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**Improving health and building confidence:
providing sports wheelchairs for activities.**

*The WHO (Women Helping Others®) Foundation awards \$4,000 to
Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association*

Grand Rapids, MI – Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association is dedicated to providing children and adults with physical disabilities the opportunity and support to participate in recreational and competitive wheelchair activities. The opportunity to participate in these activities improves physical and emotional health, enhances social and teamwork skills, teaches sportsmanship, and builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Currently, the GRWSA programs serve between 300-400 children and adults with physical disabilities.

Two popular sports at GRWSA are wheelchair tennis and wheelchair basketball. In these activities, children between the ages of 6-18 are given special sports chairs to use, typically not covered by insurance. The organization then holds regularly scheduled practices and games each week.

“Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association is sincerely grateful to the WHO Foundation for the recent grant award of \$4,000 for the purchase of two sports chairs,” said Board Secretary Bev Smeenge. “This will mean that two additional children with physical disabilities will be able to participate in either wheelchair tennis or wheelchair basketball. As the economy struggles, it has become increasingly difficult to find funds to support our programs and we are very thankful to the WHO Foundation for helping us in our mission of providing sports and recreational opportunities to children with physical disabilities.”

The WHO Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that was founded in 1993 and born from the philosophy of Women Helping Others. For 15 years, WHO has been giving and making a difference by supporting community-focused charities that serve the overlooked needs of women, children and families. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$3.5 million to over 332 organizations throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

For more information, call 1-800-WHO-4-ONE (1-800-946-4663); write to P.O. Box 816029, Dallas, Texas, 75381-6029; or visit www.whofoundation.org