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Northern Michigan Regional Hospital Named to AARP's 2009 Best Employer for Workers Over 50 List

*Applications Set Record For 9-Year Old Program;
New Hospital-Health Care Honor Established*

LANSING, MI – Today, AARP awarded Northern Michigan Regional Hospital, based in Petoskey, MI, with one of its 2009 Best Employers for Workers 50 and Over Awards.

Northern Michigan Regional Hospital joins an impressive list of 15 hospital and healthcare honorees recently announced by AARP CEO Barry Rand.

More than 200 employers applied for Best Employers honors, the highest total in the nine year history of the program designed to highlight exemplary policies toward aged 50 and over workers.

Forty-one percent of employees at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital are age 50 and over and enjoy a flexible workplace with emphasis on learning and development.

"We are delighted that Northern Michigan Regional Hospital has been selected," said AARP state director Steve Gools, "Northern Michigan Regional Hospital has offered a number of progressive policies in its approach toward older workers."

A separate hospitals and health care Best Employers honor roll was established by AARP for the first time this year. AARP decided to set up a separate category in order to acknowledge efforts in the health care field to creatively deal with shortages in qualified workers that have faced the health care industry for years.

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Page 2 of 2 . . . Northern Michigan Regional Hospital Wins AARP Best Employers for Workers Over 50 Award

Any U.S.-based employer with at least 50 employees is eligible to apply for the Best Employers award. Candidates are vetted to ensure that practices meet the needs of mature workers. Key areas of consideration include: recruiting practices, opportunities for training, education and career development; workplace accommodations; alternative work options, such as flexible scheduling, job sharing, and phased retirement; employee health and retirement benefits and retiree work opportunities.

AARP The Magazine is featuring the 2009 Best Employers in its November-December issue, available in homes now. The article will be found online then at www.aarpmagazine.org.

For more information on the 2009 Best Employers, please go to www.aarp.org/bestemployers. Included is background on each employer's workforce practices and a description of the selection process.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 34.5 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's 40 million members and Americans 50+; AARP Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Thomas C. Mroczkowski (left), President & CEO at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital, proudly accepts the 2009 AARP Best Employer for Workers Over 50 award from Tom Kimble (right), Executive Council Member of AARP.

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