

## Press Release

Date: January 16, 2012  
From: Jonathan Mead, President  
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For: **Immediate Release**

### UPCAP

#### Celebrates 50 Years of Progress

Fifty years ago, thirteen county delegates plus several agency and institutional representatives met in Marquette in what became the first organizational meeting of the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress. It was the first quasi-governmental body representing Upper Peninsula-wide local government ever to assemble. In the words of its founders, *"its job is big, its problems many, and its opportunities unlimited"*. Fifty years later those words still apply.

A celebration in honor of UPCAP's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was recently held at the Island Resort in Harris, MI. this past December. A few of the many accomplishments UPCAP has achieved over its 50 year history include:

- Developing the six community action agencies in the U.P. and laying the groundwork for the Inter Tribal Council of Michigan
- Establishing the first Head Start program in the United States
- Developing the three Planning and Development Districts
- Developing the three Job Training Consortiums (known today as Michigan WORKS!)
- Receiving designation as the Region XI (U.P.) Area Agency on Aging and subsequently establishing a network of senior centers and service providers throughout the region
- Creating the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners
- Becoming the first and only organization to have a county commissioner from each of the fifteen counties of the U.P. on its Board of Directors
- Developing one of the first aging Care Management programs in Michigan which laid the foundation for the MI Choice program; the largest program ever administered by UPCAP

- Designated by the Michigan Public Service Commission as Michigan's first regional 2-1-1 call center
- Establishing the U.P. 9-1-1 Authority and the U.P. State Fair Authority
- Along with the Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL), receiving designation as Michigan's first Aging and Disability Collaborative

These and other achievements were made possible through the efforts of the hundreds of staff members who have passed through the doors of UPCAP; through the guidance and support of the many public and consumer representatives serving on UPCAP's Board and committees; and by UPCAP's many state and federal funding sources and service providers.



Pictured from left to right starting in front row:

Tom Gerovac (Gogebic Co. Commissioner), Gerald Corkin (Marquette Co. Commissioner), Bernie Lang (Menominee Co. Commissioner), Frank Mead (Consumer), Amy Maes (SAIL), Jonathan Mead (UPCAP Executive Director), Gale Eilola (Baraga Co. Commissioner), Tom Elegeert (Delta Co. Commissioner), Allen Grimm (Schoolcraft Co. Commissioner), Jerry Doucette (Alger Co. Commissioner), Dan Young (UPCAP Deputy Director), James Hill (Mackinac Co. Commissioner), Jim Moore (Chippewa Co. Commissioner), Carl Nykanen (Ontonagon Co. Commissioner), Wayne Wales (Iron County Commissioner) and Richard Timmer (Consumer). Missing: Edward Jenich (Houghton Co. Commissioner), Sharon Teeple (Bay Mills), Paul Tesanovich (Consumer), Joe Stevens (Dickinson Co. Commissioner), Jill Maki (Luce Co. Commissioner) and Frank Stubenrauch (Keweenaw Co. Commissioner).

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