

# Newest Leadership Little Traverse class gathers to launch nine-month journey

By Harbor Light News Staff on September 27, 2023



Members of the Leadership Little Traverse Class of 2024 recently completed their opening session with a day of team building at the Camp Daggett Adventure Center. Members of the class include (l to r, back row) Anna McGlashen, Teddy Tamm, Gabbie Mason, Angela Morris, Alex Freds, and Matt Buza. (l to r middle row) Sheila Hartson, Ashleigh Evans, Ellie Joles, Sam Bailey, and Garrett Muir. (l to r front row) Hunter Johnson, Adam Ward, Liv Rollinger, and Lindsay Winchester. (Courtesy photo)

The newest class of Leadership Little Traverse (LLT) convened recently at the Petoskey Winter Sports Park and at Camp Daggett to launch their nine-month leadership journey. The LLT Class of 2023-24 will be the 23rd class to complete the program which now boasts an alumni base of more than 320.

Class members are chosen based on their leadership aptitude and their interest in community engagement. To assure that all applicants have an opportunity to participate, the program offers a scholarship to individuals in need. This year the scholarship program was generously funded with \$3,000 from Women Who Care in the Tip of the Mitt. Over the next nine months, the class will strengthen their personal leadership skills while learning about many facets of the community.

"We are grateful for the support of the individuals in Women Who Care to assure that the opportunity to participate in LLT has no barriers for those who are interested the program," said LLT Steering Committee Member, and Program Administrator, Nikki Devitt. "The future of our communities depends on strong and informed leadership; it is wonderful to see the energy and excitement of the newest class of LLT. We're excited to

see how much they grow and what they accomplish over the next nine months,” she added.

The session opened at Camp Daggett and included activities to help the class members get to know one another and then to begin to grow as a team. Through the remainder of the program, they will learn about many facets of the community including the area’s governmental systems, history, economy, environment, educational programs, and human service’s network. In addition to the team-building activities they experienced at Camp Daggett, the class will learn a number of leadership skills including public presentations, creativity, ethics, visioning, and conflict resolution.

Class members will also work together on a community service project. This project will be selected by the class to meet a specific community need and will be completed within the span of the nine-month program. Area nonprofit organizations submitted project proposals for the class to consider.

The first task of the class members is to seek out a community mentor who will work with each participant individually through the duration of the program. Organizers say the mentor component of LLT is designed to broaden the experiences of the participants while emphasizing the important role mentors can play in one’s personal leadership journey.

Members of the LLT Class of 2024 include: Sam Bailey, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance; Matt Buza, Northland Self-Storage; Ashleigh Evans, The Quiet Moose; Alex Freds, North Central Michigan College; Sheila Hartson, Self-Employed; Hunter Johnson, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians; Ellie Joles, Odawa Casino; Gabrielle Mason, Dennis, Gartland, & Niergarth CPAs; Anna McGlashen, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council; Anna Morris, Crooked Tree Arts Center; Garrett Muir, Bear Creek Township; Liv Rollinger, Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities; Theodore Tamm, Little Bay Gourmet/The Market Grill; Hillary Taylor, Emmet County; Adam Ward, Petoskey Plastics; and Lindsay Winchester, Aster Brands.

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