



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Selected for 2022 Thome Aging Well Grant

Award Supports Health and Wellness for Affordable Housing Residents

Chelsea/Detroit/Grand Rapids, MI, September 13, 2022 – The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is pleased to announce it was recently awarded a 2022 Thome Aging Well grant of \$200,000 over two years. These funds will support overall health and wellness programming for residents living in Brio Living Services' Affordable Housing Communities, including: Bailey's Grove, Harvest Way, Oak Ridge, River Grove, Station Creek, and Walker Meadow in the Grand Rapids area; The Pines in Chelsea; and The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood in Detroit.

The Thome Aging Well program is a four-year, \$19 million initiative from Enterprise Community Partners (Enterprise) to help older adults living in affordable communities age safely and securely at home.

UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation President Wendy Brightman said, "Reaping the benefits of this generous award are the older adults who call our eight Brio Living Services Affordable Housing communities across Michigan 'home'. We are delighted that this grant will support their overall wellness, including mental and physical health, through a variety of programming and team member training. COVID-19 has taken its toll, particularly on the well-being of low-income older adults. Thanks to this grant, our Affordable Housing teams will have the resources to reduce mental health challenges and improve overall physical health and engagement among our residents."

Funded by the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America trustee, the program awarded \$4 million in grants this year to scale aging-in-place initiatives with a track record of success by 16 housing operators and public housing authorities in Maryland and Michigan.

In total, the 2022 Thome Aging Well grants will provide essential support to over 4,000 older adults to help enhance well-being, reduce isolation, and allow them to age with dignity in their homes. Best practices learned from the grantees will be shared across the field of affordable and public housing providers serving older adults.

“Far too many adults, especially those with lower incomes, do not have the resources and support they need to continue living comfortably in their homes as they grow older,” said Stephany De Scisciolo, vice president, Impact, Evaluation & Population Health, Enterprise. “The programs supported through the Thome Aging Well grants have proved successful at improving the health and well-being of older adults and will make an enormous impact on the lives of thousands in Maryland and Michigan. We are honored to partner with such remarkable organizations.”

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Enterprise Community Partners is a national nonprofit that exists to make a good home possible for the millions of families without one. Enterprise supports community development organizations on the ground. It aggregates and invests capital for impact in homes and communities and advances housing policy at every level of government. Enterprise builds and manages communities. Everything Enterprise does is informed by the residents served. Since 1982, Enterprise has invested \$54 billion and created 873,000 homes across all 50 states. This grant is part of Enterprise Community Partners’ Thome Aging Well Program, funded by the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, administered through Bank of America.

*Building on a foundation of over 165 years of combined service to older adults, **Brio Living Services**, formerly UMRC & Porter Hills, is a faith-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. Its vision is: A world in which all are empowered to age well. **Brio Living Services** represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan and serves the most economically diverse population of older adults. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, Brio Living Services and its affiliates serve more than 8,000 older adults each year, from 24 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | MyBrio.org*

*The **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation**, in support of Brio Living Services, is the charitable arm for the organization, with headquarters in Chelsea and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The mission of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is: As faithful, philanthropic stewards and steadfast advocates for vibrant aging, we support the mission of Brio Living Services. The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation’s fundraising initiatives focus on the health and well-being of older adults, and the education and retention of our outstanding team members. These include Benevolent Care, the cornerstone of the Foundation; as well as Team Member Support Services, Capital Improvements, and Life Enrichment for older adults. 734.433.1000 | 616.577.2297 | Foundation.UMRCPH.org*