

Legacy

Investing Today to Impact Tomorrow



A Season of Renewal

As we step into this new season, we invite you to stay connected, engaged, and involved. Whether through your time, your voice, or your support, you play an important role in advancing our Mission in providing accessible, trusted, and compassionate care that enhances quality of life for those we serve.

Darrell Lavender, CEO

- ▶ **A Renewed Sense of Energy**
- ▶ **LeadingAge MVP Award**
- ▶ **Volunteer Opportunities**
- ▶ **Scramble Fore Seniors**
- ▶ **Rebuilding Independence**
- ▶ **2026 Concerts on the Lawn**

Legacy Spring 2026



A Grand Mission



The mission of the Grand Traverse Pavilions is to provide accessible, trusted and compassionate care that enhances quality of life for aging adults. As the region's first and only public nonprofit full-spectrum of care facility, the Pavilions features:

- Long-term Skilled Nursing Care
- Short-term Rehab
- The Wellness Center: Inpatient and Outpatient Therapy
- The Cottages: Independent and Assisted Living
- Overnight Respite



Among the top employers in Grand Traverse County with over 300 employees, The Pavilions injects more than \$30 million into the local economy making a significant economic impact in our community, while providing \$3.4 million worth of charitable care annually to some of the area's most vulnerable citizens.

With residents, participants, therapy patients, volunteers, and staff, Grand Traverse Pavilions is more than just a nursing home. It's a grand community of caring for generations.



Grand Traverse Pavilions

A COMMUNITY CARING FOR GENERATIONS

GTPavilions.org | 231.932.3000

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Legacy is a publication of the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation. If you no longer wish to receive mail from us or to change your contact information please contact Clayton Wagatha at crwagatha@gtpavilions.org or call (231) 932-3019.

We would also love to add you to our email list. Please share your email with us so we can keep you better informed of what's happening here at Grand Traverse Pavilions.



**Grand Traverse Pavilions
FOUNDATION**

1000 Pavilions Circle
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 932-3000

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We're thrilled to announce that we have received a \$16,000 Experience Support Grant

from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC)!

This funding will directly support our Concerts on the Lawn series, helping us continue to bring accessible, high-quality live music experiences to our community.

We extend our sincere thanks to MACC for their continued investment in arts and culture across Michigan, and for recognizing the impact of programs like ours.

We can't wait to welcome you back to the Grand Lawn this season.



This year we will be actively shaping a focused Foundation strategy and work plan that supports our residents, empowers our staff, and sustains our mission for the future.

A Season of **Renewal**



Darrell Lavender, CEO

As winter gives way to spring in Northern Michigan, we are reminded of the resilience that defines our community. This season brings a renewed sense of energy, and at Grand Traverse Pavilions, we are embracing that momentum.

As the newer CEO, I see 2026 as a year to reengage and reconnect, strengthening the role of the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation within our community and alongside our dedicated healthcare team. This year we will be actively shaping a focused Foundation strategy and work plan that supports our residents, empowers our staff, and sustains our mission for the future.

We are pleased to welcome Jaime Griffis as our new Executive Director of Development and Community Engagement. With more than two decades of experience in advancement and strategic communications, Jaime



Jaime Griffis, Executive Director of Development and Community Engagement

brings a thoughtful, data-informed approach to donor engagement and long-term sustainability. Just as importantly, she brings a deep appreciation for Northern Michigan and the relationships that make this community strong.

As we step into this new season, we invite you to stay connected, engaged, and involved. Whether through your time, your voice, or your support, you play an important role in advancing our Mission in providing accessible, trusted, and compassionate care that enhances quality of life for those we serve.

Spring is here, and with it comes renewed purpose and opportunity.

With appreciation,

*Darrell Lavender, Chief Executive Officer
Grand Traverse Pavilions*

Your support helps ensure that every resident at Grand Traverse Pavilions receives the care, connection, and quality of life they deserve.

Gifts to the Foundation provide funding for programs, activities, and benevolent care for those who need it most.

Whether honoring a loved one, supporting staff development, or contributing to an area of greatest need, every gift makes a difference.

Learn more or give at gtpavilions.org/donate

Being part of their healing journey is
what makes this work meaningful to me.

– Carrie Baldwin

LeadingAge MVP Award

Grand Traverse Pavilions is proud to recognize Carrie Baldwin, staff physical therapist at the Outpatient Wellness Center, as a recipient of the LeadingAge Michigan MVP Award. This award honors individuals with at least 15 years of dedicated service who have made a lasting and meaningful impact in aging services. Carrie's 23 years of commitment to the Pavilions and the clients she serves reflect the loyalty, compassion, and excellence this recognition celebrates.



Carrie Baldwin, Physical Therapist
Outpatient Wellness Center

Carrie has been part of the Wellness Center team since it first opened in 2002. Specializing in aquatic therapy, she has helped develop programs that support clients in regaining strength, mobility, and independence. Her work in the therapy pool has positively impacted countless individuals on their journey toward improved health and confidence.

Her connection to the Pavilions began in an unexpected way. Originally from Michigan, Carrie had been working at an aquatic therapy center in Texas when she and her husband took a vacation to Northern Michigan. On a whim, they interviewed for positions in the Traverse City area. Carrie first accepted a role at Leelanau Memorial Health Center in Northport, while her husband joined Grand Traverse Pavilions. When plans began for a new outpatient therapy pool at the Pavilions, Carrie eagerly offered her expertise to help design the space. That moment marked the beginning of a career that has now spanned more than two decades.

Throughout her time at the Wellness Center, Carrie has worked with clients in a variety of therapy settings, including long term care and outpatient services. What she values most, however, is the opportunity to work directly with the people she serves and witness their progress over time. "My true passion is helping clients

one on one and seeing their improvement," Carrie shares. "Being part of their healing journey is what makes this work meaningful to me." In addition to individual therapy sessions, Carrie has taught aquatic exercise classes and participated in learn to swim programs, building lasting relationships with many clients who have continued coming to the Wellness Center for years.

Carrie credits the strong sense of teamwork among her colleagues for making the Wellness Center such a special place. Many staff members have worked together for years, creating a supportive environment that benefits both employees and clients alike. The Pavilions community has also touched Carrie's own family. Her grandmother once received care at the Assisted Living Cottages, her father benefited from therapy services, and her children spent time in the on site childcare center growing up.

Outside of work, Carrie enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband. Whether kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, or gardening, she appreciates the natural beauty of Northern Michigan. For Carrie, the most rewarding part of her work is helping clients regain mobility and confidence, especially those who struggle to exercise on land. Aquatic therapy allows many individuals to move more freely and rediscover their independence.

Carrie's philosophy is simple. Treat every client with the same care and compassion you would want for your own family. Through her dedication and expertise, she continues to create a supportive environment where clients can heal, grow stronger, and thrive.

We are proud to celebrate Carrie Baldwin as this year's LeadingAge Michigan MVP Award recipient. Congratulations, Carrie. This recognition is truly well deserved.

Bringing Generations Together

One of the most unique and meaningful parts of life at Grand Traverse Pavilions is the opportunity to bring generations together in ways that create lasting connections. Through regular interactions between residents and children from the on site childcare center, simple moments often turn into something much more special.

Whether it is sharing a craft, reading a story, or simply spending time together, these visits create a natural sense of joy for everyone involved. Children, staff, and residents all enjoy the opportunity to connect, and it is clear how much these moments are looked forward to on both sides. During a recent visit, residents and children worked together on an Easter craft, creating something side by side while sharing smiles and conversation. In the past, activities like bubble machines have filled the space with laughter, as children excitedly chase bubbles while residents watch, often enjoying those moments just as much as participating themselves.

For residents, these visits offer a chance to reconnect with memories of raising families, teaching, and nurturing others. Many light up at the presence of children, finding comfort and happiness in the energy they bring. For the children, these experiences provide an early understanding of empathy, respect, and the value of spending time with older generations.

Staff often see the impact these moments have long after the activity ends. Residents continue talking about the visits, and children look forward to returning. These shared experiences help create a strong sense of community across the campus, reminding everyone involved of the importance of connection at every stage of life.

Programs like this reflect what makes Grand Traverse Pavilions so special. It is not only a place of care, but a place where relationships are built, memories are shared, and generations come together in lasting ways.

Whether you are looking to give back, stay connected, or try something new, volunteering at Grand Traverse Pavilions offers a fulfilling and rewarding opportunity.

Volunteers Make the Difference



Supporting Activities Across Campus

Volunteers play an important role in creating a vibrant and engaging environment at Grand Traverse Pavilions. From helping with daily activities to supporting special events, their time and energy bring connection, joy, and meaningful interaction to the residents we serve.

As our activity programs continue to grow, we are currently looking for additional volunteers to assist with a variety of opportunities across campus, particularly in activities such as bingo, group programs, outings, and social events. These moments, while simple, can have a lasting impact by creating opportunities for residents to connect, laugh, and stay engaged. Volunteers may help call bingo numbers, assist residents during games, accompany small groups on outings, or simply spend time visiting and building relationships. No special experience is required, only a willingness to be present and make a difference.

For many residents, these interactions are a highlight of their day, helping to create a sense of community that extends beyond care and makes the Pavilions feel like home. Whether you are looking to give back, stay connected, or try something new, volunteering at Grand Traverse Pavilions offers a fulfilling and rewarding opportunity.

To learn more about volunteering or to get involved, please contact Clayton Wagatha at 231-932-3019 or crwagatha@gtpavilions.org

Now entering its third year, the Scramble Fore Seniors Golf Outing continues to grow as an impactful way for the community to support the work of the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation. What began as a small fundraising effort has quickly become an opportunity for local businesses, sponsors, and supporters to come together for a shared purpose.

Held during Older Americans Month, the outing reflects a broader celebration of the lives, contributions, and experiences of older adults in our community. It is a time to recognize the importance of connection, dignity, and quality of life, values that are lived out each day across the Pavilions campus.

Proceeds from the outing directly support the Foundation's Quality of Life initiatives, helping provide programs and experiences that bring joy, engagement, and connection to residents. From activities and entertainment to outings and special events, these moments play an important role in daily life and overall well being. In addition, funds raised

SCRAMBLE FORE SENIORS

can also help provide financial support for residents who may not otherwise be able to afford room and board, ensuring that individuals have access to the care and community they need. This support reflects the Pavilions' commitment to serving all members of the community with compassion and dignity.

In just a few short years, the outing has seen growing participation and strong support from sponsors and community members.

Last year's event brought together teams for a day of friendly competition, great food, and connection, all while supporting a cause that makes a real difference. This year's outing is scheduled for May 15, 2026, and we look forward to welcoming both returning teams and new participants.

Whether you join us on the course or support the event in another way, your involvement helps create meaningful opportunities and provide essential support for the residents we are honored to serve.

Rebuilding Strength & Independence

Carol McIntosh-Lieffers has called Traverse City home since the early 1970s. After nearly 43 years working as a Purchasing Buyer in the operating room at Munson Medical Center, she is preparing for retirement next month. With a career spent in healthcare, Carol knows what quality care looks like, and she knows when she sees it.

Not long ago, Carol woke up with a cramp in her left leg that would not go away. As an avid walker, she tried to push through it, but the pain returned the next morning even stronger. After a visit to her primary care provider and another difficult morning, Carol went to the emergency room, where doctors discovered a bulging disc in her back. She spent one week at Munson Medical Center before coming directly to Grand Traverse Pavilions for rehabilitation on Maple Unit.

Carol chose Grand Traverse Pavilions because she had already experienced the level of care the team provides when her husband received services here.

"I was so impressed with the staff when my husband was here," Carol said. "They pay attention to the details. Did you know they clean the carpets and change the curtains when someone leaves? That says a lot about how much they care about the environment and the people who live here."

That same attention carried through her own experience.

"Brice remembered me from when my husband was here. Staff remembered my name. That meant so much to me. You feel like a person here, not just a patient."

Now, Carol is working closely with the therapy team to rebuild her strength and independence. In occupational therapy, Michael guides her through everyday

Physical Therapy | Occupational Therapy | Speech and Language Pathology Services



"You can tell everyone here truly cares about helping you get back to your life."

-Carol McIntosh-Lieffers



Carol McIntosh-Lieffers practices safe movement with Occupational Therapist Michael Newberry.

activities, including practicing safe movement at the sink. With the support of a gait belt and careful instruction, these small but meaningful moments are helping Carol regain confidence in her mobility and daily routine.

"The therapy here is amazing," Carol shared. "I especially love the aqua therapy. They have taught me so much, and everything is helping me get back to being independent."

As Carol prepares to leave Maple Unit, she is not saying goodbye to the team. She plans to continue her progress through outpatient therapy at the Well-

ness Center clinic, where aquatic therapy will remain an important part of her recovery.

She is especially grateful for the Wellness Center team.

"Mike, Amy, and Matt are incredible. Everyone here truly wants to see you succeed."

For Carol, choosing Grand Traverse Pavilions felt like choosing a team she could trust, a place where skill, compassion, and attention to detail come together to help people move forward with confidence.

Concerts on the Lawn 2026



Grand Traverse Pavilions Thursdays @ 7:00pm

Enjoy a summer evening with great music, family, and good friends. Note that parking is often limited, so feel free to catch a free ride complimentary of BATA's Bayline Bus.

- June 18 **Beach and Buffett
Featuring Doc Probes**
- June 25 **The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute**
- July 2 **NMC Concert Band**
- July 9 **Mighty Tundra Tones
(Formerly known as Jazz North)**
- July 16 **Elvis Tribute Artist - Jake Slater**
- July 23 **Miriam Pico and Friends**
- July 30 **Petoskey Steel Drum Band**
- August 6 **Remembering Patsy Cline
Featuring Judy Harrison**
- August 13 **Backroom Gang**
- August 20 **K. Jones and The Benzie Playboys**

Support the powerful work of the Foundation

Freewill donations at the concerts will go directly to supporting the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation's efforts to care for the elders in our community.

**Concerts are subject to change due to inclement weather.*

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