VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE®
PURPLE COMMUNITY

Grand Rapids Griffins Purple Community Game

March 13, 2026
7 p.m.

Impact of your sponsorship

Venue: Van Andel Arena
130 Fulton St. W
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Van Andel Institute Purple Community events directly benefit our biomedical research and K–12 education initiatives. Your support enables us to explore the underpinnings of health and disease, build collaborative relationships with some of the world's foremost research organizations, establish clinical trials to evaluate promising new therapies, and make a lasting impact on the future of human health.

EXPLORING THE ORIGINS OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE

VAI scientists explore the root causes of Parkinson's, dementias, depression and other neurological conditions in hopes of contributing to new, improved diagnostics and treatments. By working with collaborators around the world, VAI supports groundbreaking clinical trials to find therapies that slow or stop disease progression in Parkinson's — something no current treatment can do.

INVESTIGATING THE ORIGINS OF CANCER TO INFORM TREATMENT

At VAI, scientists investigate how and why cancers begin and the mechanism that allow them to spread — key steps to developing life-changing ways to better diagnose and treat these challenging diseases. We collaborate with leading organizations and physicians in the U.S. and abroad to move promising new treatments into clinical trials, a vital part of getting better therapies to the patients that need them most.

UNDERSTANDING HOW METABOLISM AND NUTRITION FUEL HEALTH AND DISEASE

Metabolism plays a central role in every aspect of human health. Scientists at VAI work toward developing scientifically-driven strategies for promoting health, and preventing and treating disorders such as cancer, Parkinson's and diabetes.

HELPING TEACHERS TRAIN TOMORROW'S SCIENTISTS

Van Andel Institute for Education is dedicated to creating classrooms where curiosity, creativity and critical thinking thrive. Our educators develop inquiry-based approaches for K–12 education to help students and teachers prepare the next generation of problem-solvers. The Institute offers engaging programs for students, as well as transformative professional development and instructional tools for teachers. We are committed to promoting a high-quality education for all children.

Learn more at vai.org.