Gifts That Transform

New and Innovative Opportunities

From our earliest years to today, donor gifts have grown and transformed United Church Homes. After learning about the Reformed Church’s mission to create a safe, secure residence for its vulnerable older members, Matthew and Jane Smith were inspired to donate the funds that created what was later to be called Fairhaven.

Last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, a long-time donor family who recognized our organization’s impact was inspired to make an early estate gift. They wanted to celebrate how UCH is making a difference in the lives of older adults and provide the means to continue these good works long into the future. Theirs is the largest single gift in our history at $17.5 million.

Demonstrations of loving philanthropy like this are what allow United Church Homes to fund new and innovative projects that improve quality of life for residents. Philanthropy helps support groundbreaking projects that typically need to be funded outside of normal operating budgets. It creates opportunities for UCH to grow, expand staff learning and development, and outreach. Large gifts often fund major capital projects to serve more people in more places.

Through the philanthropic endeavors of donors, we can introduce innovations that speak to the needs of residents, especially those who are living with some form of memory impairment. Projects such as the animatronic or “robot” pet companions were made possible thanks to generous donors. With a donor’s help, we recently created a new spa room at Trinity Community at Fairborn with modern amenities designed to provide a calming, comfortable environment for bathing.

The Del Mar Healthcare program has expanded the impact of the Ruth Frost Parker Center through the Dayton Community Foundation. We have engaged the public and provided important education about aging through the Art of Aging podcast series. We have also extended our research and are striving to be a thought leader in the industry. This would not have been possible without philanthropy.

At United Church Homes, we have enjoyed a rich tradition of philanthropy from many individuals, foundations, and from some business and vendor partners. All of them have expressed deep appreciation for the work we do and our strong reputation for integrity. We are part of the movement to transform society, end discrimination and encourage more equitable treatment of all people. Our programs confront prejudice, racism and economic insecurity on many levels. We actively fight the causes of elder poverty and homelessness. UCH also is addressing the growing need for residential options for middle income seniors who often cannot afford high end retirement communities or low-income housing. Our latest historic gift will support new construction and other additions to our residential offerings.

The need for senior health and residential services increases every year, making donors and your gifts—no matter how large or modest—more important than ever!! Your investment in our mission is making a difference in the lives of the many people we serve. Thank you for your support because there is always more work for us to do.

With gratitude,

Kenneth V. Daniel
Rev. Dr. Kenneth V. Daniel
President and CEO
Donors **Changing Lives with Companion Pets**

Chaplain, Rev. Erin Proie, who serves at United Church Homes’ Chapel Hill Community, realized during the COVID-19 pandemic, that many residents have unmet companionship needs. Her idea to ask donors to step up where traditional health care ends served as a perfect solution. A fundraising initiative for Joy for All Companion Pets was launched. These lifelike robotic cats and dogs bring comfort, companionship and fun to older adults living with challenges associated with dementia and loneliness.

Family members, individuals, church members, local funders and corporate partners came forward to answer the call for comfort, donating more than 125 interactive cats and dogs for residents at United Church Homes.

“We know the animals are changing older adults’ lives,” said Rev. Proie. “A resident living with dementia was particularly frustrated until given a companion cat. Now the cat never leaves her side. She holds the cat in her lap, petting, and talking to it, and shows it off on video calls. Her family was so impressed by their mother’s joy and engagement that they purchased a pet to pay it forward to another resident.”

“No older adult should have to wait for the companionship they need, so we set a goal with this philanthropic endeavor to provide a Companion Pet to every resident who could benefit. At United Church Homes, this is an example of our commitment to Abundant Life—for the residents who received the pets, the donors who participated and the staff who experience joy from observing the companionship these pets bring to residents they serve.

**Fundraising continues until every resident that could benefit has a pup or cat of their own.**
Trinity Community at Fairborn resident, Jack, and his wife Barbara are motivated by giving back. They were inspired to donate to the community and wanted to support a desirable project that would benefit all residents.

Leadership and staff identified the tub room as an opportunity area as it needed updating. The room was dark, small, airless and lacked modern features that would enhance the vital personal care experience for residents.

Jack and Barb suggested the idea of transforming the tub room into a spa room. Barb wanted to make sure that Jack and other residents could experience comfort and joy in these new spaces.

Working with therapy staff, details for the project were outlined. The new space would include all new fixtures including a state-of-the-art hydrotherapy tub, aromatherapy and music, an addition of a Zen-type wall with soft lighting and succulent plants, a towel warmer cabinet, efficient ventilation, enhanced lighting, vibrant paint and coordinating ceramic tile and flooring.

The resulting renovation is beautiful, and this new space creates a much more enriching experience for residents and staff who use it daily.

“We are extremely grateful for our friends Jack and Barb and for their generosity and vision to give back as they help serve the residents at Trinity Community at Fairborn. Thank you for providing renewed comfort and joy!”
— Gloria Hurwitz, CFRE, Vice President of Advancement
ENCIRCLING Abundant Life!