



**Grand Traverse County
Senior Center Network**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Subject: Commission on Aging's Senior Center and County Employees
Donate Over 350 Cold Weather Accessories**

“Last year was the first time we set up a mitten tree and we were able to collect and donate just over 100 items to the Goodwill Inn and this year, we really wanted to top that,” says Hovie. Based on the popular children’s book, *The Mitten Tree* by Candace Christiansen, Program Coordinator, Ericca Hovie, set up a Mitten Tree in the main room at the Senior Center on Front Street at the beginning of December. This timeless classic tells the tale of a woman who knits mittens for the needy neighborhood children and hangs them on a tree in her yard so the children can help themselves.

The employees of Grand Traverse County got wind of the story and stepped up to help by setting up a tree in the employee break room. Throughout the entire month of December, the Senior Center Network with the county employees collected over 350 cold weather accessories including 169 hats, 75 scarves and 105 pairs of mittens/gloves not to mention a few pairs of socks and earmuffs. These warm and wonderful accessories will be donated to the Goodwill Inn to be distributed to those in need in the Traverse City area throughout the winter. “We will surely put them to good use,” says Joanne Romanowski , Operation Manager, of the Goodwill Inn. Items will be personally delivered on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, just in time for the blast of winter weather headed this direction.