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Gainesville Parks and Recreation Selected by USA Swimming Foundation as Make a Splash Grant Recipient

Make a Splash Grant to Assist Swimming Lesson Program for At-Risk Kids

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Gainesville Parks and Recreation was selected as one of 12 organizations across the nation to receive up to \$5,000 in grant monies from the USA Swimming Foundation. Gainesville Parks and Recreation is recognized as a “Make a Splash Local Partner,” one of over 140 providers across the nation who has committed to the USA Swimming Foundation’s goal of helping provide the opportunity for every child in America learn to swim.

So far the Gainesville Parks and Recreation Make a Splash Program for the Gainesville Middle School has taught 198 6th graders how to swim this fall. Another 250 are expected to complete the program before the end of the school year.

“Our Make a Splash Local Partners make a difference by taking tangible action to advance the Make a Splash mission,” said **Chris LaBianco**, Chief Development Officer for the USA Swimming Foundation. “Local partners including Gainesville Parks and Recreation help us expand our reach across the country, and potentially save lives.”

“We are extremely excited to be a part of the Make a Splash initiative,” said Melvin Cooper, Director of Gainesville Parks and Recreation. “We’ve taught so many local children over the years to be safe in water, and with these grant monies can reach even more of those kids at risk.”

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About the USA Swimming Foundation

Respected for its mission, its strength of programs and its record of excellence, USA Swimming is a blue-ribbon institution in both amateur athletic and community service arenas. Through USA Swimming and the USA Swimming Foundation, millions of America’s youth have been introduced to the sport of swimming and have experienced the life-altering power of the sport – they see it manifest itself in ways such as safety, health and fitness, academic achievement, improved social skills, discipline, focus, community leadership and eventual personal and professional success. Based in Colorado Springs, the Foundation is governed by its own board of directors and is managed by USA Swimming staff members.