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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 9, 2007**

**Making Great Waves for Kids Campaign Kick-Off**

The City of Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Department in collaboration with Making Great Waves for Kids is pleased to announce that beginning Tuesday, October 9, 2007 fundraising will begin for the 2008 summer pool season.

Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation had an outstanding 2007 pool season. Six pools were open and the season was eight weeks long which was one week longer than 2006. Thanks to a dedicated group of donors - Bob Sullivan, Glenn Steil Sr., Peter Secchia and the Tim Sullivan Family, some 56,780 youth swam for free this summer. This, combined with plenty of hot, sun-filled days resulted in impressive attendance figures. Thanks goes to Roosevelt Tillman, Commissioner Bliss and all the donors who made the season a success.

**Open Swim Participation**

2007 (8 weeks)	70,650	6 pools
2006 (7 weeks)	41,586	3 pools
2005 (7 weeks)	26,829	3 pools
2004 (9 weeks)	42,989	6 pools

The Making Great Waves for Kids fundraising campaign received pledges in the amount of \$211,000 for the 2007 pool season and to date has already collected \$94,000 of the \$300,000 goal for the 2008 pool season.

Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation also had a very successful swimsuit drive this year. Over 1,640 swimsuits and 600 towels were donated and given away during the summer. A swimsuit drive will be held again in conjunction with the Making Great Waves for Kids Campaign. New or slightly used swimsuits can be dropped off at 201 Market Ave. S.W. between the hours of Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please join the Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Department along with Making Great Waves for Kids in our mission to provide quality recreational opportunities for families and youth to enjoy.

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