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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Returning Champions Defend Title at Senior Odyssey of Michigan

Traverse City – On Saturday, April 16, a team of older adults from Grand Traverse County traveled to Grand Rapids to compete in the Senior Odyssey of Michigan.

Based on Odyssey of the Mind, this event promotes cognitive health and vitality through creative problem-solving activities. Participants use their lifelong experiences, knowledge, and skills in new and innovative ways to provide solutions. As with Odyssey of the Mind, team members work together to provide solutions by developing scenarios to address the problems. They also solve “spontaneous problems” in shorter, limited amounts of time.

Nine teams of five to seven adults of all abilities from throughout Lower Michigan competed during this day-long event. The “long-term problem,” titled “Aesop Gone Viral,” challenged participants to use costumes, scenery, and sound to put on a skit demonstrating how a fable could “go viral” in the days before electricity.

Third-place team Salvation Army Senior Program wowed audiences with a beautiful set. Van Buren County’s team placed second after performing a hilarious song.

The Grand Traverse County team again took first place for a skit surrounding a gypsy and a back-country doctor.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for kindergarten through college-aged students. Problems range from building mechanical devices to interpreting literary classics during local, state, national, and world competitions.

Commented Ericca Hovie, Senior Center Network Coordinator for Grand Traverse County, “We are very proud of our team – Cheri and Dave Garvin, Kim and Rob Smith, and Tom Allen – they really brought it!” The team was led by returning coach, Tina Allen.

Any older adult interested in participating in this fun, creative event next year, may call 231-922-4911 or send an e-mail ehovie@grandtraverse.org.

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The Senior Center Network is part of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department. The Network provides many programs to older adults in Grand Traverse County with locations in Traverse City, Acme, Fife Lake, Interlochen, and Kingsley. Thousands of adults enjoy dozens of activities on a daily basis. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 231-922-4911, or visit our website or Facebook page.