

# The Upside Of Aging

Volume 6, Issue 1

## Greetings from our Director

January 2022

Happy New Year everyone ~ 2022 is going to be an amazing year for the Commission on Aging! I'm excited to share with you the following items for the COA that were approved at the end of 2021 by the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners:

- Much deserved pay increase of 9.5 % during 2022 for all COA staff
- Addition of four new staff positions for the COA: RN/Assessment Nurse, LPN/Foot Care and Medication Management, Program Coordinator and an additional Scheduler/Office Specialist
- Funding for Grand Traverse County for the purpose of hiring a qualified architectural and engineering firm to assist in developing the two-campus plan for the County. A new Senior Services building, which may house the Commission on Aging in the future, will be part of those plans!

The support the COA received from County Administration and from the Board of Commissioners during 2021 has provided many positive changes for us here at the Commission on Aging, which will allow us to hire and retain staff to better serve all of you and will allow us to provide assistance to more Grand Traverse County seniors in the future! I look forward to all of the positive changes coming this year. Also, in November of 2022 our Senior Services Millage will be on the ballot for renewal.

Best wishes to all of you from the staff of the Commission on Aging for a happy and healthy 2022!

Lana Payne, Director

### 2021 Baskets of Bounty - Success!



Over 160 seniors in our county had a merrier Christmas after receiving three bags of goodies from COA workers and volunteers.

A big thank you to the generous folks in our area who donated items, and helped fill and deliver bags. We couldn't have done it without you!

520 W Front St, Suite B, Traverse City, MI 49684 | (231) 922-4688  
email: [gtcoa@gtcountymi.gov](mailto:gtcoa@gtcountymi.gov) Website: [www.gtcoa.org](http://www.gtcoa.org)

*Caring for those who cared for you, since 1975*

Just a friendly reminder...

- > COA (office only) will be closed **Monday, January 17** in observance of **Martin Luther King day**
- > COA will be closed **Monday, February 21** in observance of **President's day**

**Reminder:** COA office is *closed* for lunch between **12 - 1 pm**

### AARP Tax Preparation

The Commission on Aging will **NOT** be hosting the *AARP* tax preparation this year. You may, however, contact *GT County Senior Center* or *NW MI Community Action Agency*, who will be offering this service. Below is their information:

**GT County Senior Center**  
 801 E Front St  
 Traverse City, MI 49686  
 (231) 922-4911

**NW MI Community Action Agency**  
 3963 Three Mile Rd  
 Traverse City, MI 49686  
 (231) 947-3780



**IMPORTANT:** Call our office to cancel your COA worker if you are ill, have been tested for COVID-19, or have been asked to quarantine. We would appreciate any details you can give us, such as date of testing and quarantine period. Please call within 48 hours if you need to cancel for any other reason, such as a doctor's appt. Call or leave a message at: (231) 922-4688

### The Senior Companion Program NEEDS you!

There are seniors in your community who need you. They would like simple things, such as going to the grocery store weekly, running errands, going to the doctor and having a friend. You can be the bright light in their lives, you can share companionship, you can make a difference and you can find your purpose by volunteering!

The *Senior Companion Program of NWMI* is currently recruiting people who want to share their time to help isolated senior citizens. These programs are for those 55 years or better to volunteer. You can earn a mileage reimbursement, tax-free stipend, friendships, fun and memories that last a lifetime. If interested, contact *Catholic Human Services* at **231-929-7070**.

### February Staff Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Alisha T - 02/04  
 Holly W - 02/08  
 Patti B - 02/11  
 Crystal J - 02/22

#### Anniversaries

Joan A - 02/01 - 1 yr  
 Cyndie F- 02/09 - 13 yrs  
 Emily R - 02/26 - 4 yrs

