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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 10/9/06

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WGVU Productions presents *Surviving Auschwitz: Children of the Shoah*

(Grand Rapids, MI, October 9, 2006) Tova Friedman and Frieda Tenenbaum have a lifelong bond, a shared experience that most people could never even imagine – they were prisoners together in one of the most horrific places ever created by man. *Surviving Auschwitz: Children of the Shoah*, based on the book of the same name by Milt Nieuwsma journeys with them as they relive the shattering memories of their past and discuss their ongoing struggles in the present. The emotional film premiered in May 2005, both at the Motion Picture Association of America in Washington, D.C. and in West Michigan.

At 6 and 10, Tova and Frieda were among the youngest of 7,000 prisoners found alive during the liberation of Auschwitz by a regiment of the Soviet army. In the summer of 2004, the two women journeyed to Auschwitz accompanied by their own children and a WGVU film crew. Together, they faced the sorrow and the tragedy of their past and sought to heal the wounds felt through two generations. The film includes photographs and film footage of Tova, Frieda and other children held at Auschwitz, as well as interviews with the two women and their children as they walk the grounds of the infamous death camp. Told in three parts, the documentary explores their lives during their incarceration at Auschwitz; it also reveals what life was like for them both before their imprisonment and after their liberation.

Surviving Auschwitz has received a Silver Davey Award, a Crystal Award of Excellence from the Communicator Awards, a Gold Millennium Award, a Merit Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, a Silver Telly Award, an Associated Press Award, a First Place Gold Camera Award from the International Film and Video Festival, an Award of Excellence from the Videographer Awards, a Best of Show from the Accolade Competition and a Michigan EMMY Award.

WGVU's continued mission is to provide educational, informative, and entertaining programs and events to the West Michigan community as a service of Grand Valley State University.

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