



UNITED
CHURCH
HOMES AND
SERVICES

UNITED CHURCH HOMES AND SERVICES ... *A History*

United Church Homes and Services (UCHS) is a church-related, not-for-profit corporation, originally chartered in 1961 for the primary purpose of constructing and managing retirement communities across the geographical boundaries of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. United Church Homes and Services is a Christian ministry committed to providing vibrant senior living opportunities, diverse programs of outreach and compassionate healthcare services.

Discussions took place in the mid-1950's, and in 1958, the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ elected the first twelve member board of directors to begin development of what is now United Church Homes and Services.

A capital campaign was conducted among the churches and individuals of the Southern Conference in the mid-1960s, and in 1971 a rest home with accommodations for sixty-eight persons was dedicated. The facility was constructed on land contributed by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. (Maye) Abernethy, near Newton, N.C. Through expansion of services and the addition of residential living, **Abernethy Laurels** is now a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), serving nearly 380 residents.

Plans for a second community became reality in 1978, when forty-nine acres of land near Thomasville, N.C. were contributed to UCHS through the estate of Mrs. Anise Shuler. It took nearly ten years of planning for a second community, known as **Piedmont Crossing**, to be constructed and dedicated on this Thomasville site. This continuing care retirement community was dedicated September 21, 1986. Through additional land purchases in the late 1990s, Piedmont Crossing now boasts a 61-acre campus that is home to more than 285 residents.

In 2000, UCHS purchased **Centerclair**, a sixty-bed nursing community in Lexington, NC to augment Piedmont Crossing and expand the ministry in Davidson County. In January 2012, Centerclair was closed and the skilled nursing beds were transferred to Piedmont Crossing in Thomasville to consolidate those facilities better serving Davidson County and the surrounding area. The newly expanded and renovated 114-bed health center was designed to provide a Household model of skilled care. Piedmont Crossing also operates **Kids Only**, a full-service childcare program, situated on the campus and licensed to serve up to 60 children. Kids Only serves the children of our staff and families from the wider community.

Through a generous gift from Maye Morrison Abernethy, an office building was constructed and dedicated in 1982 to house the home offices of United Church Homes and Services. The office building built on the site of Maye's family home is a replica of the original farmhouse. The home office of United Church Homes and Services is located on the campus of Abernethy Laurels on Highway 16, south of downtown Newton, North Carolina. The home office staff provides management services for all three continuing care retirement communities, as well as support for our six housing services programs and home and community based programs.

After many years of research and planning by dedicated individuals in Virginia for a third CCRC, a 172-acre site was purchased in Suffolk, Va. Known as **Lake Prince Woods**, this continuing care retirement community (CCRC) opened in 2002 and is home to approximately 290 seniors.

UCHS initially began the development of supportive housing communities with United Church of Chapel Hill and New Covenant Christian Church in Chapel Hill in the mid-1990s, utilizing grant funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 202/Section 8 Housing Program. This relationship resulted in the construction of **Covenant Place**, a rent-subsidized apartment building.

Additional supportive housing communities include **New Bern Older Adult Housing (NOAH)** opened in 2001 and **Emmanuel's Place**, opened in Statesville in 2002. **Saint Joseph's Place** in Durham and **Matthew's Place** in Albemarle were opened in 2003 and 2004. **The Willows**, a Burlington supportive housing community, became part of the UCHS family in 2007 when a management agreement was finalized.

In 2011, UCHS received a development grant from HUD for an award of construction of a 30-Unit Housing program to be based in Lexington, NC, on the campus of Carolina SeniorCare. This newest addition to the UCHS Family will carry the name of **Carolina Senior Living**. Construction began in July 2013, with completion and resident move-in scheduled for summer 2014. With the addition of this program, over 250 low-income seniors will be served through this arm of the UCHS ministry.

In 1997, a resale shop known as **Gift and Thrift Shop** was opened in downtown Newton. The shop employs a manager and is staffed primarily by volunteers. Financial proceeds from the Gift and Thrift support residents through the UCHS Foundation. A decision was made to close the Gift and Thrift Shop effective October 31, 2012.

In 2001, the **UCHS Foundation** was established to provide giving opportunities as well as to protect and distribute the funds donated to support the mission and ministry of UCHS.

On an annual basis, distributions from the *UCHS Benevolent Trust Fund* support residents who are on Medicaid, supplement the cost of residence for individuals who have outlived their resources, and assist other UCHS residents who are in need. Each UCHS community has *Campus Enrichment* and *Benevolent funds* established to enhance programs or meet needs specific to that community. Resident donors who contribute to these areas benefit directly from the programs developed on their campuses. Foundation grants are made annually to support projects that enrich resident life.

The *UCC Family Fund* was created in 2002. This fund was initiated by the Foundation Board to assist individuals who are closely associated with the United Church of Christ or UCHS. Gifts to this fund will assist in covering the costs associated with entrance into a UCHS community for individuals closely associated with the UCC or UCHS who are in financial need.

The Foundation also manages two funds specifically for employees; the *Employee Assistance Fund* and the *Leinbach Education Fund*. The assistance fund provides support for employees who find themselves in financial hardship through no fault of their own. These funds are used to pay utility costs, medical expenses or other essential items specific to a hardship situation. The Education Fund disburses money to full time employees to help pay the cost of college tuition. In return, Education Fund recipients agree to remain employed with UCHS for a specified period.

In 2010, United Church Homes and Services began plans to become an approved as a **PACE** provider. PACE (**P**rogram of **A**ll-Inclusive **C**are for the **E**lderly) is an outreach designed to address the needs of frail elderly individuals who wish to remain in their homes in the community. UCHS' first PACE program – **Carolina SeniorCare** is located in Lexington, NC, and opened its doors to the wider-community on October 1, 2012. Carolina SeniorCare currently serves a four-county area, which includes Davidson, Davie, Iredell and Rowan Counties.

In 2013, United Church Homes and Services entered into a membership agreement with three other North Carolina not-for-profit entities to form a new corporation, **Community Senior Care**, a PACE provider which will establish a program in the Winston-Salem, NC area, serving specifically Forsyth and Stokes counties. The facility is expected to open operations sometime in spring of 2016.