



Dear Friends,

The importance of having a place to call home is essential throughout a lifespan. The physical sense of safety, the personal ownership of the space in which one lives, the relationships that are established with neighbors and the peace of mind that comes with belonging, are just some of the attributes that contribute to our physical, mental and spiritual health. For those who find themselves in vulnerable periods of life, the loss of having a home is devastating. It is difficult for anyone to be homeless, particularly those who are advanced in years. From our founding in 1916, the core mission of United Church Homes has been to provide a place where older adults can call home.

United Church Homes is concluding our ***Comprehensive Campaign for Abundant Life***, which includes providing charitable support for affordable housing, an important component of its ministry. Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 to be used to support these communities. As we embark on the last year of the campaign, we have raised \$550,000 toward that goal. These communities are located in 14 states and two Native American nations for individuals 62 and older and serve those who are financially most vulnerable. Meeting these thresholds for income and age, residents pay only 30 percent of their monthly income for rent, utilities and the support of service coordinators. For many, this is protecting their lives as this reduced rent enables them to buy groceries, medications and improve their quality of life.

Your congregation's support of United Church Homes in the coming year could be designated to contribute to this critical need for affordable housing. Or you may also designate your congregation's donations toward the benevolent care for residents at a specific retirement community or to United Church Homes general Life Enrichment Fund. Wherever you choose to direct your gifts, your contributions will help us enhance the spaces where our residents live life abundantly.

To hear more information about the campaign, the additional areas of support, or the mission of the organization, please feel free to ask! We have staff and members of our Board who would delight in coming to share the story of how our ministry helps to provide homes in a variety of amazing communities to thousands of individuals as they continue to age.

Please see the additional information included with this communication for your use with a missions committee, for use in worship or other justice-focused groups in your church. The resources for use in worship are based on Psalm 23, and include a bulletin insert and newsletter article ready for you to copy. Additionally, please visit the website abundantaging.org for more liturgical resources, our weekly Abundant Aging blog and information about upcoming events.



Blessings,

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins

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Executive Director, Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging