



Making longer lives, better lives.

Date: January 19, 2021

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Subject: Senior Center Keeps Those in Need Warm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Traverse City – For the past eight years, the Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network has hosted a “mitten tree” at its Traverse City location. The mitten tree project was inspired by the popular children’s book of the same name by Candace Christiansen, about a woman who knits mittens for needy neighborhood children, and hangs them on a tree outdoors so the children can help themselves.

According to the Senior Center Network’s Program Coordinator, Michelle Goetz, the most recent mitten tree project was a success, in spite of the pandemic. “Throughout the entire month of December 2020,” Goetz explained, “we collected four scarves, 19 pairs of mittens and gloves, 124 hats, and boots and socks.” The warm, outdoor accessories were donated to the Goodwill Inn to be distributed to those in need throughout the area this winter.

“We’re grateful for this heartwarming project that the Senior Center undertakes every year to help people experiencing homelessness,” said Ryan Hannon, the Street Outreach Manager for Goodwill Northern Michigan. “It’s a terrible thing to experience homelessness, and gifts like these will help people we work with at the Goodwill Inn and through Street Outreach keep warmer this winter. Even more than that, they’re a reminder that our community truly cares.”

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