



United in Philanthropy

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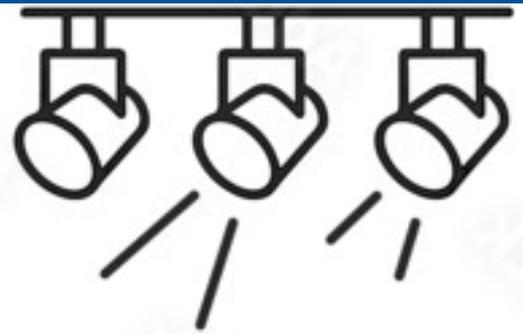
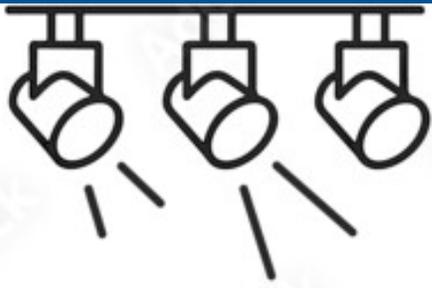
Growing Our Circle
Expanding Our Impact

Music with Meaning:

UMC Foundation Sponsors Senior *Concert Series*



The crowd of seniors and oldies-fans sang along to timeless hits.



Since 1984, the Garden State Arts Foundation (GSAF) has been enriching New Jersey's cultural life by offering free performances at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. Dedicated to making live music and the arts accessible for all, GSAF celebrates diversity and community by bringing people together for shared experiences.



Christy Esandrio, VP of Sales and Marketing of UMC, welcomed concert attendees and shared UMC's mission of creating abundant life for seniors.



UMC and UMCF teammates greeted thousands of attendees, sharing info about UMC's services and community programs.

This fall, the UMC Foundation (UMCF) was thrilled to serve as Presenting Sponsor for GSAF's 2025 Concert Series, a much-loved program that fills the Arts Center with sounds of golden-age pop, jazz, soul, and American standards. The Fall 2025 lineup included legendary acts like Herman's Hermits featuring Peter Noone, radio personality Vinnie Medugno, and Cousin Bruce presenting The Rascals' 60th anniversary fan appreciation show.

Over the course of four concerts, the UMCF team and UMC sales & marketing team connected with thousands of attendees and shared our mission of creating abundant life for seniors and networking for the common good. Our partnership with GSAF reflects our common belief that music can transcend generations and bring together people of all different backgrounds. As we look ahead to 2026, we can't wait to join them for another round of inspiring performances!

Join Us for the Spring 2026 Concert Series!

Be the first to hear when the spring dates and performers are announced by following UMC and the Garden State Arts Foundation on social media.

For info about free VIP tickets for the upcoming shows, please contact Maureen Stern, UMCF's Director of Special Events at mstern@umcommunities.org.



Mark Lenhard takes the TEDxCapeMay Stage:



A Powerful Message about Aging, *Purpose*, and Community

You may have heard of TED Talks: short, powerful presentations meant to share “ideas worth spreading” and inspire audiences to reflect and reframe their thinking. TEDx events extend TED’s mission to local communities around the world, bringing people together for independently organized grassroots programs.

One affiliate event, TEDxCapeMay, has become a South Jersey tradition that draws thought leaders and innovators from all over the country. This fall, we were thrilled to have our very own Mark Lenhard, President & CEO of UMC and UMCF, selected as one of just eight featured speakers chosen from a pool of over 800 applicants!

In his talk, “Re-Envisioning Aging Successfully,” Mark explored how we can rethink what it means to age and how each of us, at every age and stage, can live abundantly in connected, multigenerational communities.

Taking the stage in Cape May was both an honor and an opportunity to spark meaningful conversation with new audiences. While the live event was an unforgettable experience, the conversation is just beginning! The full TEDx talk is now available online, and we encourage you to watch, reflect, and share it with friends and family. Together, we can continue creating and strengthening communities that embrace and celebrate aging.



Scan here to watch Mark's TEDx talk, or visit <https://supportumcf.org/mark-lenhard-tedxcapemay/>.

Welcoming New *Voices* to the UMC Foundation Board of Trustees

The UMC Foundation is excited to welcome three new members to its Board of Trustees. Lisa Kaufman, Layne Gordon, and Norris Clark each bring unique expertise and energy that will help UMCF continue to grow and advance its mission. Their perspectives and leadership will strengthen our work in senior care, sustainability, and building new community partnerships.



Lisa Kaufman

Lisa brings deep expertise in project management and real estate development to the UMCF Board of Trustees. As a Senior Project Manager at Walsh Company and a LEED Accredited Professional, she has led complex construction and renovation projects for firms such as Gensler, Huntsman, and FX Fowle. She was drawn to UMCF by a professional connection with VP Jim Roberts and a growing interest in senior living, and she is excited to contribute to an organization she views as dynamic and full of promise.



Layne Gordon

Layne brings more than 30 years of experience in business consulting, legal practice, and entrepreneurial leadership to the UMCF Board of Trustees. He currently serves as Head of Business Operations for Travel Plaza Media and President of Acme Funding, and he has helped many startups and small businesses plan strategically and build long-term sustainability. Layne was inspired to join the UMCF board after helping his father-in-law navigate senior living options. Layne describes it as an eye-opening experience that deepened his appreciation for the importance of compassionate, dignified care for older adults. He is eager to contribute his expertise and energy to helping UMCF continue to grow.



Norris Clark

Norris is grateful for the opportunity to join the UMCF Board of Trustees and work alongside a talented team dedicated to helping older adults live their most abundant lives. A longtime advocate of the power of storytelling, Norris recently transitioned from his role as Managing Partner of Princeton Strategic Communications, where he guided award-winning branding and PR campaigns across nonprofit, education, and tourism sectors. He will remain with PSC as a Partner through 2025 before moving into “semi-retirement” and devoting more time to his volunteer pursuits. Norris’s decision to join the UMCF board reflects both his personal faith tradition and his strong commitment to strengthening senior care in New Jersey.

We are grateful for the partnership and dedication of all of our board members and the insight they bring to shaping UMCF’s future. **If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about event committees, volunteer opportunities, or other ways to deepen your support of UMCF, we invite you to reach out to Jim Roberts, Vice President of the UMC Foundation, at jroberts@umcommunities.org.**

Your partnership helps ensure we can continue delivering compassionate services and meaningful connection for the seniors we serve.

Supporting the Next Generation of Healthcare Workers: Herve's Story

Herve Sanon's journey has been defined by one principle: "Commitment is an act, not a word."



Herve had already earned his associates degree through Essex County Newark Tech High School's early college program, and informed UMC of his plans to attend Lehigh University and major in public health while pursuing their 4+1 Master of Public Health program. He shared his goal of serving immigrant and under-resourced communities and his dream of helping position access, advocacy, and human connection as the heart of health and wellness outreach.

Thanks to the generosity of the Bishop Taylor community, senior housing mission team, and UMC Foundation, Herve was able to meet his \$1,000 fundraising goal and received enough financial support to cover books, school supplies, and some essential technology to get him started on his college career. Bishop Taylor's social services coordinator, Asia Saxton, led the effort and noted, *"It's truly inspiring to have so many caring people invest in a young person's future."*

This scholarship represents more than just financial support, however. It reflects a community coming together to encourage growth and invest in the next generation. Herve is profoundly grateful for the way his community rallied around him, and he looks forward to turning their generosity into action, declaring, "I don't just want to study public health...I want to live it, lead with it, and use it to build stronger, more compassionate communities."

Born in Haiti and raised in Newark, NJ, Herve has always been guided by a deep sense of responsibility and care for his elders. When his grandparents moved to Bishop Taylor Manor, one of UMC's senior affordable housing apartments, his aunt juggled serving as their primary caregiver while also working a full-time job. Still a young teenager, Herve stepped in to help by cooking traditional Haitian meals, managing medications, attending medical appointments, and assisting his grandparents with everyday tasks and errands. His actions not only helped his family but also gave him a deeper understanding of the challenges many older adults face. This inspired his growing passion for public health and cemented him as part of the Bishop Taylor family.



WATCH NOW:



A Celebration OF LOVE

UNITED TOGETHER

Our annual virtual program premiered on October 25th and is still available for you to experience! This year's presentation, United Together – A Celebration of Love, celebrates inspiring stories of connection, compassion, and companionship from our residents, teammates, and volunteers.

If you didn't watch on premiere night, you don't want to miss it! View the full program on our YouTube channel or event landing page, supportumcf.org/celebration-of-love. Please share it with your family and friends and help us spread the joy, care, and vibrant community life at our UMC communities!

We are deeply grateful to our top sponsors who made this program, and so much more, possible: Hawks & Company and Sweetwater Construction Corp. (Fiscal Year 2026 Premier Sponsors) and Sodexo (Presenting Sponsor). Their partnership and genuine care for our residents helps create comfortable environments and memorable experiences for the older adults we serve.



Scan here to watch our Celebration, or visit <https://supportumcf.org/celebration-of-love/>.

New Mission & Purpose Statement

We are pleased to share our new and improved UMCF mission and purpose statements, which were recently affirmed by the UMCF Board of Trustees at our October meeting. As UMCF continues to expand by growing awareness and creating and strengthening partnerships in the communities we serve, our goal is to have a clear, concise explanation of our guiding principles and the work we do. We invite you to refer back to this Mission and Purpose when discussing UMCF with your own personal networks.

OUR MISSION

The UMC Foundation (UMCF) advances sustainable community living and compassionate care for seniors by raising critical funds for United Methodist Communities (UMC).

OUR PURPOSE

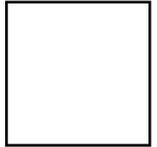
The role of UMCF is to create and maintain strong partnerships and secure critical funding to support residents with limited financial means, and fund UMC's housing, innovative healthcare, and community-driven programs and projects that help older adults live their most abundant lives. Together with our community of individual donors, business partners, local churches and groups, and other friends of our mission, we are advancing UMC's excellence in senior care and sustainable senior living.



UMC FOUNDATION

Abundant Life for Seniors

205 Jumping Brook Road
Neptune, NJ 07753
SupportUMCF.org



Growing Our Circle Expanding Our Impact

**Don't Miss a Moment!
Connect Online!**



@UMCommunities



@UMCommunities



youtube.com/UnitedMethodistCommunities

DON'T MISS A MOMENT!

Legacy Giving

It's never too late to change your plans. There are many ways to include the UMC Foundation in your legacy planning

Consider:

- A bequest (in the form of property, stocks, cash, or a portion of your estate)
- Designate the Foundation as a beneficiary in your retirement fund
- Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Making a gift of life insurance
- A Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

With so many options available for including us in your legacy planning, it can be overwhelming to know which asset to give. Tax ramifications are one of the best considerations when determining the most beneficial choices for you. Depending on the kind of gift you give, it may be eligible for tax benefits or deductions from your estate taxes.

Giving By Check or Credit Card?

Visit supportumcf.org or scan the code to give online now.



Volunteer with UMC!

With our nine locations across New Jersey, there's bound to be a UM Community near you. Would you consider donating your time to bring a smile to the face of a senior? Whatever your interest, we can find a way to benefit our communities through your experience, expertise, and passion.

Scan the QR code to tell us how you're interested in helping out!



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