



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL
MAYOR

May 1, 2013

Salvation Army
1632 Linden, SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Friends:

The Great Flood of 2013 is behind us. Our community sustained relatively minor damage. Our floodwalls held. Our storm sewers operated at their maximum capacity. The waters are receding as I write this letter.

For me there will be many memories of this flood event. Some will be memories tinged by anxiety with reminders of the frenetic pace and the difficult decisions involving key executive staff. But mostly my memories will be of a community pulling together in the face of a threat heretofore unknown to us – a flood of historic proportions – and meeting that threat with determination and grit.

You were part of that response and so my memories of the Great Flood of 2013 will be shaped for the good by the effort you made to protect lives and property from the flood waters. For sharing your canteen trucks and refreshments, I will forever be grateful.

In his Inaugural Address John Kennedy famously said, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” You selflessly put aside any thought of what Grand Rapids could do for you in this time of our emergency and, instead, gave yourself over to the common good and became part of what we will see as our finest moment.

On behalf of all Grand Rapiidians I offer you my most sincere thanks.

Sincerely,


George K. Heartwell