



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Reveals Community-Based Programs - Instead of Nursing Homes – Crucial to Keep Older Adults Healthy Moving Forward

Programs like McGregor PACE allow participants to age at home, have fewer ER visits

CLEVELAND, OH – Tragically more than half of Ohio’s COVID-19 related deaths have been in nursing homes. The pandemic has revealed just how important it is to fund and support community-based services for seniors so older adults can stay safe and stay home.

One of those local community-based programs is McGregor PACE. An alternative to a nursing home, McGregor PACE provides medical, social and personal care for seniors while allowing them to live at home.

“Without PACE, it would have been a struggle for me to get the care that I’ve gotten,” said Brenda Brown. She has participated in the PACE program for years, and says it provides her with a social worker, an aide and medical care if she needs it. She doesn’t know how she would have survived the pandemic without PACE. “It’s kind of scary. To be honest with you, I’m really glad that I’m with pace when all this came about.”

The Center for Community Solutions, a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank in Cleveland, has issued a report about the PACE program and the importance of community-based programs like it. It shows that not only do 97 percent of older adults who are enrolled in the PACE program say they’re very satisfied with it, they also visit the emergency room less.

“COVID-19 has already changed - and should further modify – how services are delivered to older adults, particularly those who experience high poverty and live in isolation,” said Community Solutions’ President and Executive Director John Corlett. “The PACE program shows that making sure seniors have a coordinated team of caregivers

Despite the PACE program’s success, many policymakers aren’t aware of the program or don’t understand its benefits and how it might complement Ohio’s system of long-term care. It’s time for PACE to be expanded to other parts of the state, in a thoughtful way with carefully chosen partners.

If you would like to speak to Brown about her experience with the PACE program or Corlett please call or text Dani Carlson at 216-282-4583 or email at dcarlson@communitysolutions.com.