



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Deborah Allen
Grand Traverse Pavilions
Chief Development/Community Engagement Officer
(231) 932-3020
dallen@gtpavilions.org

Make it GRAND-Parent Essay Winners Announced

TRAVERSE CITY, MICH., Sept. 08 – Grand Traverse Pavilions is celebrating the winners of the “Make it Grand-Parent Essay Challenge,” where local grandchildren of all ages were asked to explain in 500 words or less why their grandparents are so **“GRAND.”**

The \$500 Grand Prize Essay winner was Alexis Sattler, 17, a student at Kingsley High School. “Her essay about her grandmother was exceptionally touching,” said Deborah Allen, community engagement officer for Grand Traverse Pavilions.

Alexis excelled over the field of 16 responses from age groups 7 – 18+. The runners up were Ruth Fiona Paddock in the 7-10 age group, Ava Higgins in the 11-17 age group, and Ashley Anderson in the 18+ group.

Allen sends her congratulations to all of the winners, and whole heartedly thanks all of the students who submitted essays. “Every grandparent celebrated represents the loving impact they have had on their families,” she said. “This Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, is National Grandparents Day – a perfect time to tell your beloved grandparents how much you appreciate them!”

“The **“MAKE IT GRAND-Parent Essay Challenge”** was geared toward all ages to celebrate the legacy and impact that our elders – specifically grandparents – have had on us,” Allen said.

The Make it Grand-parent promotion was meant to celebrate the relationships and importance of grandparents at a time when national trends are demonstrating that more grandparents are actually helping or taking responsibility for raising their grandchildren.

“PNC Bank is proud to sponsor this salute to grandparents,” said Sean Welsh, PNC regional president for Western Michigan. “This essay challenge encourages young



people to honor their elders while recognizing their commitment to subsequent generations.”

The Pavilions is committed to saluting grandparents to show that they are important, valued, and essential to the success of the family unit and our communities. Presented by Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation, with sponsorship support from PNC Bank, the **MAKE IT GRAND-Parent Essay Challenge** is a promotion that both celebrates aging adults and brings awareness to the need to support their quality of life as they age.

For more information about the essay challenge winners visit the Grand Traverse Pavilions website at <https://www.gtpavilions.org/news-events/make-it-grand-parent-essay-challenge-Update/> or on Facebook [@grandtraversepavilions](#)

Initial plans were to announce the winners and award the \$500 grand prize at the Pavilions Foundation **Grand Event: LIFE** on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at the Park Place Conference Center in Traverse City. However, the event has been postponed until May 2022, to coincide with National Older Americans Month.

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About Grand Traverse Pavilions

[Grand Traverse Pavilions](http://www.gtpavilions.org) is the region’s first and only nonprofit Continuum of Care. Providing services for more than 300 residents and 100 daily program participants, Grand Traverse Pavilions is a community of caring and innovation primarily for our region’s low-income seniors, with Wellness Center programs for the entire community. Grand Traverse Pavilions has received Nursing Care Center accreditation by the Joint Commission along with Post-Acute Care and Memory Care certifications. A recipient of the Governor’s Quality Care Award, The Pavilions is owned by Grand Traverse County and governed by the Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services Board. Learn more about Grand Traverse Pavilions by visiting www.gtpavilions.org.