



# Newsletter

## Winter 2021



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## Letter from the CEO

### Jim Schlaman

I hope your holiday season is full of love, peace, and joy. 2021 continues to be a year of change as we navigate through the pandemic. We endeavor to keep our participants safe and healthy, yet provide opportunities for people to get out of their homes to enjoy socialization, recreation, spiritual care, nutrition, and medical care.

I am pleased to share that PACE has established a full-time medical team to provide the continuity of care you deserve. We have a team of committed providers here to serve. Our Servant Leadership culture is gaining traction as we focus on empowering our team members to reflect the character traits of a servant leader and caring for each other as we care for our participants. Each interaction throughout the day is an opportunity to encourage, listen, and facilitate healing. The retention rate of our team members is a direct reflection on our culture shift. Compared to this time last year, our retention rate for PACE employees has increased by 50%.

Many blessings to you and your loved ones.

*Kind regards,  
Jim*

## *A Full-time Medical Team for You!*

***PACE of Southwest Michigan is proud to announce that, for the first time in several years, we have a full-time, PACE-employed medical provider team. Medical Director, Jennifer White, MD; Dietmar Grentz, MD; Sherry Simpson, NP; and Thomas McConnell, NP comprise the PACE provider team.***

According to Health Care Trends, September 2021, “the US is falling short on the number of primary care physicians they need on a national level. The situation is even more serious in rural areas.”

Along with most of the other healthcare organizations in our communities, PACE has faced challenges in recruiting full-time primary care providers. However, with PACE’s growing reputation for clinical quality and compassionate care along with a culture of servant leadership, they now have an outstanding full-time medical provider team.

When PACE of Southwest Michigan first opened its doors in 2012, Dr. Keith Van Oosterhout, a well-respected Family Practice Physician and Gerontologist, was the first PACE Primary Care Physician and Medical Director. After Dr. Van Oosterhout left PACE years later, PACE employed excellent physicians, but some were contract positions. “Our participants, patients and families deserve a consistent medical team to care for their physical and psychosocial needs. I am delighted PACE is able to provide the highest quality and compassionate care from physicians and nurse practitioners working full-time with our seniors.” explains Jim Schlaman, PACE CEO.

Dr. Jennifer White, who joined PACE in 2020 as a locum Primary Care Physician, accepted the position of Medical Director in August 2021. She also continues to provide patient care to participants. Dr. White received her Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude at Southern Adventist

University School of Medicine in Collegedale, Tennessee. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California and completed her residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. White is board-certified in Internal Medicine.

Before coming to PACE of Southwest Michigan, Dr. White was a Primary Care Physician at Senior Community Care PACE in Lansing, Michigan. She also served at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan in bariatric medicine, outpatient internal medicine and as a locum hospitalist.

“My goal is to provide person-centered care that focuses on what is most important to seniors living with chronic illness and to help them and their family navigate the sometimes confusing and challenging decisions that may arise when living with chronic illness,” said Dr. White.

PACE primary care physician Dr. Dietmar Grentz joined PACE in September of 2021. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Loma Linda, California and completed his Family Medicine residency at Hinsdale Hospital in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Prior to joining the medical team at PACE, Dr. Grentz served as Medical Director of Occupational Medicine at Unity Point Health Finley Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa; as Primary Care Physician at Visiting Physicians Association in Portage, Michigan; as Staff Physician at Sparrow Medical Group in Carson City, Michigan; and as Staff Physician at Physicians Neck and Back Clinics.

Dr. Grentz shares, “I was attracted to a position at PACE verses a more typical community medical practice because of the team approach to caring for elderly patients with multiple medical problems. This approach makes it easier to meet the many needs of our participants since care is coordinated under one roof rather than being in multiple places with different providers and caregivers from various organizations.”

Sherry Simpson, NP, first joined PACE of Southwest Michigan in 2014. Sherry received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree, her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, and her Master of Science degree in Nursing, all from Andrews





University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Sherry is board-certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner and a Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner.

Sherry has also served as a Nurse Practitioner at Southwestern Medical Clinic in Bridgman, Michigan; a Homecare RN for Lakeland in Niles, Michigan; a Nurse Practitioner at Southwestern Medical Clinic serving at several long-term care facilities in multiple locations in Berrien County, Michigan; and as an RN at Hospice at Home in St. Joseph, Michigan.

When asked why she enjoys serving at PACE, Sherry said, “I enjoy being a part of a multi-disciplinary team that works together to meet the diverse needs of our participants. The PACE model puts the participants first and does not have some of the typical barriers one might encounter in a typical community outpatient setting which means that as a provider I can more readily and comprehensively work with each participant to address their needs.” Adds Sherry, “My philosophy of care is quite simple. I am here to educate, support and guide each participant in helping them achieve their goals of care. The PACE model focuses on each participant as the unique person they are, and the

entire team works towards helping each participant meet their individual goals.”

Thomas McConnell, NP, came to PACE as a contract Nurse Practitioner in May of 2021 and

accepted a permanent position in November. He will begin as a permanent PACE provider on January 1, 2022. Tom received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Wayne State University and his Master of Science degree in Adult Gerontology Primary Care at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan. Tom is a member of the Gerontological Advanced

Practice Nurses Association and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. Tom is board-certified in Adult Gerontology Primary Care with specialty certifications in Hospice and Palliative care.

Tom previously worked as a provider at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan; Beaumont Wayne Hospital in Wayne, Michigan; and at the offices of Dr. B. Gandhi, Neurology in Wyandotte, Michigan.

Tom says that his philosophy of care is based on providing comfort for his patients. “Comfort should be a part of every participant’s care plan as we treat them for their chronic illnesses.”

*“Our participants, patients and families deserve a consistent medical team to care for their physical and psychosocial needs.”*

*~ Jim Sclaman, PACE CEO*

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## *Making a Difference with United Way!*

PACE of Southwest Michigan has a history of partnering with community organizations to help seniors in our community and 2021 is no exception.

On Veteran’s Day, Thursday, November 11, PACE team members joined hundreds of volunteers, working as teams, in United Way’s 11th annual “Rake A Difference.” This event helps seniors who are not able to do their own yard work and can’t afford to pay someone to help them.

Although it was in the low 50s, with 20 mile-

an-hour winds, with intermittent rain, the PACE volunteers helped rake leaves for the seniors AND they had a fun time doing it!

Said PACE volunteer, IT Manager, David Lammon, “I love how we all worked together and how we kept a great attitude even as the rain poured down at times. Isn’t it amazing what we can do as a team?”

In addition to volunteering for United Way’s Rake A Difference, PACE also participated in a United Way Giving Campaign to raise funds for this great



organization.

United Way of Southwest Michigan is part of a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that work to create lasting positive changes in communities and people's lives. United Way engages the community to identify the underlying causes of the most

significant local issues, develops strategies and pulls together financial and human resources to address them, and measures the results.

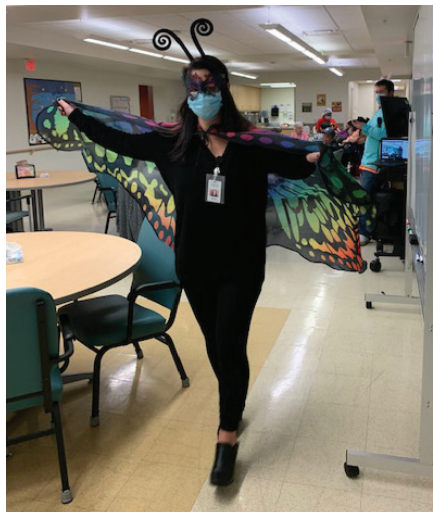
This year, PACE of Southwest Michigan team members raised \$2,028 for United Way of Southwest Michigan.





# Day Center FUN!!

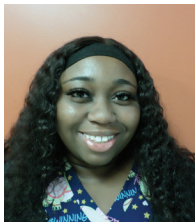
*Although the PACE Day Center has had limited attendance because of the pandemic, we are now up to 35 participants in the Day Center per day. Participants are assessed and those with the greatest need are brought in for Day Center attendance. From decorating pumpkins to helping stuff backpacks for the Benton Harbor Charter School students, to crafts and games, we have been having so much FUN!*





# New Faces *at* PACE!

Please join us in welcoming these professionals to PACE: Shaniqua Alexander, CNA; Alexander Ault, Activities Coordinator; Jade Fowler, CNA; Candace Graham, Chief Clinical Officer; Dietmar Grentz, Primary Care Physician; David Lammon, IT Manager; Thomas McConnell, Nurse Practitioner; Justin McMurray, Financial Accounting Analyst; Britney Mills, RN, HCC; Yvonne Moore, CNA; Chris Rendell, Financial Accounting Analyst; Paula Shimulunas, Nurse Educator; Sherry Simpson, Nurse Practitioner; Lisa Sutton, Therapy Supervisor; Josiah Thompson, Rehabilitative Technician; Jeannie Welch, External Scheduler; Jennifer White, MD, Medical Director; Kenisha Whitelow-Perry, CNA; and Keri Winters, Internal Scheduler.



*Shaniqua Alexander, CNA*



*Alexander Ault, Activities Coord.*



*Jade Fowler, CNA*



*Candace Graham, CCO*



*Dietmar Grentz, PCP*



*David Lammon, IT Manager*



*Thomas McConnell, NP*



*Justin McMurray, Fin. Acctg. Analyst*



*Britney Mills, RN, HCC*



*Chris Rendell, Fin. Acctg. Analyst*



*Sherry Simpson, NP*



*Lisa Sutton, Therapy Supervisor*



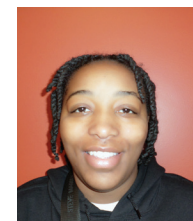
*Josiah Thompson, Rehab Tech.*



*Jeannie Welch, Ext. Scheduler*



*Jennifer White, MD, PCP*

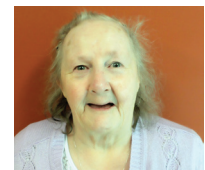


*Kenisha Whitelow-Perry, CNA*



*Keri Winters, Int. Scheduler*

## Participant Story Irene Mallory



Irene Mallory grew up in Oxford, England. “I had great parents. I was one of nine children. She recalls playing in the park near Oxford University. “There was a huge river running through it. It was idyllic.”

Irene’s oldest siblings were born before England went to war with Germany. “My mother worked part time and raised five children when Dad was away in the war. He was in Italy, Africa and Germany.” Irene and three more siblings were born after their father’s return home from WWII.

“My father worked in a car factory,” Irene said. “We never knew we were poor. We had everything we needed – food, clothes, and a roof over our heads. And we went on vacations.”

Irene graduated from high school when she was 15 and went to work as a nanny. She and her friends enjoyed bowling and dances, and later the pubs and live music. When Irene was 21, she went to a dance at the U.S. air base in Oxford. She met an American who was stationed there. They were married, then divorced in 1993. After her divorce in 1993 Irene moved to Michigan to live with her sister and brother-in-law, who have since moved back to England.

Three years ago, Irene moved into an apartment in Watervliet, where she presently resides. The pandemic challenged her mental well-being, Irene says. “That was really hard. I was so isolated. Sometimes your thoughts don’t give you comfort. I’ve learned – especially with my depression – to keep myself busy. I read a lot,” she said.

During the PACE Day Center closure, Irene appreciated being able to connect with other PACE participants remotely. “I love my Grandpad,” she said of the tablet that PACE gave her to use. “That was so exciting, during the pandemic, to see them on video chat. That was so helpful.”

“I love PACE,” Irene said. “I love the socialization. It’s been a really good thing for me. I’ve made friends with quite a few participants.” Riding the NuStep machine has conditioned her upper body,” Irene says. Irene had been at risk for falls and feels that the exercise has added stability to her gait.

PACE makes life easier for Irene, and for her daughter. “Having everything in one place is so much better,” Irene said. “We don’t have to worry about transportation. If you need a specialist, they make sure you get an appointment. You don’t even have to think about it. And I love all the staff,” she adds. “They are absolutely wonderful. You get so close to them. They are so good with the participants.”

Irene takes part in Bible Study with PACE Chaplain Mary Beth. “We have become really good friends. Everybody should have a minister like her.” Irene also has good rapport with her social worker, Sarah, as well as PACE CEO, Jim. “I’ve led an interesting life,” said Irene, with a smile!

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*Participants may be fully and personally responsible for the costs of unauthorized or out-of-PACE program agreement services.* H0390-PSWMI-122021