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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRAND RAPIDS JAYCEES FOUNDATION FUNDS TO BRING
'DISCOVERY NIGHTS' TO THE PUBLIC MUSEUM**

Grand Rapids, MI (October 2, 2008) – The Grand Rapids Jaycees Foundation announced today a \$20,000 gift to the Public Museum which will expand evening programming and remove barriers to visiting the Museum in 2009.

“We want to help our Public Museum expand its hours so that everyone can take advantage of this precious gem,” says the foundation’s treasurer, Michael Maloney. “Expanded evening hours will encourage families to spend more time exploring the Museum and discovering all that’s there.”

The “GR Jaycees Foundation Discovery Night” ticket package includes secured parking, Museum admission, a planetarium show, a pizza meal and special exhibit admission for four people, for \$45, a value of \$67. Normally closed at 5 p.m., the Public Museum will stay open until 8 p.m. during GR Jaycees Foundation Discovery Nights.

Public Museum President and CEO Dale Robertson says the project is intended to draw time-stressed families who long for a mid-week break into an entertaining as well as educational atmosphere. With extended evening hours, people who work late or live a distance away will also have more opportunities to visit the Museum. “This is a tremendous gift to the community,” Robertson says. “We’re breaking down barriers here.”

The three floors of Public Museum collections include Egyptian mummies, wildlife dioramas, a moon rock, fossils, a working 1928 Spillman Carousel and a slice of the Berlin Wall.



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In all, there are 245,000 artifacts and specimens in the collection. Additionally, special temporary exhibits such as *Dead Sea Scrolls*, *Mysteries of Ancient Egypt*, *WHODUNIT? The Science of Solving Crime* and the upcoming *DINOSAURS: Just Imagine!* construct an ever-changing landscape within the Museum. Dates for the GR Jaycee Foundation Discovery Nights will be announced later this year.

The Grand Rapids Jaycees are professionals ages 21 – 40. The GR Jaycees Foundation, established in 1985, supports community endeavors with a child and family focus. Last year's foundation grant recipients included Cherry Street Health Services and Special Olympics Michigan.

The Public Museum is a collections-based educational organization that explores and celebrates the world and our place in it. The Museum seeks to educate and delight the public, contribute to the well-being of its community, and enhance the quality of life in West Michigan. Inquiries or requests for general information should be directed to 616/456-3977.

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