

## IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE

The poet Robert Frost once wrote, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." In offering a powerful image of God's love, Jesus said, "in my Father's house there are many dwelling places" (John 14:2). We all need a place to belong, we all yearn for safe and secure space where we are valued, a place to call home.

The United Methodist Community House has provided such a place to belong for over 100 years, reaching out to those who might otherwise be struggling to find such spaces. It has done so out of a deep commitment to see all persons as beloved, a value rooted in the Methodism of its founders, but a value widely shared by many.

I am proud to support the work of UMCH and am delighted to participate in its bold new project to create more space for a place to belong.



**David A Bard**

Bishop David Alan Bard,  
MI Conference of The United  
Methodist Church Cabinet member,  
*A Place to Belong* campaign



**70% OF FAMILIES**  
in Grand  
Rapids rely  
on full-day,  
full-year child  
development  
services.



**1 IN 2 CHILDREN**  
in Kent  
County don't  
have access to  
licensed child  
development  
seats.



**98% OF SENIORS**  
say Grand  
Rapids needs  
a dedicated  
senior center  
for adults  
aged 50+.

## WE NEED YOU

Your support helps build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community, especially for our youngest and oldest neighbors. **Won't you join us?**



### VISIT [UMCHOUSEGR.ORG/FAITH TO:](https://umchousegr.org/faith-to)

- Donate
- Schedule a tour
- Learn more about the campaign
- Find resources to help engage your UWF Chapter or congregation



United Methodist  
Community House

904 Sheldon Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
616.452.3226 | [umchousegr.org](https://umchousegr.org)



United Methodist  
Community House

# A PLACE TO BELONG



## SOMETHING WE ALL NEED

Community is more than just the place we live. It is where we find belonging and people who care for us. It's what makes us feel safe and gives us strength.

When a group of United Methodist Women founded United Methodist Community House in 1902, they envisioned a place where everyone—regardless of age, race, or income—would find community. That at UMCH, everyone would find a place to belong.

The UMW legacy of “showing up and getting things done” is more than something we value. Born of the founders' vision in 1902, that legacy is who we are.

For generations, UMCH has been a place where so many have found community and belonging. But as the needs of our community grow, we know we can—and must—do more. In the spirit of our shared legacy, we are excited to share this plan to help even more people find a place to belong.

In partnership,



*Carla Moore*  
Carla Moore, Co-CEO



*Eric Williams*  
Eric Williams, Co-CEO

## A PLACE FOR CHILDREN

Childcare for ages 0-2 is desperately lacking in Kent County. We will significantly increase spots for more children to receive loving, trusted, safe care.



**0-2 Year Olds**  
Currently: 32 spots  
Adding: 40 spots



**3-4 Year Olds**  
Currently: 32 spots  
Adding: 32 spots



**2nd Shift Care**  
16 new spots



**Crisis Drop-In Care**  
30 spots (*added in 2021*)

## A PLACE FOR SENIORS

Grand Rapids is home to more than 50,000 residents aged 50+, but is lacking enough affordable housing and a dedicated senior activity center. We will help seniors age in place with strength, health, and wholeness.



**46 UNITS**  
of affordable rental housing for ages 60+



Health, wellness & social activity space for **500+ SENIORS DAILY**

## A PLACE FOR ALL

Everybody deserves to feel deeply rooted in community — to have the resources they need and to feel a true sense of belonging.

- We will dedicate space for an intergenerational research laboratory and programs in partnership with area colleges and universities.
- Our Fresh Market, which provides the public with affordable, locally-grown produce, will have a permanent home.
- Multi-purpose areas will offer a place for community to come together.



## A PLACE WHERE INNOVATION MEETS INCLUSION

When it comes to solutions to better support our community, UMCH has never been afraid to be the first to try, and then share success. We believe equity is a direct outcome of inclusion, and continue to invite all to join us at the table.

## A PLACE WHERE OUR COMMUNITY IS STRENGTHENED

This plan ensures more children can thrive, more families can work, and more seniors can be healthy in body, mind, and spirit. This plan will help families get back to work, remove isolation, and make our economy stronger for decades to come.

**\$30+ MILLION**  
in economic activity during construction phase

**50 NEW JOBS**  
created

**\$3+ MILLION**  
annual increase in household purchasing power

**\$7+ MILLION**  
in new annual economic activity

**\$900K+**  
annual community healthcare cost savings for seniors