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CONTACT: Kevin McElroy, Administrator

PHONE/EMAIL: 906-643-0462/ kmcelroy@mshosp.org

Evergreen Living Center Becomes an Eden Alternative Community

(St. Ignace, MI --) The Evergreen Living Center joins the ranks of The Eden Alternative® Registry, which recognizes organizations for their commitment to improving quality of life and care for the people they serve. Recently, a select group of leaders and employees at Evergreen Living Center completed professional development training in person-directed care, created and delivered by The Eden Alternative. Person-directed care is structured around the unique needs, preferences, and desires of the individual. Through this approach, decisions and actions around care honor the voices and choices of care recipients and those working most closely with them. The training provided by The Eden Alternative is helping to transform how care is delivered to the 48 people who accept support from Evergreen Living Center, which is a part of Mackinac Straits Health System.

The Eden Alternative is an international leader in the culture change movement. "Culture change" is the common name for a global initiative focused on transforming care, as we know it, for Elders and individuals accepting support. It advocates for a shift from institutional models of care to person-directed values and practices that put the person first. Core person-directed values include choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living. The Eden Alternative promotes these values using a set of principles and training strategies to transform places where Elders live from sterile institutional environments into warm, loving homes.

"Here at Evergreen Living Center we have worked through the process to become an Eden Registry Member because our care partner team is committed to creating a warm, loving home using the principles and practices of The Eden Alternative." said Kevin McElroy, Administrator. The Eden Alternative promotes the belief that the most effective care happens when there is a partnership between the caregiver and the care receiver. Just as in a family, close relationships are grown by having the Elders and their care partners make decisions together, such as what and when to eat, how to spend their time together, as well as other basic daily choices. "In partnership with The Eden Alternative, Evergreen Living Center is transforming their care practices to promote the well-being of the Elders, or individuals accepting support, and their care partners. It is something we all want for our loved ones, and eventually for ourselves."

The Eden Alternative is an international, nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization that provides education and consultation for organizations across the entire continuum of care. As a person-directed care philosophy, it is dedicated to creating care environments that promote quality of life for Elders and those who support them as care partners. Research has shown this leads to improved quality of care and higher rates of satisfaction for everyone involved, while also benefitting the bottom line.