

SUMMER 2020

A MAGAZINE *from* PORTER HILLS

# Community

*Special Edition:* A SUMMER UPDATE FROM PORTER HILLS & PORTER HILLS FOUNDATION

## Stronger Together—

**CELEBRATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
OF UMRC & PORTER HILLS' AFFILIATION**



Porter Hills Board Member Jay Wisentaner Enjoys a Visit with His Aunt at Porter Hills.

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
PORTER HILLS

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
PORTER HILLS  
FOUNDATION



Stronger Together

A Letter from  
Steve Fetyko, President and CEO



On March 1, 2020, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the affiliation of UMRC & Porter Hills. Weeks later, COVID-19 changed life as we knew it, and illustrated how transformational our affiliation truly is.

Together, UMRC & Porter Hills benefits from a strong team stretching shore to shore, from direct care to leadership and board members. Battled-tested, we have navigated this storm to safeguard the health of residents and PACE participants. We have lifted up direct care team members through appreciation stipends, supplemental sick leave, food and essentials pantries, childcare, and more. Over 500 generous donors helped the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation raise more than \$1 million in less than three months to support our Healthcare Heroes across the state. Corporate and foundation board members volunteered, calling caregivers and offering words of encouragement.

As an affiliation, UMRC & Porter Hills has greater access to resources, including government funds and precious personal protective equipment.

Though I cannot foresee the future, I know, together, we can tackle any challenge. Thank you for supporting our affiliation and for making UMRC & Porter Hills such a special place to live and work.

In Service,

Steve Fetyko, President & CEO  
UMRC and Porter Hills

A Letter from  
Porter Hills Foundation

The UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation teams and boards have benefitted from working side by side in many ways, especially since March when the COVID-19 pandemic began. Because of this camaraderie, we were able to move quickly to launch the **COVID-19 Emergency Fund** campaign for both UMRC and Porter Hills, raising over \$1 million total in support of direct care team members shore to shore. Already, over \$767,000 has been disbursed to help address the emergency needs of frontline team members at UMRC and Porter Hills.

The Porter Hills Foundation is blessed by generous friends who made gifts of all sizes to support our Healthcare Heroes during this time. Rest assured that each gift received will serve the region the donor intended.

We miss seeing all of you. To stay connected, the UMRC Foundation and Porter Hills Foundation teamed up to create a **Safe Code of Conduct for Donor Visits**, offering opportunities to keep in contact with friends, donors, and residents. Whether a video chat, a virtual coffee hour, or socially distanced visit outside, we look forward to seeing your smiling faces very soon.

With sincere gratitude and best wishes,



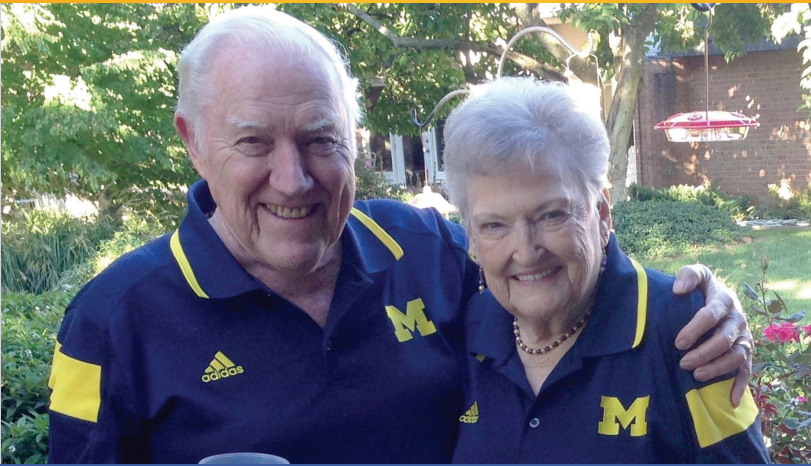
Wendy Brightman,  
President  
UMRC Foundation and  
Porter Hills Foundation



Joanna Hogan,  
Vice President of Philanthropy  
Porter Hills Foundation

The Gift of Love

Ken and Arloa Vander Kolk



Ken and Arloa Vander Kolk

*“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)*

Ken and Arloa Vander Kolk had a storybook marriage, says their daughter, Judy Levick. “It was an amazing love story. They were happily married for nearly 68 years.”

Both from Zeeland, Michigan, their courtship began while Ken was a pre-med student at University of Michigan and Arloa was studying to be a nurse. They married and raised four children.

Over the years, Ken enjoyed an illustrious career as an OB/Gyn at Butterworth Hospital, delivering 6,000 babies! Their daughter, Judy, became a medical social worker, working in the NICU at the same hospital.

The couple moved to Cook Valley Estates upon retiring. “They had friends who had lived at Porter Hills,” says Judy, “and they heard it was the best.” Ken and Arloa were among the first to sign up for one of Cook Valley’s new condos in 2000. In 2015, they took advantage of Porter Hills’ continuum of care at Porter Hills Village and, in their final days, were cared for by Porter Hills’ Emmanuel Hospice. “Their care was wonderful,”

says Judy. “So many special people provided comfort, compassion and love for my parents.”

Generous and faithful, the Vander Kolks included Porter Hills in their giving and were members of the **Porter Hills Legacy Society**. “They were the most gracious, grateful, positive people,” says Judy of her parents who died just ten weeks apart in 2019. “The Benevolent Care Fund motivated their giving, but today, I believe they would be inspired by the Education Fund for Porter Hills’ amazing team members, to honor them and help promote their healthcare careers.”

You, too, can support the Porter Hills Foundation’s Employee Support Services, offering Staff Scholarships and Emergency Aid for Porter Hills’ outstanding team members. Please visit [porterhills.org/foundation](http://porterhills.org/foundation) or call 616.577.2297.

To learn more about the Vander Kolks’ story and others, visit [porterhills.org/blog](http://porterhills.org/blog). ■



4450 Cascade Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

## TRUSTED EXPERTS SERVING SENIORS WITH *Grace*

For 50 years, **Porter Hills** has remained true to its mission and, this year, **Porter Hills Foundation** celebrates 25 years of helping to bring this mission to life. In March 2019, Porter Hills affiliated, under shared governance and leadership, with **United Methodist Retirement Communities**, based in Chelsea, Michigan.

Together, these organizations represent the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, these faith-based organizations and their affiliates combine to serve more than 6,700 older adults each year, from 24 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan's lower peninsula.

**The Porter Hills Foundation office is now located at Cook Valley Estates!**  
**1049 East Paris Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546**

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