



For Immediate Release

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Munson Employee Brigid Wilson Chosen for 2025's Voices for Children Award

Great Start Collaborative Honors Individual for Early Childhood Impact

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – The Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay is excited to announce Brigid Wilson as the recipient of this year's Voices for Children Award.

Wilson is the manager of child care services at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City where she oversees the health care system's child development centers, educational preschool programs and summer camps for young children.

"We are thrilled to honor Brigid Wilson with this year's Voices for Children Award," said Robin Hornkohl, coordinator of the Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay. "Brigid's commitment to nurturing the early care and education landscape in Northern Michigan is evident in her tireless efforts to expand access and provide professional development opportunities for caregivers. Brigid is a shining example of leadership and advocacy in early childhood, and her work has made an immeasurable impact on hundreds of families in our region."

The Voices for Children Award was established in 2005 in honor of Mary Merwin for her steadfast support of pregnant women and young children. The Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay gives the award annually to an individual who has provided outstanding leadership, focus and action in the region's early childhood field.

Criteria for the Voices for Children Award include outstanding leadership in the care and support of pregnant women and young children; promotion of community investments in young children; and serving as an advocate with exemplary dedication in the field of early childhood education.

Wilson was nominated by peers and honored with the award during the Great Start Collaborative's May 20 meeting. Some nominations describe Wilson as a "servant leader, committed to quality and excellence," a "lifelong advocate of young children and families" and as a "beating heart in the world of early care and education in Northern Michigan".

The Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay works to ensure children have a great start in life and equitable opportunity to achieve their highest potential. The first five years of life is a critical period of development and the organization is committed to creating and strengthening a family-friendly infrastructure to benefit children.

Northwest Education Services (North Ed) is one of several agencies represented on the Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay. North Ed's Early Childhood professionals work with families of children age birth to 6 years to provide a strong foundation in early childhood development. Visit [North Ed's Early Childhood webpage](#) for more information.

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Brigid Wilson, left, manager of child care services at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, is shown with members of her team. Wilson was selected as this year's recipient of the Voices for Children Award by the Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay. Below, Wilson speaks during a recent meeting of the Great Start Collaborative.

