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**Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E. Honors Program Participants and
Area Seniors During Older Americans Month**

KALAMAZOO, MICH. – May 12, 2021 – Each May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older Americans Month (OAM). This year’s theme is Communities of Strength, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities.

In the communities served by Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E. – Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Albion and Portage – older adults are a key source of strength. Through their experiences, successes, and difficulties, they have built resilience that helps them to face new challenges. When communities tap into this, they become stronger, too.

“Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E. celebrates the hundreds of program participants we serve – and all of our beloved senior citizens across Southwestern Michigan,” said Laura Ferrara, Chief Executive Officer. One of the ways the program shows its care and understanding for its program participants is by treating them with respect. Ferrara shared two recent testimonials from program participants emphasizing this point:

“I just want everyone to know how grateful I am to be in such good care. You are all so loving and kind, no one talks to me like I’m stupid. I’m so in awe. You are all so nice, and it warms my heart how you all take the time to explain and listen to me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

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"You all are the real heroes! You will go down in history for the work you are doing – our children and grandchildren will read about you. You are inspirational! What you do is just pure love."

This year, Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E. will celebrate OAM by encouraging community members to share their experiences. Here are some ways to share and connect:

- **Look for joy in the everyday:** Celebrate the small moments by taking the time to recognize them. Start a gratitude journal and share it with others on social media or call a friend or family member to share a happy moment or to say thank you.
- **Reach out to neighbors:** Even if you can't get together in person right now, you can still connect with your neighbors. Leave a small gift on their doorstep, offer to help with outdoor chores, or deliver a homecooked meal.
- **Build new skills:** Learning something new allows us to practice overcoming challenges. Take an art course online or join a socially-distanced outdoor movement class to enjoy learning with others in your community. Have a special skill? Find an opportunity to share your skill with someone.
- **Share your story:** There's a reason storytelling is a time-honored activity. Hearing how others experience the world helps us grow. Interviewing family, friends, and neighbors can open up new conversations and strengthen our connections.

Please join Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E. in strengthening our communities – follow our progress and engage with us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/seniorcarepartners/>), YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTeQNh3YZ5njt3TeuEpebQ>), and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/senior-care-partners-p-a-c-e/>).

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About Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E

Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E (Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) is an innovative model that provides a range of integrated services to manage the complex health care needs of the elderly. P.A.C.E was created to provide participants, caregivers and professional health care providers the flexibility to meet the participant's health care needs while continuing to live safely in their homes. The purpose of a P.A.C.E program is to provide comprehensive high-quality, economical health care services that are designed to assist the elderly with:

- Quality of life and autonomy;
- Dignity and respect;
- Life at home if medically and socially feasible; and
- Support for the caregiver.

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