

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS,** *our city is a community of compassion and dedicated to being a wonderful place to live and raise a family; and*

**WHEREAS,** *every family faces challenges that require faith, love and hope; and*

**WHEREAS,** *autism affects over 1 million Americans including some of our own City's families; and*

**WHEREAS,** *it is known that with proper education, training and community living options, individuals with autism can lead distinguished, productive lives in their communities and strive to reach their fullest potential; and*

**WHEREAS,** *autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities in the world; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the annual costs of such disabilities grow to the billions of dollars; yet service options lag the needs of those impacted; and*

**WHEREAS,** *our community supports increasing awareness of this challenging disability; and*

**WHEREAS,** *we as a community seek compassion for those families facing this challenge; and*

**WHEREAS,** *our city would like to commend Robert & Sandy Waters on their radio show "The Candy Store" that airs on Autism One Radio named after their beautiful 6 year old red headed daughter Candace who has autism and for their song titled "Faith, Love and Hope" which has increased autism awareness and compassion around the world.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doody, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim December, 2006 as**

***"Autism Awareness Month"***

***in the City of Grand Junction and also declare September 8<sup>th</sup>, which is Candace's birthday, as "Candy's Day" to increase autism awareness and compassion.***

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 27th day of December, 2006.***

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**Mayor**