



Barbara Niess-May

The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is pleased to welcome Barbara Niess-May to its Board of Directors as of 2024. Barbara brings to the Foundation Board over 30 years of experience supporting the Ypsilanti community.

Barbara is only the second President/CEO for Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels (YMOW) in its 50-year history, a role she began in early 2024. Previously, she served as development manager at The King Center and as executive director of SafeHouse Center in Ann Arbor, where she transformed the organization into a progressive service provider supporting survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

A graduate of the University of Evansville in Indiana, Barbara also holds master's degrees in social work and public administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Barbara will begin seminary work in Fall 2024 to become an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church.

Her extensive commitment to community includes volunteering with a variety of organizations. Barbara is a member of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor and recently wrapped up her service with the Washtenaw County Circles Program. She also serves as a co-chair for the Brighton United Methodist Church DEI Committee, is a member of the United States Adventure Racing Association DEI committee, and a member of the board of the Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. In her spare time, she also trains and competes as an amateur endurance athlete in adventure racing, competitive navigation, and mountain bike/gravel racing.

Barbara and her husband share a home on the Huron River with their two Brittany spaniels, Meadow and Emmy.