

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Steve Wade, Vice-Chair
Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative
Voice: (231) 947-3200, ext. 202
Email: steve@unitedwaynwmi.org



Poverty Reduction Initiative Mentoring Breakfast

Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 8:00 am

Faith Reformed Church Family Life Center, 1105 E. Front St., Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, MI—The Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) is hosting a Mentoring Breakfast Wednesday, May 9, 2012 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am at the Faith Reformed Church Family Life Center located at 1105 E. Front St. in Traverse City. The breakfast is part of an ongoing effort to improve the region's mentoring programs by identifying gaps in those programs and looking at ways organizations can work together to fill those gaps.

The program at this year's Mentoring Breakfast will focus on a training model developed to help all mentoring and service organizations better understand and respond to our neighbors. Goodwill's street outreach coordinator, Ryan Hannon, will lead the training.

Members of the group Progress Village will also be taking part in the Mentoring Breakfast. Progress Village is made up of people who have struggled with poverty and are now working together with PRI to share their stories and provide community outreach.

The breakfast is free. You can find more information and register for the event at, traversebaypri.org.

The Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative is a community-driven, collaborative effort to reduce poverty in the Traverse Bay region. The program was born out of the Poverty Summit, held in February 2004, in which 225 area residents joined together to address the issue of poverty in our area. Poverty Reduction Initiative consists of representatives from local businesses, public and government agencies, and concerned citizens. Working subcommittees focus on five strategic directions: Navigating, Mentoring, Education, Advocacy, and Communications.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: <http://nwm.org/media.asp>

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, founded in 1973, facilitates and manages services and programs for 10 counties in the region. These programs include Regional Planning and Community Development, Northwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Northwest Michigan Works, Workforce Development Board, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Region 2, Hospitality Skills Alliance, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center program, KAL-TEC, Healthcare Skills Alliance of Northwest Michigan, and the Regional Repository for US Census data.

Some services of NWMCOG are in direct support of the counties, some are independent services provided to the public and businesses at large. NWMCOG is able to leverage several collaborative partnerships to extend limited resources and provide economies of scale for projects that operate on a regional basis. NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.