200 per month for rent and utilities."

Cheryl served on a workgroup for the national LeadingAge organization, which has over 6,000 nonprofit members and partners representing the entire field of aging services. The workgroup's goals included preserving service coordinator funding.

"With such a high need for affordable housing, it is critical that we preserve existing affordable housing as we also work to expand its supply," LeadingAge's Linda Couch said in an



article for Affordable Housing Finance. "That's particularly true for ... HUD's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly homes, a program that serves older adults with average incomes of \$13,300 annually. In fact, in some cases, such as homes built as part of the Section 202 program with Program Rental Assistance Contracts (PRAC), preservation has become a near form of art."

Linda said HUD's announcement of RAD for PRAC funding is proof of the power and need for advocacy. "Demand for high-quality affordable homes for older adults is surging," she said. "Preserving what we have is paramount. This will be a significant help to LeadingAge members and providers. We will continue to work with members to ensure they are well equipped to make the most of HUD's directives."





# UCH MISSION

## Comes to Life for Central Office Staff

**S**taff members from United Church Homes' central office in Marion, Ohio, were reenergized and inspired this spring through fall, when they experienced the organization's mission firsthand with trips to seven affordable housing and senior living communities in Ohio.

The idea for the mission projects originated with the central office supervisor's group, made up of a member from many departments — Erin Foos, Carol Gordon, Michelle Tillman, Julie Reed, Bob Ross, Jennifer Ramey and Chris Keller. In 2015 and 2016, central office staff members toured Ohio's UCH communities, engaging with community staff, which opened their eyes to the daily operations of the communities. In 2017 and 2018, the special project for central office staff was training on change management at The Ohio State University at Marion's Alber Enterprise Center. This year, the supervisor's group recommended returning to the mission projects.

"For me, being there at the community — even for a short amount of time — is priceless," said Erin, central office manager and executive assistant to President and CEO Rev. Kenneth Daniel.

"You know you're part of this big, grand picture," added Carol, central office project research and database manager.

Erin said those working in the central office sometimes can feel isolated from the communities and the organization's mission. She quoted Director of Social Services Bill Farrar of Trinity Community at Fairborn (formerly Patriot Ridge): "We're the people who serve the people who serve the people."

"A lot of staff members don't get to see the mission in action every day," Erin said. "We hear stories, but if you're doing invoices or working on payroll or providing support to the communities in another way, you don't get to see why we're here — for the residents."



The mission project kicked off during National Skilled Nursing Care Week in May, when staff assisted Fairhaven Community (Upper Sandusky) residents and their families to an outdoor picnic, served food and drinks and cleaned up.

“The best part of the day was watching the residents enjoy the food and music — experiencing abundant life,” said Alissa Clouse, director of major gifts and grants. “It was clear that they were immersed in the experience. A resident I was assisting taught me about patience. That was incredibly helpful, as we always seem to be in a hurry and forget to just be. I appreciate getting to walk a mile in the shoes of a Fairhaven employee.”

Central Office Employment and Safety Services Assistant Megan James observed how engaged residents were with Howard Cole’s live music. Howard is a former Music & Memory intern who continues to work with

United Church Homes to assist senior living communities in managing their Music & Memory programs.

“It really brought it home for me with the Music & Memory program — how that really reaches a deep part of their souls and brings out their personalities,” Megan said.

Megan also was excited that staff has embraced the culture-change language at the community level. “I love that they asked us to take residents ‘home’ to their ‘neighborhood.’ It really helps break the negative connotation of living in a long-term care community.”

Other central office staff served a cookout and played games with residents at Mill Run Place (Ashland) and Brownstone Terrace (Marion). Still others presented a Lunch and Learn to Trinity Community at Fairborn staff on emotional intelligence. They also completed landscape projects at St.

Michael’s Community (Delaware) and Shawnee Springs (Bellefontaine) and participated in a panel discussion and small group discussions and activities with residents at Parkvue Community (Sandusky) during the Heidelberg University HYPE Career Ready program.

Some staff experienced serendipitous moments with residents. For example, the initial trip to St. Michael’s Community was postponed due to rain. When staff arrived at the community on the rain date, a resident saw them planting flowers outside and approached a staff member with a special request. That day was her late daughter’s birthday, and the rose bush planted in her memory needed transplanted. Staff quickly adjusted their plans and assisted with the rose bush as part of the project. Later, residents asked if the team could paint the community’s sign in the front yard.

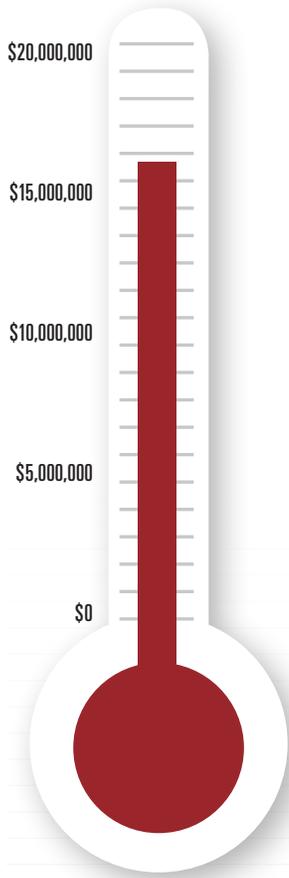
“People who drove by asked, ‘Did you get a new sign?’ It’s amazing what a coat of paint can do,” Erin said.

Carol, the database manager, said the mission projects were also opportunities for central office staff to meet their community counterparts in person, sometimes for the first time.

“You might see their names come through your email, but you’ve never met them,” she said. “You would have thought we were rock stars. They might call us to ask questions and get support, and here they are for the first time. The room just lit up.”

Both Megan and Erin said they were reenergized by the site visits. “You almost envy the employees at the communities, that they are touching so many lives each day,” Megan said. “However, it also renews your sense of purpose because they couldn’t do it without us at the central office, and we can’t do what we do without them.”



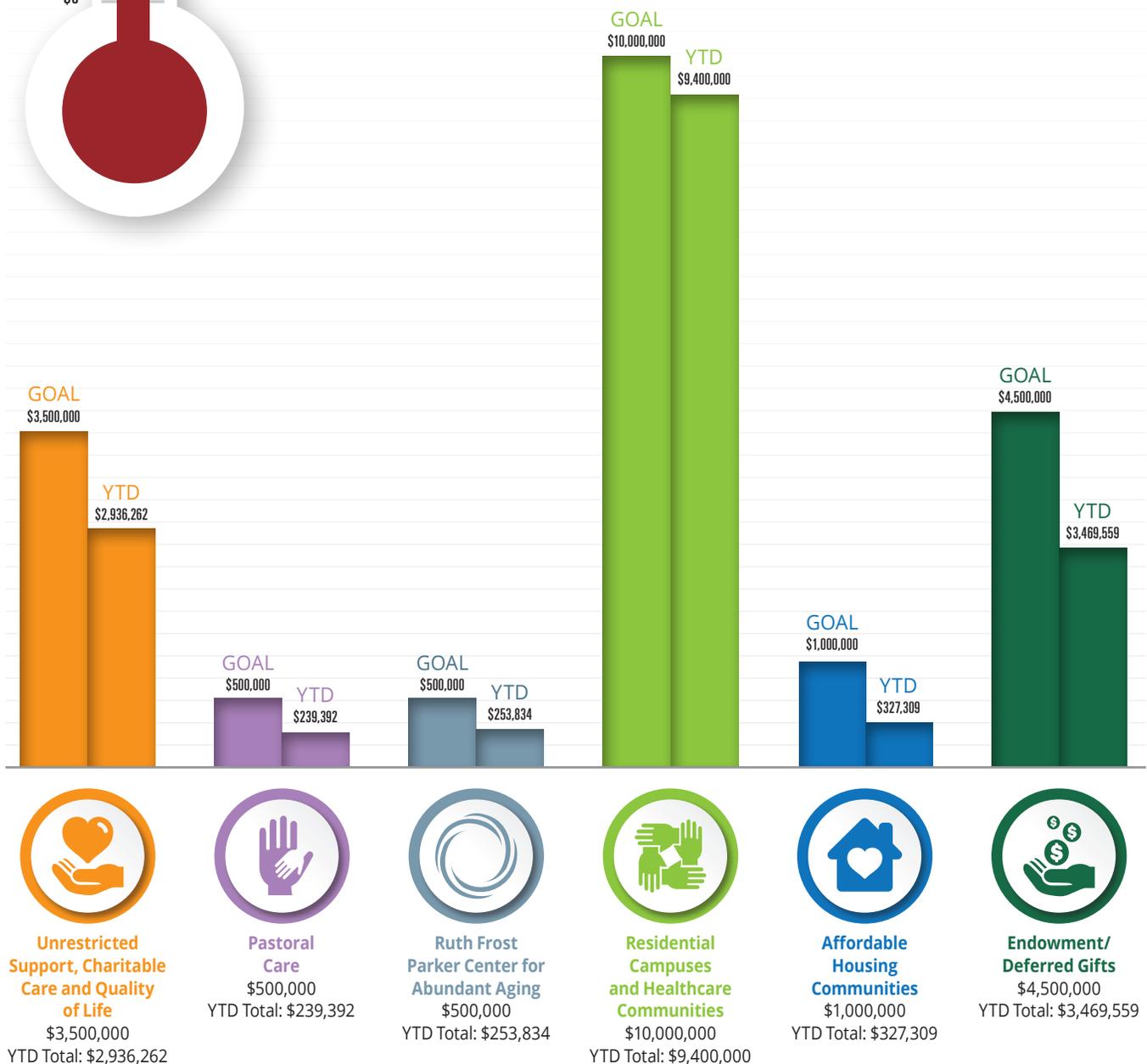


# Campaign for Abundant Life

Goal  
**\$20,000,000**

Results as of Sept. 30, 2019  
**\$16,626,356**

The Campaign for Abundant Life is increasing in momentum as more individuals, churches and community partners respond with support. 2019 marks year three of the five-year comprehensive campaign. The goal is to raise funds for charitable care, pastoral care, the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, updated campuses for long-term care communities and supportive services for affordable housing. To date, generous donors have contributed over \$16.6 million.





# ONE Conversation, ONE Message, ONE Life

**Getting homeless older adults off the streets or out of the woods is a resounding theme when you talk with Rev. Dr. David Schwab.**

An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ for 50 years and long-time advocate for supporting United Church Homes' affordable housing services, Rev. Dr. David Schwab leads the effort to raise \$1 million as chair of the housing services element of UCH's \$20 million Campaign for Abundant Life.

Dave is passionate about connecting individuals who care about housing for people in need by sharing stories of older adults who are no longer homeless. Nearly 3,600 individuals have homes today in one of the 61 communities in 13 states and two Native American nations that UCH owns or manages because of the promise for affordable housing for older adults that UCH offers as part of its historical ministry.

"What is more important than a safe home?" Dave asked. "I'm committed to helping people in search of a safe, caring place for older adults."

Dave's conversations with potential donors are propelled by his own support of this ministry and his personal donations over 20 years to UCH. In 2018, Dave was honored with the Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster Award for his contributions to housing services from United Church Homes. This award is presented to individuals who best exemplify the philosophy, leadership, philanthropic spirit and achievements of the late Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, who was the first president of the United Church of Christ and a member of the Board of Directors for United Church Homes.

Dave loves to share the journey "to home" for people like Emma, who had been homeless for three months prior to the opportunity to move into an apartment at a UCH community. UCH staff and other community members rallied around Emma to encourage her to take this step toward safe, secure, affordable housing and helped provide everything she needed to furnish her new apartment that she now calls home in a new community of friends and neighbors that she now calls family.

Dave feels "it is God's will that everyone should have a home where they can live out their life in abundance."

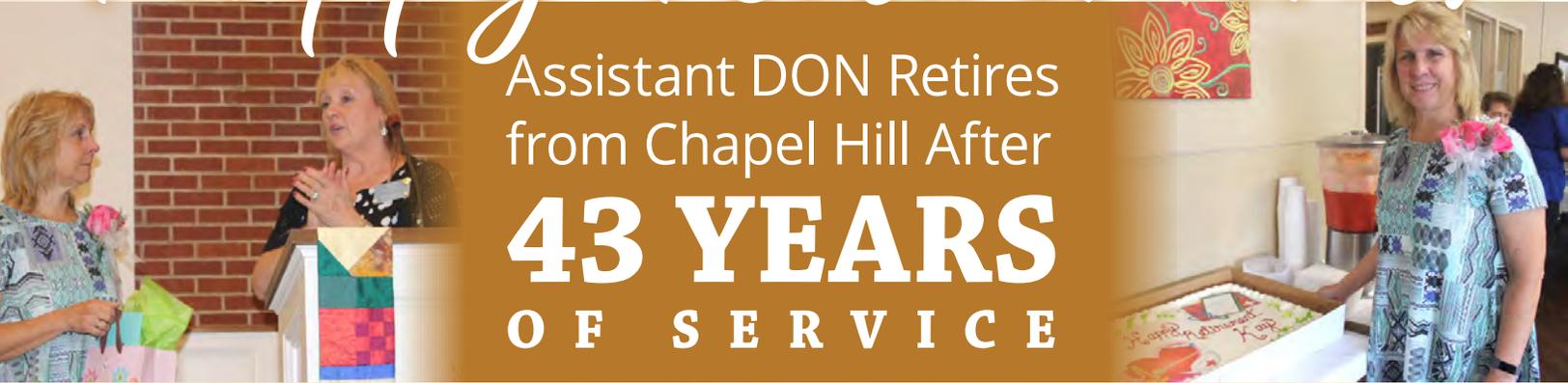
As a member of the United Church Homes Board of Directors since 2011, Dave takes his leadership role seriously and doesn't let any stone go unturned. He considers all opportunities for funding for this critical need. If he happens to meet you at a local diner in Cincinnati, for example, don't be surprised if he talks to you, so he can deliver his simple message. His strategy aligns with his "call it like you see it" communication that is reciprocated with a high level of trust from those he encounters because he effortlessly talks about the need — the problem. He then isn't afraid to include an "ask," which includes an opportunity for people to help be part of the solution: "If you give \$1,000 per year to transform one person's life, I'll show you how your gifts are changing the world, and who doesn't want to help change the world?" We like to call it Dave's Formula 1 for success: \$1,000, 1 person, 1 apartment, 1 life.

As of Sept. 30, over \$327,000 has been donated for housing services through the Campaign for Abundant Life as part of the total dollars raised of \$16.6 million toward the \$20 million goal.

Thank you, Dave, for helping us transform aging!



# Happy Retirement!



## Assistant DON Retires from Chapel Hill After **43 YEARS** OF SERVICE

After 43 years of service, Aug. 28 would begin like any other workday for Kay Flanagan, assistant director of nursing at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Ohio. However, in many ways, this day would be a series of lasts as she worked her final shift. She cleaned out her office, spent time visiting with residents and family members and passed along notebooks of information to staff who would take over her duties moving forward.

Kay has been described by her coworkers and supervisors as diligent, dedicated and a fierce advocate for residents and staff.

Kay was introduced to the community at 12 years old in 1966, when she visited Chapel Hill with her church choir. She graduated in 1975 from Akron General Medical School of Nursing. Kay's first position at Chapel Hill was as staff nurse when Rev. Robert Hegnauer was administrator. Rev. Hegnauer had been Kay's pastor and baptized her as a baby.



CHAPEL HILL  
COMMUNITY

Over the years, Kay has been a constant through numerous additions and renovations. She has worked with at least 11 administrators and 11 directors of nursing (DON). Kay became acting DON between each new leader. She has overseen more than 7,000 admissions and cared for thousands of residents, their families and staff.

"Her car was the first car I saw in the parking lot in the morning and the last car remaining in the parking lot at night," said Debbie Durbin, executive director, Chapel Hill Community. "Kay was part of the fabric and history of Chapel Hill Community. She was our unofficial historian!"

When asked what makes Chapel Hill unique, Kay did not hesitate. "United Church Homes always has been a front-runner in the long-term care profession, and that's because of the residents, families and staff."

As for advice Kay has for new nurses, she encourages them to look for the bright side in all they do. "There will be few perfect days but strive to make every day the best that it can be," she said.



# My Favorite Way to Give!

## The Charitable IRA Rollover



**M**y general philosophy in life is that the simplest way is often the best way. When it comes to charitable giving, considering the new tax laws, this still rings mostly true. For most, complex trusts and private foundations are simply not needed to see major tax savings. My favorite way to give one-time or annual gifts is directly from an IRA using a charitable IRA rollover. While this isn't always quite as easy as writing a check, most don't find it much more difficult. In fact, many individuals use this giving technique every year!

Faithful donors to United Church Homes and other organizations sometimes can't give enough to exceed the new standard deduction (\$12,200 for individuals and \$24,400 for married couples filing jointly in 2019). Cathy is a great example of a donor who has experienced the benefits of giving through her IRA. Cathy says the process is simple. She calls the adviser who manages her account and instructs them where she wants her portion to go. Then, the adviser sends the check to the charity.

"That's it. There's nothing to it!" Cathy said. Through this process, Cathy ensures the entire amount of her donation will go to United Church Homes. "I like that I easily can make the donation and it is free of taxes, so the donation goes further," she said.

By using this giving technique, Cathy can give in a very tax advantaged way. The IRA charitable rollover allows her to exclude the IRA distribution to the charities of her choice from her adjusted gross income (AGI). Thus, she can save income tax on this charitable gift, even if she only claims the standard deduction on her tax return. Additionally, the reduction of her adjusted gross income may reduce the taxation of her Social Security benefits and any deductibility "floors" limiting certain expenses (e.g., 10 percent for medical expenses in 2019) and various other tax items.

While the IRA charitable rollover provides unique tax benefits not found with other types of gifts, there are some requirements and restrictions. You must be age 70 ½ or older at the time of the gift and are limited to \$100,000 that you

can transfer to qualified public charities each year. Additionally, the gift must come directly from the IRA administrator to the charitable organization. You can't receive your distribution and then pass it on to the charity. Lastly, the charity cannot have provided you any goods or services in exchange for the IRA charitable rollover.

If you would like to learn more about making a contribution to United Church Homes from your IRA, please contact Gloria Hurwitz, vice president of advancement and communications, at [ghurwitz@uchinc.org](mailto:ghurwitz@uchinc.org) or 740.751.8702. Additionally, to take advantage of a complimentary, values-based estate planning process that United Church Homes is making available to you, contact Gloria using the above contact information.

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Paul Grassmann, JD, FCEP





# Interactive Lifelong Learning Program Opens New Doors at Parkvue Community

*“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.” – Albert Einstein*

Many people look forward to retirement filled with intellectual stimulation, exploration of new interests and engagement with their communities. Residents of Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio, are experiencing a new interactive learning environment through Cleveland-based University Circle Inc.'s senior learning program.

University Circle is the cultural district in Cleveland, home to world-renowned museums, prestigious universities and nationally recognized hospitals, restaurants and parks. The University Circle learning program, called University Circle Interactive Cleveland, provides an outlet for lifelong learning. Only 13 retirement communities and community senior centers in Ohio have access to it.

University Circle offers unique experiences using videoconferencing technology combined with the world-class resources of University Circle institutions. Videoconferencing enables Parkvue residents to "travel the world" using interactive technology in real time from their retirement community.

University Circle learning is not a typical lecture class. Instead, videoconferencing fosters interaction between educators and students. Activities Director Amy DiFilippo said University Circle brings experts into Parkvue, where they share their expertise and years of experience with older-adult participants. This weekly program typically ends with a Q&A session.

"We can learn for as long as we want, until the day we die, if we choose," Amy said. "I love this program because it allows residents to do just that."

Examples of recent topics include the history of American wars, Italian art, people and opera, marine sciences and sea stories, the natural world and America's story through art. Sessions periodically culminate in field trips to

Cleveland-area cultural institutions, such as the Cleveland Museum of Art, with a tour guide in tow.

Residents of Parkvue Place, the community's independent living building, and Parkvue Healthcare, the skilled nursing center, engage in the classes alongside members of the larger Sandusky community if space allows.

Amy said University Circle learning creates new opportunities for Sandusky's older adults, who might have difficulty continuing to learn otherwise. Obstacles to lifelong learning may include paying high course fees and finding transportation to and from a university campus. With University Circle, the classes come to older-adult participants at no cost to them.

To check seating availability for upcoming classes, contact Amy at 419.621.1900 or [adifilippo@uchinc.org](mailto:adifilippo@uchinc.org).



## Many People Come Together to Support University Circle

Parkvue Community launched the world-class University Circle learning program on its campus this year, thanks to the support of many individuals and a community foundation. Parkvue staff supported the program's startup costs through last year's Employee Giving Campaign, and lead donor Rev. Dan Busch's passion for the program inspired him to give.

Dan is a United Church Homes Board member and association minister for the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ. He was excited to support a worthwhile project.

"University Circle presents topics, such as art, history and spirituality, that connect and stimulate resident participants as lifelong learners," Dan said. "Programs are presented by well-qualified, thoughtful, knowledgeable and enthusiastic lecturers who use interactive technology to dialogue with those in attendance. These programs are opportunities to remember the past and offer new insights for continuing education."

Parkvue earned nearly \$12,000 in grant funds, coupled with donations of personal philanthropy, to launch the University Circle senior learning program. Grants came from the Erie County Community Foundation, the Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation Charitable Impact Fund of the same foundation and the Michelle Wightman-Karrie Wieber Charitable Foundation.

Program fees are more than \$10,000 per year, but thanks to these generous contributions, we have been able to offer it to Parkvue residents at no cost to them.

UCH Director of Major Gifts and Grants Alissa Clouse said UCH's goal is to bring people together to support the worthy program. "We're providing access to learning in a way that can only be achieved through technology, and we invite our supporters to be part of the new connections we're building to sustain this program into the future."

**For more information about supporting the program, contact Alissa Clouse at 740.751.8990 or [aclouse@uchinc.org](mailto:aclouse@uchinc.org).**

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM OUR NEIGHBORS



(From left to right) Parkvue Community's Megan Maschari, Intern; Shannon Graver, Director of Resident Services; Laura Nemeth, Director of Marketing



HARMAR  
PLACE



GLENWOOD  
COMMUNITY



PARKVUE  
COMMUNITY

### Three UCH Communities Earn Readers' Choice Awards

Three United Church Homes communities in Ohio have earned Readers' Choice Awards from two newspapers.

Harmar Place was voted Best Extended Care and Rehab Community in Marietta, and the Pines at Glenwood Community was voted Best Assisted Living in the *Marietta Times'* Readers' Choice Awards. Parkvue Community in Sandusky was voted Best Senior Living or Assisted Living Community in the *Sandusky Register's* contest.

Harmar Place provides older adults with memory care, Fast Track Rehab and long-term skilled care. The community serves 86 residents, including 23 short-term guests and 16 memory-care residents. Residents and staff form strong bonds, and families appreciate the level of care their loved ones receive and the continuity of care providers at Harmar Place.

The Pines at Glenwood is a vibrant neighborhood comprised of comfortable, private apartments and suites where residents remain active through daily life enrichment. Glenwood is home to about 120 residents and offers independent cottage and apartment living and 48 studio and one-bedroom apartments in assisted living on a beautiful 70-acre campus.

"Glenwood Community and the Pines Assisted Living are honored to be recognized as the Readers' Choice Community for Assisted Living in Marietta," Executive Director Linda Dailey said. "It is an honor to serve these residents every day. What makes Glenwood so special for those who call us home is the unique partnership between residents and staff, engaging together in meaningful ways each day."

Parkvue is a Life Plan Community offering independent and assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation and skilled nursing care to nearly 200 older adults. Parkvue's dedicated team, highly engaged residents and beautiful campus combine to make the community a special place to call home.

## Hoffner to Oversee Yardi Program in Housing Services

Shawn Hoffner, a seven-year United Church Homes employee, is in a new role and now managing the Yardi software program.

Affordable housing managers from throughout the U.S. traveled to the Marion headquarters in October for Yardi training. The software aims to improve efficiencies and collaboration among UCH departments.

Shawn will be responsible for all things Yardi related, including implementing upgrades and rent increases, assisting managers with questions, streamlining processes, providing training and more.



Beginning his career in 2012 as manager and maintenance person at Cherry Arbors in North Lewisburg, Ohio, Shawn became manager of Cherry Arbors and HardinCrest in Kenton in 2014. He is a graduate of the LeadingAge Ohio Leadership Academy.

With Shawn's new role, he will continue to be the manager of Shawnee Springs in Bellefontaine, Ohio, in addition to his work in the central office managing Yardi.



## Jessica Hall Joins SEM Haven Team

SEM Haven, a United Church Homes-managed community, has welcomed new Administrator Jessica Hall.

Jessica joined the team at SEM Haven in Milford, Ohio, after the retirement of longtime Administrator Barb Wolf. The campus follows the Eden Alternative care philosophy and is managed by United Church Homes, which also employs the community's administrator.

Jessica grew up in southern Wisconsin. She moved to Cincinnati after graduating high school to major in social work at Xavier University with a minor in criminal justice. "I knew I wanted to work in the long-term care field after helping to care for my great-grandparents," said Jessica, who earned her degree in 2005.

Jessica started her social work career in long-term care, working at three communities in the Cincinnati area. In 2013, she became a skilled nursing care administrator.

In her free time, Jessica enjoys running and walking with her dog, Jasper, traveling and spending time with her family, especially her grandmother, who has dementia.

SEM stands for Southeastern Ecumenical Ministry, a nonprofit organization formed in 1967 by leaders from area churches that had been particularly concerned with community development, justice and human need. These leaders formed a task force called Housing for the Aged, which grew into a retirement community of five freestanding buildings to provide many levels of care to meet the changing needs of older adults in the neighborhood.

SEM Haven opened in 1980 to provide skilled care to 100 older adults. The community expanded and renovated in 1989, 1996, 2007, 2011 and 2018.



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Our mission is to transform aging by building  
a culture of community, wholeness and peace.

NATIONAL AND STATE AFFILIATIONS:

- American Health Care Association:** [ahca.org](https://ahca.org)
- Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM):** [chhsm.org](https://chhsm.org)
- LeadingAge:** [leadingage.org](https://leadingage.org)
- LeadingAge Ohio:** [leadingageohio.org](https://leadingageohio.org)
- Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association (MAHMA):** [mahma.com](https://mahma.com)
- Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging:** [ohioaging.org](https://ohioaging.org)
- Ohio Healthcare Association:** [ohca.org](https://ohca.org)
- Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association (SAHMA):** [sahma.org](https://sahma.org)
- UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns:** [ucccoalition.org](https://ucccoalition.org)



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