

U.S. Senator Rob Portman and Menorah Park Center for Senior Living Announce Pilot Program

Menorah Park Will Start Better Health Rewards Pilot Program

Beachwood, OH – On **Friday, May 15, 2015**, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) visited the Menorah Park Center for Senior Living Campus in Beachwood to announce a pilot project regarding his Better Health Rewards legislation. Portman and Menorah Park have teamed up to put into place key aspects of this program, which focuses on preventative wellness for seniors.

The Medicare “Better Health Rewards” program helps seniors set and reach achievable goals designed to help them get and stay healthy. Unlike the current Medicare system that begins to cost more when a senior actually needs it, the Better Health Rewards program gives seniors who reach their health goals – and help lower overall health costs – a chance to share in the savings. Seniors participating in the program can receive up to \$400 for meeting their goals by the end of year three, according to the plan.

Portman toured various departments and residences on Campus. "It was exciting to be part of the launch of Menorah Park's health and wellness-focused pilot program," Portman stated. "The staff at Menorah Park takes exceptional care of their residents, and I look forward to continuing our partnership together and to promoting my Better Health Rewards legislation in the Senate."

“At the Peter B. Lewis Aquatic & Therapy Center our expert physical therapists and exercise specialists are committed to helping reduce the impact of chronic diseases in older adults. We understand that chronic health conditions are the leading preventable causes of death and disability. At the Peter B. Lewis Aquatic & Therapy Center we have begun to monitor several of Senator Portman’s target areas including body mass index, blood pressure, and diabetes indicators to evaluate each client’s risk factors when they begin treatment at the Center. This leads to discussion and education in conjunction with their treatment program to safely increase physical activity, control and monitor risk factors, and therefore delay the onset of chronic disease. We work closely with primary care physicians and specialists and refer clients to other community partners including dietitians, case managers, ENT’s, among other professionals. We also have classes planned this year for education in heart rate monitoring, diabetic management, and weight

management/healthy choices. We thank Senator Portman for his introduction of this new initiative that encourages a proactive approach toward health and wellness as we age, and we will encourage our patients, clients and residents to participate in the “Better Health Rewards” program, and continue to work as a partner in their wellbeing to help them succeed in this program,” according to Kelly McNeal, Physical Therapist and Assistant Director of Rehabilitation for Menorah Park Center for Senior Living.”

“It was an honor to welcome Senator Portman to the Menorah Park campus, and to take him on a tour of the many services we offer to meet the needs of our elderly clients. We appreciate his caring, support, and leadership on behalf of our nations’ elderly. On the Menorah Park Campus and here at the Peter B Lewis Aquatic and Therapy Center, our philosophy is one of health and wellness for seniors. This philosophy aligns perfectly with the Senator’s Better Health Rewards Program. For more than 15 years, the LAC has served over 20,000 clients keeping them healthy and living independently in the community. We commit to serve as a model site for the Better Health Rewards Program locally and nationally, by adopting the program focus areas. Our LAC staff will be working with our clients selecting program goals, measuring these goals, and setting up treatment plans to ensure success. This will include educating clients on the program focus areas as to health prevention and promotion. We appreciate the wonderful partnership with the Senator, and we thank him for developing such an innovative national model. We look forward to serving as a model site,” stated Richard Schwalberg, Administrator, Menorah Park Center for Senior Living.