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## Southwest Launches Chicago Midway Service at GFIA



**Grand Rapids, Mich.** – Southwest Airlines (*NYSE: LUV*) continues to grow in the Grand Rapids (GRR) market as new service to Chicago Midway (MDW) from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) began today.

Southwest now offers nonstop service to six cities from GFIA, adding Midway to a list of flights to Baltimore/Washington, Orlando, Denver; and seasonal service to Tampa & Fort Myers. The new flights from Grand Rapids to Midway will operate three times daily.

“We are thrilled to see Southwest’s growth in our market with the addition of Chicago Midway service,” said GFIA Executive Director Brian Ryks. “This new nonstop service will be a benefit to our business passengers looking to get in and out of the city easily in one day, but it also gives our leisure passengers a chance to find affordable fares for a weekend shopping, taking in a baseball game, or connecting through Midway to one of its 73 cities. Southwest brings our community the very best in air service and we are happy to expand our partnership to promote the LUV throughout West Michigan.”



Southwest entered the Grand Rapids market in August 2013 flying its fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft, the largest fleet of Boeing aircraft in the world. Grand Rapids marked the 83<sup>rd</sup> city served in Southwest's route portfolio. Today, the airline flies to 97 cities in the United States, Mexico, and Caribbean.

Southwest is the only major U.S. airline to offer bags fly free® to everyone (first and second checked pieces of luggage, size and weight limits apply, some airlines may allow free checked bags on select routes or for qualified circumstances).

Book Southwest Airlines' low fares online only at [www.southwest.com](http://www.southwest.com) or by phone at 800-I-FLY-SWA.

For questions and interviews, please contact Tara Hernandez.

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### **About GFIA**

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) is the second busiest airport in Michigan. The airport served over 2.5 million passengers in 2015 and over 7,000 travelers pass through GFIA each day. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport offers nonstop service to 23 major market destinations with more than 120 daily nonstop flights. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is managed and operated by the Kent County Department of Aeronautics. GFIA generates over \$3.1 billion in annual economic output throughout West Michigan and employs over 1,500 people. For more information on GFIA visit: [www.flyford.org](http://www.flyford.org) or follow the airport on Twitter: @FlyGRFord.