

Employee Involvement

Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association

Curt Bender, Wheelchair Tennis Athlete



The Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association (GRWSA) is a non-profit organization that promotes and provides competitive and recreational opportunities for kids and adults with physical disabilities. GRWSA has been in existence for over 25 years and offers programs such as a FREE 5-day sports camp experience held at Grand Valley State University for kids ages 7-18 years old participating in many different sporting opportunities. The campers may stay overnight as well and several of the adult wheelchair athletes serve as camp counselors to provide support and mentoring during the week.

GRWSA also has adult and junior wheelchair basketball teams, adult and junior wheelchair tennis teams, holds adaptive water skiing clinics, and has a racing and hand cycling club as well.



I have been playing competitive wheelchair tennis for over 14 years now and am fortunate to be able to travel across the country to compete against other wheelchair athletes. In order for me to play against other athletes, we must travel out of state. Our tennis program has grown from two players seven years ago to now having over 15 adults

practicing plus a youth program which runs every summer with 12 kids participating. It is such a great opportunity to give back to the organization to now help serve as a coach and mentor to newly injured athletes and kids that are coming out for their very first time.

All of our funding comes from local and state grants, our fundraising opportunities, the GRWSA annual golf outing, charity tennis tournament, selling program book ads, and corporate and private donors.



I want to thank the Tennant Foundation for being a part of GRWSA support and donating \$200.00 to our organization's program.

For more information about our organization, please visit our website at www.grwsa.com.