



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **First Choice of Saginaw – A Unique Charitable Organization**

**SAGINAW, MI -**

First Choice of Saginaw, a local, tax exempt, charitable organization is pleased to announce that it is nearing the end of its fifth annual year of fund raising to provide holiday gift cards to adults with serious disabilities living in residential settings in Saginaw. First Choice of Saginaw was first developed in 2005, as a project of the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority quality program, through its Quality of Life Committee. SCCMHA, the local Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, had received feedback from various community representatives through quality discussions about the many persons with disabilities served, often residing in licensed residential settings, who had severely limited discretionary funds to meet any of their personal needs. The First Choice of Saginaw program was created primarily to help with some of that need for individual funds for adults with serious disabilities living in licensed or other residential settings in the Saginaw community.

Through fund raising, First Choice of Saginaw has been able to provide gift cards in December for the past four years to hundreds of persons with disabilities. “We are very pleased with the ongoing support of many and grateful to both our new and continued community donors,” Ginny Reed, the Board of Directors’ Chairperson recently commented. “The reaction of the recipients of the annual gift cards continues to be very compelling. During 2008 we raised additional funds to help even more persons with this often unrecognized, but very real and personal need in this community. Last year 316 individuals received holiday gift cards from First Choice of Saginaw. We know that there are financial hardships everywhere at this time, we hope to continue to provide the letter of support as we have in previous years to persons in need.”

Tim Ninemire, also a member of the First Choice of Saginaw Board states: “So many adults with serious disabilities have very little or even no means to purchase small necessities. Even though many individuals take advantage of community resources, they still have many unmet needs, sometimes even for decent clothing. Through First Choice of Saginaw, we wanted to offer the opportunity for these persons to make their own, individual choices of what they need or want, by offering in a small but meaningful way, a gift card to use for whatever they wish. I am very proud to be affiliated with this community effort.”

The First Choice of Saginaw 2009 campaign will end December 1. The organization is governed by a five member, volunteer board of Directors. Recipients are determined annually based on financial hardship, as recommended by the Saginaw County

Community Mental Health Authority. All proceeds go directly to recipients in the form of gift cards. For more information, contact First Choice of Saginaw at 989-799-6451, 500 Hancock, Suite 200, Saginaw, 48602, or visit the website to see recipient stories and more details at [www.saginawfc.org](http://www.saginawfc.org). All donations are tax-exempt.

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