

20 November 2013

Northern Transformation Services:

Michigan State University Extension is supportive of your endeavor to create a Promise Zone for the six counties in the designated area of rural northeast and central lower Michigan. This area has been hit hard by the economic downturn our country faced during the last decade and continues to struggle to rebound.

Local units of government rely on revenue from property taxes, yet we continue to see a decline in property values. Our infrastructure is beginning to erode. Unemployment rates remain higher than average.

With increased communication, planning, and collaboration of public and private entities, collective impact can be realized. Northern Transformation is spearheading this effort and has gained the support and respect of many organizations to improve the lives of the residents in their communities. It is with this collective level of support and dedication that we can make a difference.

MSU Extension has an office in each of the counties in this zone. We are committed to be part of the planning process to see what role we may play and what resources we can bring to the table to help increase prosperity in this region.

Sincerely,



Shari Spoelman

District Coordinator



**MSU EXTENSION**  
**District 6**

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