



Advance Release

AARP of Michigan, Port of Old Mission Associates, Inc. (POM) and Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM) Collaborate to Build Innovative Home Featuring *Senior Friendly* design to Showcase at Annual National Governor’s Meeting.

Traverse City, Michigan – February 6, 2007 – AARP of Michigan, Port of Old Mission Associates, Inc. (POM) and Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM), announce their collaboration to build a *Livable Lifestyles* model home supporting senior friendly design principles to be featured at the 2007 Annual National Governor’s Association Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan.

Senior-friendly design addresses safe, accessible, and comfortable home design. It recognizes that 70% of seniors spend the rest of their lives in the place where they celebrated their 65th birthday. Like everyone else, seniors want to remain in their own homes and communities. The *Livable Lifestyles* home features an environment that integrates the adaptable and accessible elements of universal design with enabling technologies. Right from their first step inside a visitor will find a home that is not only attractive, achievable, salable and person-centered, but is also affordable. It is our mission to anticipate the needs of the population and help people to be healthy, safe and content in their own home.

“PVM’s collaboration with AARP and POM to build the *Livable Lifestyles* Home is consistent with the direction we seek as an organization” said Roger L. Myers, President and CEO. “Though we generally serve older adults through our 18 senior living communities, expanding our role into the greater community strongly supports our mission, ‘...to create new possibilities for quality senior living...’”

The team plans to showcase this innovative home at the 99th Annual National Governors Association (NGA) Meeting to be held in Traverse City, Michigan from July 18 to 22, 2007. The model home, currently under construction by POM Associates, Inc., is part of the Signature Ridge development and is located directly on the 15th or “signature” fairway of the Jack Nicklaus Bear Golf Course on the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa campus.

This home is being built with the Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) philosophy of helping people to age with grace in their own home. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and AARP came together in Washington DC to create the CAPS program for builders & remodelers. The CAPS initiative influenced and has resulted in this project. The Livable Lifestyle home will also be shown to the public in the Home Builders Association of the Grand Traverse Area Parade of Homes, June 16 - 24, 2007. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Michigan Association of Home Builders (MAHB) and the Builders Association of the Grand Traverse Area have provided support in the pursuit of developing the *Livable Lifestyles Home*.

AARP (www.aarp.org) is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people age 50 and over and is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all as we age by leading positive social change and delivering value to members through information, advocacy and service. AARP has identified promoting livable communities – with a range of transportation options and appropriate, affordable and accessible housing that can enable older persons to age in place while remaining independent and engaged in community life – as a high organizational priority.

***POM Associates, Inc.** is a family owned and operated local builder and development company with deep roots in the Traverse City, MI area. As a Certified Aging In Place Specialist (CAPS) builder, POM Associates is committed to building “Houses for Living and Homes for Life,” says Sally Erickson Bornschein. According to the NAHB; “Aging-in-place means living in one’s home safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age or ability level. It means the pleasure of remaining in a familiar environment throughout one’s maturing years, and the ability to enjoy the familiar daily rituals and the special events that enrich all our lives. It means the reassurance of being able to call a house a home for a lifetime.”*

***Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM)**, headquartered in Southfield, Mich., is a faith-based, non-profit, multi-site system that has served seniors of all faiths since 1945. PVM currently has 18 senior living communities including continuing care retirement communities (apartments, assisted living, and*

skilled nursing all on one campus), subsidized senior housing, and market rate senior housing. The PVM Foundation raises funds to support such efforts as Green Houses, the Resident Benevolence Fund, Transportation Services, and the Bloom! Wellness Program. For more information on Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, log on at www.pvm.org.

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