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### **First Choice of Saginaw – Unique Local Charitable Organization Publishes 10 Year Report**

#### **SAGINAW, MI -**

First Choice of Saginaw is pleased to announce the publication of a new 10 Year Report, in recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the non-profit from 2005 – 2014. 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 served with disabilities, 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. The 10 Year Report is available on the website at [www.saginawfc.org](http://www.saginawfc.org).

Through fund raising, First Choice of Saginaw has been able to provide gift cards in December for the past ten years to hundreds of persons. “We are very pleased with the ongoing results and grateful to our continued donors and supporters,” Ginny Reed, the Board of Directors’ Chairperson commented. “The reaction of the recipients of the annual gift cards continues to be very compelling. 2015 is our 11<sup>th</sup> year of fundraising and operations. Everyone associated with our organization volunteers their time and talents. We are very grateful to the Saginaw Community for their generous and ongoing support of this critical need.”

Tim Ninemire, also a member of the First Choice of Saginaw Board and Board Secretary 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 and necessary personal items. 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 gift cards serve to improve the quality of life for the recipients every year.”

The First Choice of Saginaw organization is governed by a four member, volunteer Board of Directors and fundraising is planned by a volunteer committee, Friends of First Choice. Recipients are determined annually based on financial hardship, identified by the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority. Proceeds go directly to recipients in the form of gift cards on an annual basis.

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