

## PRESS RELEASE

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Photo Attached: Erin Gruwell

### Famed “Freedom Writers” teacher & author to speak in Muskegon



Famed teacher and author, Erin Gruwell, will make a rare appearance in Muskegon on Wednesday, August 27, 2008, at 9:45 a.m. at Orchard View High School Fine Arts Auditorium. A book signing will follow at 11:00 a.m. Gruwell, whose story became a Paramount Pictures’ feature film starring Hilary Swank, will talk about her remarkable experience as a teacher in a crime-ridden urban neighborhood, and how she was able to awaken personal power in students others had given up on.

Organizers from the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) and WayPoint Academy believe Gruwell’s presentation, “Becoming a Catalyst for Change”, will inspire West Michigan educators and others embarking on a new school year. Tickets are \$25 with advance payment by August 22, 2008, or \$30 at the door, and are available through the MAISD at [www.muskegonisd.org](http://www.muskegonisd.org) or by phone at (231) 767-7217. Space is limited.

Gruwell’s students’ book, The Freedom Writers Diary, is a collection of personal stories of courage and hope in the face of despair. Gruwell has since authored The Freedom Writers Diary Teacher’s Guide and Teach with Your Heart. In addition she founded the nonprofit Freedom Writers Foundation which promotes acceptance and innovative teaching methods in classrooms across the country.

Gruwell and the Freedom Writers have received many awards, including the prestigious Spirit of Anne Frank Award, and have appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Primetime, Good Morning America, and The View. Gruwell spreads her dynamic message to students, teachers, and business people around the world. She currently leads the Foundation and lives in Southern California. To learn more visit [www.freedomwritersfoundation.org](http://www.freedomwritersfoundation.org).

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