

Work Begins on Near-East Side Detroit Senior Community

Community Foundation investment a catalyst for innovative partnership

A \$2 million grant from the Community Foundation has made it possible for three nonprofit organizations with a history of innovation and service to form a first-of-its-kind collaboration to redevelop a neighborhood, create jobs, and fill important health care and living needs for seniors in the city of Detroit.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, United Methodist Retirement Communities and Henry Ford Health System will break ground in April on the first phase of their \$35 million East Jefferson Neighborhood Project. The project will include residential assisted living apartments, as well as daily outpatient services and a second location of Henry Ford Health System's successful Center for Senior Independence. A second phase of the project will feature residential units with skilled nursing, a café, and other services and amenities.

The Community Foundation investment served as catalyst for the project, enabling the partners to purchase properties just north of the UAW/GM Center for Human Resources along Jefferson Avenue — a neighborhood in which there is a compelling need for affordable senior housing and health services — and

to begin broader fundraising. An economic impact study by the Community Foundation was also instrumental to the project.

"The East Jefferson Neighborhood Project is an important step toward meeting the growing needs of the city of Detroit's growing senior population," says Roger Myers, president and CEO of Presbyterian Villages. It also marks an important new phase in the Community Foundation's multiyear investment in Detroit's near-east side neighborhood, an important geographic focus for the Foundation. The Community Foundation established the Detroit Neighborhood Fund in 2006 with a \$10 million investment from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and \$5 million from the Ford Foundation. The primary goal of the program is to build stronger, healthier neighborhoods in the area bordered by Woodward and McClellan avenues, and Gratiot and the Detroit River. To date, \$14 million has been invested in projects ranging from the dramatic revitalization of the riverfront, to the creation of an extensive network of greenways, to support for a variety of nonprofits working to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of the neighborhood.

The East Jefferson Neighborhood Project will not only improve the quality of life of the more than 750 seniors it will eventually serve, but it will also create more than 180 health care jobs and 350 construction jobs. Its estimated economic impact is expected to exceed \$250 million in the first decade of operation.

Architect's rendering of the East Jefferson Neighborhood Project, a complex of assisted living residences and outpatient health and independent living services for seniors.

