

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WHEELCHAIR AND HANDCYCLE PARTICIPANTS IN 25K EVENT**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — Along with Fifth Third, the Mary Free Bed Guild of Grand Rapids is proud to sponsor the Wheelchair and Handcycle Divisions. We look forward to providing individuals with disabilities an avenue to participate in a competitive race like the Fifth Third River Bank Run.

The Mary Free Bed Guild supplies prize money for both the Wheelchair (\$14,800) and Handcycle (\$5,200) Divisions totaling \$20,000.

Travel and hotel stipends have been adjusted to further support racers. Travel stipends will now assist forty racers (compared to twenty five in years past). Those needing hotel stipends will receive an additional \$10 a night. Stipends now total \$6,000.

Athletes that have confirmed their return to the 2009 race include:

**Wheelchair Division**

Quad Men's

Santiago Sanz (2005, 2006, 2008 division winner)

T1 Quad Men's

Nathan Schout (2009 division winner)

Open Women

Tricia Downing (2009 division winner)

**Handcycle Division**

Male Para

Mike Sprouse (2009 division winner)

We look forward to additional racers registering as we move closer to the race.

Mary Free Bed is excited to support the Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association's new handcycle racing team as many of those racers are former Mary Free Bed patients.

For additional information regarding Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Handcycle Divisions please visit [www.maryfreebed.com](http://www.maryfreebed.com).

We look forward to another competitive race year!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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