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Media Contact:

Rochelle Berry
Project Manager, *A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden*
IMPART Alliance
517.898.0026
rochelle@levrainord.com

Fourth Installation of *A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden* Opens at Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center

First Upper Peninsula Exhibit Expands Statewide Caregiving Initiative

ISHPEMING, MI — February 19, 2026 — The fourth installation of *A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden*, a statewide traveling art and advocacy exhibit honoring direct care workers and caregivers, opens February 19 at the Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 121 Greenwood St., in Ishpeming. The exhibit marks the first installation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and will remain on view through January 2027.

Produced by IMPART Alliance, *A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden* transforms personal stories of caregiving into a visually striking installation of hand-crafted butterflies. Each butterfly represents gratitude, reflection, and recognition for the essential workforce that supports seniors, people with disabilities, and families across Michigan.

The Ishpeming exhibit expands the initiative's reach into the Upper Peninsula and serves as a flagship site for regional engagement. In March, IMPART Alliance will announce six "satellite gardens" across the Upper Peninsula designed to broaden participation and extend the exhibit's impact into surrounding communities.

The project intentionally engages six priority audiences:

- Direct Care Worker employers
- High school students
- Veterans
- Native American tribal communities
- People with disabilities
- Immigrant communities

These targeted outreach efforts aim to elevate awareness of caregiving as both essential work and a valued profession while addressing Michigan’s significant direct care workforce shortage.

“This fourth installation represents meaningful statewide growth and brings the Upper Peninsula into a larger narrative of dignity and appreciation,” said Rochelle Berry, project manager of *A Caregiver’s Butterfly Garden*. “Caregiving touches every family at some point. Through art, we are making that invisible labor visible and honoring the people who quietly hold our communities together.”

The exhibit is supported through a grant awarded to IMPART Alliance by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The grant supports innovative community engagement strategies that elevate and strengthen Michigan’s direct care workforce.

IMPART Alliance Artist-in-Residence Zahrah Resh, whose vision anchors the installation, describes the exhibit as both reflective and celebratory.

“These butterflies represent stories that are often unseen,” said Zahrah Resh. “Each one carries gratitude, resilience, and recognition. When displayed together, they create a powerful visual reminder of the essential role caregivers play in our daily lives.”

The Ishpeming installation uniquely centers seniors as active participants in the exhibit’s creation.

“A caregiving culture runs deep in the Upper Peninsula,” said Ashley Roberts, executive director of the Greater Ishpeming Commission on Aging. “Our seniors have lived these experiences — as caregivers, as recipients of care, and as community leaders. Hosting this exhibit allows us to reflect on that legacy and celebrate it in a very visible way.”

Visitors will experience hundreds of hand-crafted butterflies displayed in an immersive installation designed to spark conversation about aging, caregiving, workforce needs, and community responsibility. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular business hours. Additional community activities supporting this project will be held throughout the coming year.

Public Details

Opening: February 19, 2026

Location: Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center

121 Greenwood St.

Ishpeming, Michigan

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

On View Through: January 2027

Admission: Free

Learn more or order butterfly kits at: DCWgardens.com

About IMPART Alliance

IMPART Alliance is a Michigan-based initiative dedicated to strengthening the direct care workforce through education, advocacy, and community engagement. By fostering partnerships across healthcare, education, and the arts, IMPART Alliance works to elevate caregiving as a respected and sustainable profession while addressing workforce shortages statewide.

About the Greater Ishpeming Commission on Aging

The Greater Ishpeming Commission on Aging operates the Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center, serving seniors and families throughout the region. The Center provides programs, resources, and services that promote independence, dignity, wellness, and community connection for older adults in the Upper Peninsula.

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