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For Immediate Release

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Balloonfest parking volunteers drive non-profit donations

The Michigan Challenge Balloonfest, June 24-26 in Howell, is raising money for the community.

Non-profit organizations can benefit by volunteering to help direct parking during balloonfest weekend. The Howell Area Chamber of Commerce will make a donation for each shift worked by a parking volunteer to the non-profit organization of their choice.

"Working with non-profit organizations to help direct traffic at the Michigan Challenge is another way balloonfest gives back to this community," said Michigan Challenge Director Michelle Tokan. "It's a unique fundraiser, and some organizations earn thousands of dollars.

"In addition, when guests park on balloonfest grounds, a portion of their parking fee goes to these non-profit volunteers."

The rate for parking volunteers is \$7 per hour. Shifts are available Friday evening, June 24 and all day Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26. Hundreds of parking volunteers will be needed for the entire Michigan Challenge weekend. During the last six years, balloonfest has contributed more than \$61,000 to organizations through its volunteer parking program.

Volunteers for parking positions must be over 16 years of age. Youth groups are encouraged to enlist parents, friends and relatives. The balloonfest is held at the Howell High School Complex, 1200 West Grand River Avenue.

PNC bank is the Major Sponsor of the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest. Parking sponsor is Art Van.

Organizations interested in making the Michigan Challenge a fund-raising opportunity should contact the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce at 517.546.3920. Volunteer parking forms can also be downloaded at michiganchallenge.com.