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For Immediate Release

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Grand Traverse Pavilions Announces Local Scholarship Recipient

Traverse City, Michigan— GRAND TRAVERSE PAVILIONS is pleased to announce that Chrissy Wagatha has received one of nine 2026 Gary Easton Scholarship Awards from the Michigan County Medical Care Facilities Council. She has been an Assistant Director of Nursing at Grand Traverse Pavilions since 2017.

Chrissy is pursuing a master's degree in nursing at Grand Valley State University.

“Chrissy brings so much knowledge, compassion and commitment to her work at the Pavilions, and we are incredibly proud to see her recognized with this scholarship,” said Administrator Mellissa Hilliard-Johnson. “Continuing your education takes commitment, especially while working in health care. Chrissy is making that investment in herself and in the people she cares for, and that is something worth celebrating.”

Recipients of the Easton Scholarship must be employed at a MCMCFC member facility for at least one year, or be the spouse or child of an employee, and be majoring in a health or human services field of study at a junior or senior level with a minimum 3.0 grade point average or accepted into a certified nursing program. The applicant’s extracurricular activities and community service experiences are also taken into consideration.

In 1989, the Council established the “Michael B. Shira Memorial Scholarship Fund” at Ferris State University, for students enrolled in their Health Care Administration Program. Since that time, we have given out \$16,725 scholarship monies benefiting 30 students.

In May 1995, the Council signed a contract with the Grand Traverse Regional Foundation to establish a permanent scholarship endowment fund to assist with college education for the employees of member facilities or their spouse or child.

In May 2000, the Council voted to fully fund this scholarship and decided to establish its own scholarship fund called the MCMCFC Scholarship Fund using the same criteria. In 2018, this fund was renamed the Gary Easton MCMCFC Scholarship fund.

Between these two scholarships, the Council has as of this date, awarded nearly \$229,000 in scholarship monies benefiting approximately 240 students.

The Michigan County Medical Care Facilities Council is the statewide association of county-owned medical care facilities dedicated to the care and treatment of those patients who must be released from an acute care hospital, but are still in need of skilled nursing services, therapeutic and/or rehabilitation services. For more information about MCMCFC, visit www.mcmcfc.org.

Grand Traverse Pavilions is located at 1000 Pavilions Circle in Traverse City. For more information about the Grand Traverse Pavilions call 231-932-3000 or visit GTPavilions.org.

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