



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Care Celebrates National PACE Month

BROOKFIELD, WISCONSIN (January 25, 2018) – Wisconsin’s only Programs of All-Inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE) provider, Community Care, is excited to be participating in the first National PACE Month. Community Care’s PACE program currently serves over 500 adults in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties.

According to Kenneth Munson, CEO of Community Care, “PACE is a great option for adults 55 years of age and older, who are frail and/or have physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities but want to remain in their homes and remain independent.”

The program provides comprehensive medical, behavioral health and dental care, prescription drugs and long-term supports and services including: adult day services, home care, transportation, employment services and rehabilitation services so that older adults can continue living at home in their community, rather than living in a nursing home.

The fully integrated, provider-based model of care revolves around an interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers, dietitians, drivers and others who provide direct care and services to meet the individual needs of program participants. There are currently 122 PACE programs available in 31 states.

The theme of the first National PACE Month is “Delivering Independence,” celebrating the role of PACE drivers in promoting independence for seniors.

“Because PACE is a fully integrated model of care transportation plays such an important role in keeping the seniors we serve living safely in the community,” said Shawn Bloom, President and CEO of the National PACE Association. “Our PACE drivers don’t just offer curb-to-curb transportation. They enter the enrollee’s home to help them to our vans and are trained to look for changes in the home environment or in the level of assistance an enrollee needs. By identifying changes quickly, the PACE program can plan treatments and interventions immediately before larger issues surface.”

According to Sister Mary Rose, who has been a member of Community Care’s Milwaukee County PACE program since early 2016, “Being involved in PACE has greatly reduced my limitations. It has been a great relief to know that I can get help when I need it. I feel a sense of

comfort in knowing that when there is something wrong, I'm able to easily connect with PACE doctor either by appointment or through a nurse.”

Alfred P. utilizes a PACE Day Center at the Vliet Center in Milwaukee and echoes Sister Mary's Rose's comments. “The PACE Day Center gives me something to do and gets me out of the house. I like talking to the people and just being here. ”

Most members of the PACE program are low income and therefore eligible for Medicaid. PACE has an option for interested parties to privately pay for the Medicaid benefit by paying monthly premiums. Interested participants must live in a service area that operates PACE and be age 55 and older. PACE has been a successful model of care because it integrates across the full continuum of care and services, regardless of who is paying.

“PACE really is an innovative model that continues to adapt and change as public policy, technology, and even the seniors who we serve change. That being said, I believe PACE is successful because it is based on building relationships between enrollees and the members of the PACE interdisciplinary team. It reduces duplication of services and makes the care process much more efficient,” adds Bloom.

About Community Care

Headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., Community Care, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization that serves the long-term care and health needs of more than 10,000 older adults and adults with physical or intellectual disabilities. Founded in 1977, Community Care is the only Wisconsin managed care organization to offer all three programs of Family Care, Family Care Partnership and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The organization provides care in the 14 Wisconsin counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Winnebago. For more information about Community Care, visit www.communitycareinc.org.

About The National PACE Association

The National PACE Association works to advance the efforts of Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE®). Congress recently passed bipartisan legislation to adapt the PACE model to serve other high-cost, high-need individuals who could benefit from highly coordinated personalized care. Policy-makers see a key role for PACE in serving younger individuals with physical or mental disabilities or those with multiple chronic conditions. For more information, visit <http://www.npaonline.org>.

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