

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan

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Members Come Together to Revitalize Detroit Neighborhood

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Two LeadingAge members, [Presbyterian Villages of Michigan](#) (PVM) and [United Methodist Retirement Communities](#) (UMRC), recently joined forces with the nonprofit [Henry Ford Health System](#) (HFHS) to revitalize Detroit's East Jefferson Neighborhood through a project that will both create jobs and fulfill the health care and quality of life needs of the neighborhood's older adults.

This May, the group plans to break ground on the first phase of the East Jefferson Neighborhood Project, which will be home to the city's first Affordable Assisted Living option and a second location for HFHS's Center for Senior Independence, a [PACE program](#). The Affordable Assisted Living is a state program that provides below market-rate apartments with home care services, paid for by Medicaid.

The CSI program will be a joint venture between HFHS and PVM. The Affordable Assisted Living will be managed through a partnership of UMRC, PVM and the National Affordable Housing Trust, and its investor, Huntington National Bank Community Development Corporation.

"This exciting development is an important step toward effectively addressing the increasing needs of the City of Detroit's rapidly aging population," said Roger Myers, PVM President and CEO. "This senior population will expand by nearly 20 percent by 2035 and will be the only demographic group experiencing such growth over the next twenty-five years."

Beyond serving older adults, the project is also predicted to bring 350 construction jobs and 183 new health care jobs to the city, which currently has an [11% unemployment rate](#).

Future plans for the group include building a second phase of the project that will feature affordable independent living apartments, a [Green House® nursing home](#) and a neighborhood cafe. The project is expected to serve more than 750 older adults every year.

"This collaboration came together because, as nonprofit organizations, we are focused exclusively on our missions," said John Thorhauer, President and CEO of UMRC. "Since we do not have to return shareholder value, we could make this investment simply on community need."

We look forward to seeing the East Jefferson project expand the possibilities for aging people who need it the most. To find out more, read this [press release](#).