**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Subject: Peace Garden Volunteer Meeting

**Traverse City** – The 2017 International Day of Peace has chosen the theme: Together for peace – respect, safety and dignity for all.

“...Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Together, let us build bridges. Together, let us transform fear into hope.” UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Together, help create a garden surrounding the Traverse City Senior Center’s Peace Pole this year by attending a meeting for Peace Garden volunteers, on Friday, May 12, at 11 a.m., 801 E. Front Street.

Originally, poles started out as monuments for peace, usually displaying the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in the language of the country where it has been placed. But, peace poles have become creative expressions, no longer just words on a pole. As a consequence, the peace pole at the Senior Center, adorned with birds, flowers, trees, sun and water, was created to be an artistic depiction of peace and nature – surrounding it with a garden seems appropriate.

No experience is necessary to participate in creating the Peace Garden, but advance registration is requested. The Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to tend the community vegetable garden as well as donations of plants, soil, compost and more.

For more information and to register, email dmikowski@grandtraverse.org or call 231-922-4911.

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