



A REASON TO SING IN A *Year of Challenges*

Four generations touched by UMC's compassionate care: (from back row to front): Dorothy, great-granddaughter Anya, great-granddaughter Brianna, granddaughter Amy, and Shirley!

2020 has been a year for the history books. COVID-19 caused disruptions to our regular routine. Each day we meet challenges that we never would have expected. This is especially true for our residents with memory care needs, who flourish with the companionship, activity, and specialized care that they enjoy in our Tapestries neighborhoods.

Social distancing and periods of quarantine are deeply difficult for them. But your **prayers, generosity, and acts of kindness** help maintain the human connection that keep our residents' spirits strong...

...And there's no better example than the story of Dorothy and her mother, Shirley.

When Shirley's dementia advanced, she transitioned to a memory care facility. Shirley quickly became frustrated and lonely. She was prone to falling in her efforts to get outside. Eventually, Shirley became uncommunicative and rarely spoke, even to her daughter, Dorothy.

Dorothy was desperate to find a better home for her mom. A friend encouraged her to tour UMC at The Shores in Ocean City. Shirley had volunteered at earlier Methodist homes in Ocean City, and Dorothy immediately knew this was the place she had been searching for. "The atmosphere at The Shores is warm, genuine... a place I could even see myself living happily," she explained.

On moving day, something completely unexpected happened. As she approached the community, Shirley began to sing. Upon being wheeled through the front doors, another surprise: though Shirley hadn't been able to converse in some time, she exclaimed to the associate assisting her, "I just love it here!" It only took minutes for UMC at The Shores to change her life.

Continued on back

YES! I am inspired to make a difference.

I am enclosing my donation of:

\$500 \$250 \$125 \$50 Other \$ _____

I would like information about leaving a legacy gift in my will or estate plans.

This gift is In memory In honor of _____

Church Name: _____ City/Zip: _____

Credit Card    

Visit umcommunities.org/foundation/year-end to make a secure online donation or call 732-922-9802 x2121, and we will process your credit card donation over the phone.



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Now Shirley spends time singing songs from her younger days, watching birds in the garden, and delights in being included in group activities. Her daughter, Dorothy, is secure in the knowledge that her mother is safe and receiving the care she deserves from compassionate associates. "I can go to sleep at night knowing that my mom is taken care of. The Shores has been an answer to a prayer."

Gratitude for her mother's transformation prompted Dorothy and her husband to make a generous gift to the UMC Foundation to enhance the lives of residents like her mom. They chose to support the #UNITEDagainstCOVID19 Fund in recognition of UMC associates' heroic service during the pandemic.

The couple also donated funds to purchase IN2L person-centered senior connection technology for The Shores' Tapestries neighborhood. Our memory care residents benefit from the **connection, engagement, and joyful reminiscing** that this technology delivers, especially while COVID-19 forces limitations to their group activities and socializing.

Monthly sustaining gifts, multi-layered donations like Dorothy's, and annual contributions to the UMC Foundation ALL play their part in keeping UMC's mission alive. Together your partnership and generosity ensure that UMC's ability to offer compassionate care, meaningful interactions, and the peace of mind that our residents depend on will not waver.

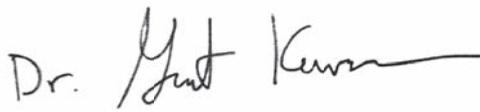
When we work together, not even a global pandemic can stop us from providing abundant life for seniors. Please consider making your contribution to the United Methodist Communities Foundation today, for families like Dorothy and her mother Shirley, and so many others.

Thank you from the entire UMC Family!

With gratitude,



Larry Carlson,
President & CEO



Dr. Grant Karsner, *Chair,*
UMC Foundation Board of Trustees

P.S. Online donations to the UMC Foundation are easy and secure!
You can make your year-end contribution in just seconds at
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