

## Bequest a Welcome Surprise

In late January, an attorney's letter arrived at the Porter Hills Foundation. The letter contained a generous donation from the estate of George and Harriet Smith.

"We were pleasantly surprised when the gift came," said Anne Benson, Vice President of Development at Porter Hills. "We didn't know that the Foundation was included in their estate and we didn't know much about the Smiths at all."




*George and Harriet Smith*

The Smiths' friends and family provided clues to what motivated their generous gift. Harriet and George lived in the West Michigan area for many years and were involved in giving back to the community. "Harriet went to the same church, Eighth Reformed Church, her whole life," long-time friend Eleanor Vlietstra said, "She sang in the choir there. Harriet was also very talented and did beautiful handiwork. She created banners for the church and made beautiful baby quilts for Stork, Inc., which gives layettes to mothers in need."

Harriet and George were first made aware of Porter Hills when George's older sister, Laura, moved into Porter Hills Village in the 1970s. Through Laura's experience in Catered Living and the Health Center, "they saw what it was like," said George's sister Ethel DeLooff. "I'm glad that they were able to give back."

"Aunt Harriet and Uncle George gave to many charities," commented their nephew Phil DeMaar. "They were blessed to help serve their fellow Christians."

Their gift certainly is a blessing to the current residents of Porter Hills. Their gift will be used for the Martindill Wellness Center Endowment, which will allow residents to continue to use the state-of-the-art Center at no cost.

If you would like more information about establishing an estate gift or would also like to support the Wellness Center, please contact our office at (616) 949-4975, ext. 20415. 

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## Spring Brings a New Perspective

Have you ever noticed how spring makes you look around with new eyes? As the weather warms and we spend more time outside, we remember things that we've forgotten over the cold winter months. We welcome the sun each morning. We notice the wildlife that has returned from their winter homes. We anticipate the budding of the flowers and trees and recall what they look like in full bloom.

The Porter Hills Foundation is also experiencing spring's fresh perspective. We are planning for a new fiscal year and preparing for new projects, like the GREEN HOUSES<sup>®</sup>,

LifeCircles and Station Pointe to begin.

Plans for a brand new special event are in full swing. It is truly an exciting time of growth.

But the most exciting thing of all is looking around and realizing anew how our donors come through for us time after time in many different ways. This issue of the Foundation newsletter highlights some of the recent ways in which you and members of the larger community have supported Porter Hills. It is you who enable Porter Hills to grow and continue to provide quality care for the senior community. And we are, as always, grateful for your support.



Charles Jennings

Charles W. Jennings  
Foundation Board Chair

*Do you have any comments or suggestions  
on how we can improve our newsletter?*

*Are there any topics that you would like  
to see included in the future?*

*We welcome your ideas and input! Please call*

*(616) 949-4975, ext. 20415, or e-mail*

*[lmichael@porterhills.org](mailto:lmichael@porterhills.org)*

## California Foundation Supports LifeCircles PACE

What does a California foundation focused on technology, math and science for at risk kids have to do with Porter Hills? The House Family Foundation, located in San Jose, California, recently donated \$25,000 to LifeCircles Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

“We had no idea if the House family would be interested in supporting LifeCircles, since it is far outside their typical parameters.” said Anne Benson, Porter Hills’ Vice President of Development. “But Dave House was born and raised in Muskegon, so we knew that there was a chance the Foundation would want to invest in his home community. We were introduced to the House family by Bob Israels, also a Muskegon native, and were able to present the project to them.”



*Dave House,  
Founder of The House  
Family Foundation*

The project did appeal to the House family. Representatives from the Foundation visited West Michigan to learn more about PACE and the donation soon followed. Their generosity will go a long way towards meeting a \$300,000 challenge grant issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and will ultimately be instrumental in making LifeCircles PACE a reality. 🍁

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## T & M Partners Donates Key Property

T & M Partners, LLC recently donated a portion of land in Caledonia Township to Porter Hills. The property is adjacent to Porter Hills’ Station Creek Retirement Community and will be the site of a new Porter Hills community called Station Pointe.



*Site of the Future Station Pointe Retirement Community*

“This donation was critical to our being able to build this new community,” said Ingrid Weaver, Porter Hills’ Vice President of Operations. “We’re incredibly grateful for T & M’s continued support for our vision.”

Station Pointe will provide housing for low to middle income seniors. 🍁

# Porter Hills Donor List

*Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations who generously made gifts and/or pledges between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2008.*

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### Virginia Hook

Mr. and Mrs. John Sebastian

## Memorials

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## **Cash Gifts, Pledges, and/or In-Kind Contributions**

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Anonymous (4)  
Arnie's Bakery & Restaurant

### **B**

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Mr. Glenn Walters  
Ingrid and Matt Weaver  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. White  
Dean and Emma Winter

~ = New Samaritan Club Member  
\* = Deceased

## Porter Hills Village Residents Win Big Local Businesses Support Casino Night

Porter Hills Village residents had another chance to beat the late winter doldrums – and the house – at a Casino Night hosted in late March. Program Coordinator Rachel Hansen said, “Residents consistently comment on this being their favorite event of those we host all year.” Decorations went up and the first floor of the Village was transformed into a casino.


Staff from many different departments volunteered to deal Black Jack and Beat the Dealer, call Bingo, and spin Roulette. The staff and residents enjoyed being able to interact and get to know one another better in a different setting. “The Bingo room was full the entire time,” noted Resident Services Manager Marcy Emmelkamp. “The residents

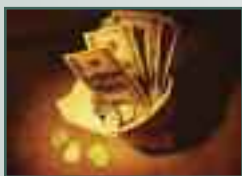
seemed to really have been enjoying themselves.”



*Donna Allen, Porter Hills Village resident*

Donna Allen, a resident at Porter Hills, has been going to Casino Night every year since she moved in. “It’s fun,” she commented, “There’s more participation from residents because it’s such a different event.” Donna won a gift certificate for a free overnight stay at Days Inn. “I won’t use it myself,” she explained, “but my son is coming from California this summer and he was very excited to hear about it!”

In all, more than twenty-five prizes were donated from various local businesses and were awarded at the end of the night. Residents swapped and shared their prizes so that everyone went home a winner. Hansen mentioned, “We are truly blessed to offer some incredible door prizes, and it couldn’t be done without the generosity of the greater community!” 



### Thanks a Million to our Casino Night Donors!

Arnie’s Bakery & Restaurant

Days Inn

Gerald R. Ford Museum

Grand Rapids Art Museum

Grand Rapids Civic Theatre

Mary Ann’s Chocolates

Motophoto

Public Museum of Grand Rapids

Sayfee’s

Schuler’s Books and Music

Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill

Sunshine Transportation

# Let Yours Be The Life That Shines

## Annual Appeal Update

Each year, through its Annual Appeal, the Porter Hills Foundation asks you to support us financially. We come to our residents and their families, board members, staff, business partners and friends in the greater community because you believe in our mission. And, with your support, we can enhance the lives of those we serve.

So far, this year's annual appeal has been supported by approximately 300 donors with gifts totaling \$71,931. We gratefully thank those of you who have already made your contribution.


While the majority of your gifts have been directed to one of our Benevolent Funds, you may choose to support another fund that touches your heart:

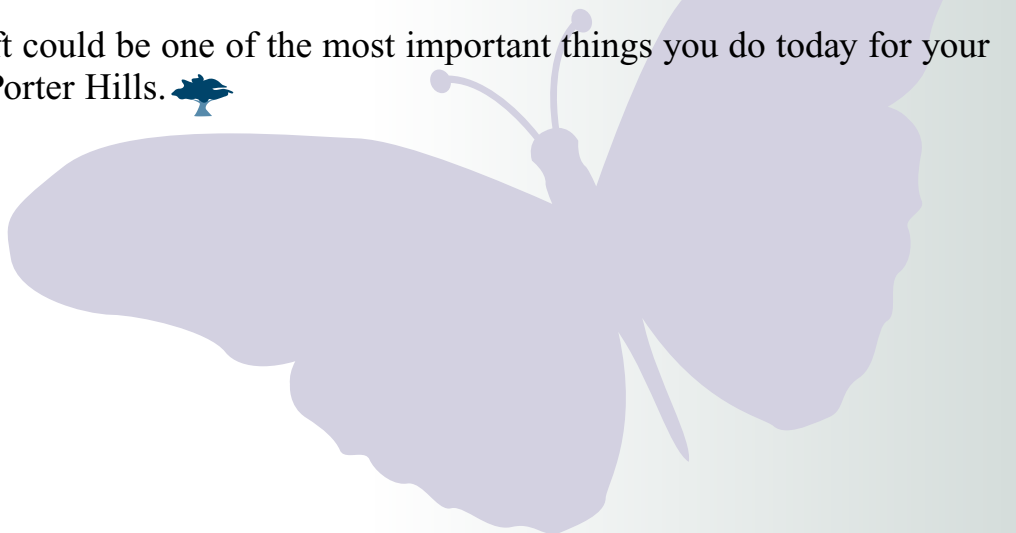
- *Martindill Wellness Center Endowment Fund* – This fund fulfills a promise that the Center will be available to all Porter Hills residents at no additional fee
- *David B. Douma Tribute Fund* – This fund helps qualified individuals gain access to financial assistance at the beginning of their residency
- *Service Support Funds* – Provide one-time or short-term services for residents of our Affordable Housing Communities
- *Harmony Hall Music Therapy Program* – Music therapy events are a time when fear is put aside and residents can easily participate without hesitation of social stigma

As stated by Nelson Mandela, “And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same....”

If you are still considering giving to the Annual Appeal, we ask that you take this moment to “let yours be the life that shines.”

If you cannot make a financial gift, please consider the gift of prayer so we can continue to positively impact the precious individuals we serve.

Remember - your gift could be one of the most important things you do today for your friends and family at Porter Hills. 



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www.porterhills.org




**In a place of peace  
and happiness.**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2008  
at 6:30 p.m.**

**Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park**

**Tickets are \$125.00 per person  
Table sponsorships still available**

Take an imaginary trip to Hong Kong and experience the Chinese culture through food, music, and entertainment. Learn about the unique connection between the Chinese community and the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) that Porter Hills is bringing to West Michigan.

Win a trip to San Francisco, Vancouver, or Hawaii! Bring some cash, your checkbook, or your credit card to purchase raffle tickets. \$25 each or 5 for \$100. 

**The Porter Hills Foundation Newsletter**

is published for the friends of Porter Hills Retirement Communities & Services.

Anne M. Benson ..... *V. P. of Development & Editor*

Lydia S. Michael ..... *Assistant Editor*

**Mission Statement**

*Our mission is to raise, invest, and monitor the funds that support Porter Hills Retirement Communities & Services in providing a continuum of high-quality communities and services.*

Porter Hills supports the principles of equal opportunity without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, religion, national origin, qualified disabled status, height, weight, marital or familial status, or other personal characteristics as protected by applicable law.



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Retirement Communities & Services

**Porter Hills Foundation**

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