



Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging Senior Center Network

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: April is Parkinson's Awareness Month

Traverse City, MI – This April, millions of people around the world will recognize April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. Local residents are working hard to make their contribution on a local level. Parkinson's Network North provides support groups, educational forums and information for parkinsonians and their caregivers.

Members of the community are invited to attend the support group meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at 10:30 am at the Traverse City Senior Center. The group will be recognized by Traverse City Mayor Michael Estes with a proclamation.

Parkinson's disease is a movement disorder that is chronic and progressive. It affects many in our own community. Not only that:

- Nearly one million Americans are living with Parkinson's
- Approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson disease each year, and this number does not reflect the thousands of cases that go undetected.
- Seven to 10 million people worldwide are estimated to be living with Parkinson's disease.
- Incidence of Parkinson's increases with age, but an estimated four percent of people with Parkinson's are diagnosed before the age of 50.

Unfortunately, the cause of Parkinson's is unknown and presently, there is no cure. That's why Parkinson's Network North is rallying the Greater Grand Traverse Area this April to raise awareness and funds for a cure.

