



**For Immediate Release**

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**Community Life Jacket Initiative Launches at Maple Lake to Promote Water Safety**

*A Community Partnership Provides Free Life Jackets for Public Use*

**Polk County, MN** – A new community-driven initiative has launched in Polk County to promote water safety and prevent drowning. The Community Life Jacket Initiative, a collaborative effort among Polk County Public Health, Safe Kids Grand Forks, Medica, and Win-E-Mac School, has resulted in the installation of two life jacket loaner stations at East Shore and the Polk County Park on Maple Lake.

These stations offer free access to life jackets in infant, youth, and adult sizes, making it easier for families and individuals to enjoy the water safely. Community members are encouraged to Borrow, Enjoy, and Return.

In addition to increasing safety, the project encourages physical activity and outdoor recreation by making water access safer for everyone in the region.

The East Shore stand was constructed by Win-E-Mac School shop students, who applied their craftsmanship to a project that supports both community health and hands-on learning.

“This initiative reflects the strength of community partnerships,” said Codi Lehmann, Community Health Supervisor with Polk County Public Health. “We’re proud to be part of a project that not only promotes water safety, but also engages local students in meaningful service.”

“Drowning is preventable,” said Carma Hanson, Safe Kids Grand Forks Coordinator. “Having life jackets available right where people are swimming or boating is a simple but powerful way to protect lives.”

Funding support for the Community Life Jacket Initiative was provided through Medica's County Innovation Funds and a grant that Safe Kids Grand Forks received from the Sea Tow Foundation. For other locations of life jacket loaner programs sponsored by the Sea Tow Foundation, visit: [Life Jacket Loaner Station Locations - Sea Tow Foundation](#)

For more information about the Community Life Jacket Initiative, contact Polk County Public Health at 218-281-3385.

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