



ABUNDANT IMPACT

FALL 2021

The following stories represent the abundant impact generous donations make for the people United Church Homes serves, including support for endowments, affordable housing and the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging. Thank you!



Better Together

Safety in numbers is a truism in many aspects of life. Partnerships and affiliations have become more frequent strategies among nonprofits. This is true for United Church Homes (UCH) in recent years. In fact, we identified several key partnerships that are shaping our ministries today and likely well into the future.

First, we partner with many key donors and friends to advance our impact in new ways. We enlisted a group of 10 Founding Funders whose generous donations helped establish the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, our platform for education, advocacy, and community engagement led by Rev. Beth Long-Higgins. A Parkvue Community resident recently provided a \$5M estate gift designated to endowment to create a legacy that will support various new initiatives on the campus. Last year, a longtime friend of UCH gave a \$17M gift that created the new Fund for Growth targeting several key acquisitions and expansion projects. These initiatives will help UCH diversify its mission and foster long-term sustainability for the next generation.

We also developed a key partnership with Ohio's Hospice, Inc. This nonprofit is now providing hospice services under a joint venture agreement to residents on our Dayton and Marietta campuses. Eventually services will extend across our entire network of communities. This relationship is important because it enables us to accelerate new programs in an area we value such as hospice and end of life care. Our partner brings the expertise and delivery system, a win-win for both parties.

Finally, we are collaborating with several major senior housing developers. These relationships allow us to expand into new markets and tap the expertise and resources of seasoned, reputable builders. They provide the design and construction of new communities. UCH gains the opportunity to fast track our development timelines and expand our management and service coordination functions within the new properties. We can provide our signature resident-inspired lifestyle and caring staff. Again, another win-win.

We discovered that we are better together with these and other important affiliations and partnerships. Not only is there strength in numbers, but there is also strength in combined energy, shared ideas and exposure to innovative approaches to enhance the lives of the people we serve.

Indeed we are better together with each of you, our faithful donors. We trust our stories, inspired by your generosity, will continue to encourage you to partner with us as we build strong ministries with your support.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth V. Daniel".

Rev. Dr. Kenneth V. Daniel
President and CEO

Named Endowment Funds Create Lasting Legacies

Residents and staff at United Church Homes communities are grateful for more than **\$11 million donated from individuals to establish named endowment funds.**

Annual earnings from United Church Homes' endowment funds make significant impact and support critical needs including:

- Programs for resident engagement
- Animals, plants and aviaries at the communities
- Aquatic Center maintenance and operations
- Benevolent care for residents
- Chaplaincy and spiritual care for residents and staff at the communities
- Operational support
- Scholarships for continuing education and staff professional development
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance at the communities
- Resident needs at the communities
- Transportation expenses and maintenance
- Staff uniforms

In most cases, individuals create endowment funds as a tribute to honor or remember someone special. They do this because they believe in our mission and want to provide ongoing support to United Church Homes in perpetuity.

The principal investment to create an endowment fund stays intact, while the annual investment earnings are used to support the designated items or programs.



Housing Communities are GRATEFUL

Thanks to two community partners, older adults living at two United Church Homes affordable housing communities (Brookside Community in Olean, NY, and South Haven Woods in Bedford, OH) are grateful. Their housing needs are met and programs that safeguard their physical health as well as keep them mentally and socially engaged are in place.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable older adults' safety and security were jeopardized. In-person connections were substituted for virtual and outside visits. Healthcare providers encouraged telehealth for certain health appointments. Enhanced nutrition, additional cleaning supplies and personal care items were needed. Because these older adults live on very limited incomes, and struggle to afford these critical, additional needs, their physical and mental health were compromised during this historic time, and they questioned how they would stay safe.

Fortunately, two community partners stepped up to address their needs. At South Haven Woods, residents are now equipped with supplies and are connecting with their loved ones and providers from the safety of their homes thanks to two generous grants from **The Cleveland Foundation**. WiFi access and iPads have been provided to each resident, decreasing their loneliness as they have access to virtual visits with friends and family. They now have peace of mind through these donations of cleaning supplies, personal care items and enhanced nutrition which help keep them physically healthy.



Older adults at Brookside Community are now enjoying outdoor socialization and realizing the benefits of being in nature. Two grants from the **Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation** and a grant from UCH's Wishing well (funded by many individual donors) made this possible. Older adults at



Center Offers Alternative Narratives About Aging

Community partners, corporate sponsors and local churches collectively advance the innovative work of **United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging** with their annual gifts.

The Parker Center seeks to transform how society thinks about aging through **engagement, education and advocacy**. This bolsters United Church Homes mission to transform aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace.

The Parker Center is grateful for the donations that support this important work including:

- **Annual symposiums** with keynote speakers on important themes like the 2021 sixth annual symposium: *At the Intersection of Race and Age*.
- **Curriculums** including *Another Day Older* that sparks conversation about ageism and challenges individuals to reframe attitudes toward aging.
- **Resources** like *Age Friendly Congregations*, a book that serves to help churches better minister to and provide programming for older adults.
- **Podcasts** called *The Art of Aging* produced by a fellow funded through The Dayton Foundation Encore Fellows Initiative, which provides fellowship opportunities for older adults. These podcasts offer ideas, information, and inspiration on how to improve our lives as we grow older.
- **Virtual courses** like *Enliven*, educational courses that create community and conversation around spiritual life and encourage individuals to learn, grow and share together.



"The Parker Center provides resources and programs intended to reframe society's narratives about aging from one of diminishment to one of agency and purpose. These opportunities are intended to invite individual reflection and action in our own lives. Thanks to donations, we highlight individuals and programs that exemplify abundant aging and provide resources for worship and spiritual growth for those in their later years."

—Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, Executive Director

"We think it's important to never stop learning and the Symposiums have broadened our perspective



and understanding of topics relevant to aging. Whether it's learning how increased longevity is redefining retirement, how technology can help us age more abundantly or giving us a perspective of life experiences of those different than ourselves, we always leave the symposium better than when we arrived."

—Lars Olson, President, Alluvial Private Wealth, Abundant Aging sponsor

Visit abundantaging.org to learn more!

Brookside Community now have a peaceful, secure area in which they can gather in community. Grants enhanced their back yard by providing a new covered gazebo, patio roof, pergola, security cameras, privacy slats for the fence and concrete repair. Having a space for outdoor visits during this ongoing pandemic is impacting the quality of life for residents.



Thank you to these two community partners who addressed the needs of vulnerable older adults at UCH housing communities with their support during this challenging time. Residents know that they are receiving the best care from staff who truly want the best for them.



"I love it! I feel secure being in our back yard. You visit with more people because they stop by the gazebo and we can interact more. The back patio is a great place to visit and get a group together."

—Brookside Community resident



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BETTER Together



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