

# Summer 2010 Newsletter



Keweenaw Family Resource Center

850 W SHARON AVE - STE 6, HOUGHTON, MI 49931 ~ (906)482-9363 ~ WWW.KFRCKIDS.ORG

## A Note from the Director

How do you really thank someone?

I am ever grateful to my parents for instilling in me the value of writing a good old fashion thank you note. I say old fashion, because today with email, text messaging and social networking, there can be a tendency to be a bit more casual about showing our gratitude. This past year I have had the pleasure of writing more thank you notes than most brides. I have also had the pleasure of working side by side with a great group of volunteers and businesses to help create the **Tree House**. But a mere thank you doesn't feel quite enough. In this newsletter is a list of folks who have supported the Tree House in one way or another over the last seven months. Their support and encouragement have been essential in creating this new space in the community.

Our fundraising efforts for this project started November 1st and, since that date, we have raised almost 95% of our goal! We have had an outpouring of generosity and we are most grateful. However, this last 5% is critical. This last \$5000 is as important as the first. These dollars go a long way to support the Tree

**Kids at the Tree House enjoy gross motor play, sensory exploration activities and creative play.**

House and the programming offered there. During these first months we have had over 357 children and 312 adults play at the Tree House. We also have hosted a few field trips and special programs. Kids at the Tree House enjoy gross motor play, sensory exploration activities and creative play. All areas which support healthy growth and development.

We hope those of you who have been thinking about contributing or buying a picket, will do so. We have sold about 100 pickets and have 100 more to go. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor someone you know — your children, grand children, or maybe your dad for Father's Day.

Anyone wishing a tour of the Tree House, please feel free to call me to set up a time. We are happy to show off this extraordinary place. The Tree House open hours will be posted in this newsletter. Membership materials can be found on the KFRC website, [www.kfrckids.org](http://www.kfrckids.org), as well as at the Tree House.

Come on in and play!

*Catherine Benda*

## Please Vote For the KFRC Tree House

<http://www.refresheverything.com/thetreehouse>

The Keweenaw Family Resource Center has been accepted into the PEPSI Refresh grant competition, with the opportunity to win \$25,000 for the **TREE HOUSE** INDOOR PLAYGROUND!

All you need to do is vote for our project everyday through May 31<sup>st</sup> and **PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!**



# Playtime in the Park

From 10:00am—12:00 noon

For children birth to 4 years and their families

Date	Houghton/Keweenaw Location
JUNE 9	Lake Linden Park
JUNE 16	Chassell Park
JUNE 23	Centennial School Park
JUNE 30	Hancock Beach
JULY 7	Lake Linden Park
JULY 14	Chassell Park
JULY 21	Centennial School Park
JULY 28	Hancock Beach
AUGUST 4	Lake Linden Park
AUGUST 11	Chassell Park
AUGUST 18	Centennial School Park
AUGUST 25	Hancock Beach
SEPTEMBER 1, 15, 29	Lake Linden Park
SEPTEMBER 8, 22	West Houghton Park

For more information or to register call KFRC at 482-9363

*Playtime in the Park is a collaboration between Keweenaw Family Resource Center and BHK Child Development Board and is funded by Michigan's Great Parents/Great Start Program. Other funding provided by the Federal Departments of Health and Human Services, Education and Agriculture, Michigan's Departments of Education and Human Services, and the Children's Trust Fund.*

## Strong Organizations Strong Youth Funds Awarded to KFRC



In March, the Keweenaw Family Resource Center received funding from the Strong Organizations Strong Youth (SOSY). The SOSY Program is made possible by a Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program grant Great Lakes Center for Youth Development (GLCYD) received from the Office of Community Services, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. This award will help to fund a computer, signage, telephone system and cash register for KFRC operations. Furthermore, KFRC will receive 30 hours of professional development consulting provided by the Great Lakes Center of Youth Development.

GLCYD seeks to promote healthy communities for youth throughout the region by providing training, consulting and other resources for nonprofits of all shapes sizes and missions. For more information on this or other youth development or nonprofit management topics, please visit [www.glcyd.org](http://www.glcyd.org)



## KFRC Receives Foundation Grant



The Plum Creek Foundation recently awarded \$2,500 to the Keweenaw Family Resource Center to help fund its Tree House indoor playground and exploration space for children. The Plum Creek Foundation grant has been used to purchase play equipment for the Tree House, including mural paint and decorations, balance disks, floor padding and more.

“There isn’t currently a place in this community for pre-school children to go with their parents during the six or seven months of inclement weather we experience,” said Benda. “With the help of the Plum Creek Foundation and other organizations we will be able to provide a space for local children to grow and learn with their parents, while at the same time reducing the instances of childhood obesity.”

The mission of the Plum Creek Foundation is to provide philanthropic contributions to support and improve the general welfare of life in the communities that Plum Creek serves. The Foundation board meets quarterly to review applications submitted from organizations in the company’s operating communities. Visit the Community Involvement page on Plum Creek’s Web site at [www.plumcreek.com](http://www.plumcreek.com) to download an application.

Plum Creek is the largest and most geographically diverse private landowner in the nation with approximately 7 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States and wood products manufacturing facilities in the Northwest. For more information, visit [www.plumcreek.com/wisconsin](http://www.plumcreek.com/wisconsin).

### WANTED:



### CASH REGISTER RECEIPTS!!!

KFRC is collecting Econofoods cash register receipts as a fundraiser. Twice a year KFRC will receive 1% of the total cash register receipts submitted in cash. You can help by saving your receipts and dropping them off at the KFRC Tree House, playgroups or mailing them to us at: 850 W. Sharon Ave. - Ste. 6, Houghton, MI 49931.

We have already had many people participating and have discovered how quickly each receipt adds up so please don't think any amount is too small to submit!

Also, please don't forget that KFRC is still collecting Our Family UPC labels as well to raise funds for its programs. KFRC earns 5 cents for every label submitted. Please drop off your labels at KFRC or at any of its playgroups. If you don't have the time to cut out every label, please bring the empty containers because KFRC has a wonderful volunteer by the name of Virginia Monroe who is always willing to take on that job!







# ON MARCH 19, 2010, KFRC OFFICIALLY OPENED THE DOORS TO THE TREE HOUSE . . .



*A glimpse of the quiet, but soon to be busy, Tree House Indoor Playground prior to the Grand Opening.*



*KFRC Director, Cathy Benda and Winter Park Task Force Chairperson, Jessica DellaValla share ribbon cutting honors.*



*Pat Wood (KFRC co-founder), Margaret Sottile (KFRC co-founder and former director) and Judy Harkonen (KFRC Board President) pose for a photo of prior to speaking at the opening.*

## **A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WHOSE HANDS ON ASSISTANCE WERE VITAL TO**

### **THE TREE HOUSE OPENING:**

#### WINTER PARK TASK FORCE

Jessica DellaValla, Task Force Chair

Monica Aho, Design Committee Chair

Rob Bishop, Site Selection & Fund Development Chair

Al Aho

Scott MacInnes

Scott Ala

Ivette Margraves

Angela Campioni

Dave Olsson

John Donnelly

Jonathon Packham

Ruth Gill

Kathy Penegor

Ron Helman

Shannon Rinkinen

Sal Keith

Renata Sommerville

Joel Liimatainen

Karen Valentine

Rick Loduha & Finandia University's Human Factors Class

#### Artists & Craftsmen

Julie Benda

Mike Benda

Carlton Crothers

Tobias Dawson

Daniel Gershenson

Keweenaw Kiwanis

Mike Loeffler

Matthew & Amy Monte

Phi Kappa Theta Frat

Dave Pulkkinen

Erica & Steve Rouser

Marianne Smith

Elizabeth Weaver

Christine Westrich

World of Wood

#### In-Kind Business Support

Dollar Bay Linoleum & Tile Co.

Jack Ham, Office Express

M & M Painting

McGann Building Supply Co.

Monte Consulting, Inc.

41 Lumber

D & L Janitorial

Karen Hanks,

The Marketing Department

RC Mechanical

Tim Hanson Electric, Inc.

Marti Leonard,

U.P. Engineering

Up & Running Technology

Solutions

... SINCE THAT DAY, A GOOD TIME HAS BEEN HAD BY ALL WHO HAVE COME TO PLAY!

# Tree House Open Hours

*For children birth through age 4*

**MONDAYS** 9:30AM - NOON  
2:00PM - 5:30PM

**TUESDAYS** 9:30AM - NOON  
4:00PM - 7:00PM

**THURSDAYS** 9:30AM - NOON  
4:00PM - 7:00PM

**SATURDAYS** 10:00AM - 1:00PM

## PLAYGROUP at the Tree House

Wednesdays (Oct thru May) 9:30 am - noon

## Tree House Membership Options

- \$5 per day
- \$20 per month
- \$50 per summer
- \$200 per year

Semesters and Academic Years available this fall

**SCHOLARSHIPS & GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**

Call (906) 482-9363 for more information

All families attending the Tree House must complete a registration form and sign a liability waiver. These, along with a membership handbook, can be obtained online at [www.kfrckids.org](http://www.kfrckids.org) or at the KFRC office. Please call (906) 482-9363 for more information.



## It's Time To Name Our Frog...

... and we need your help! Beginning June 1st, children visiting the KFRC Tree House may submit an entry in our



"Name The Frog" contest. The winner will be chosen on the first day of summer - June 21st! Please stop by to enter your name idea and play for awhile!



This section is dedicated to the following individuals and businesses whose generous contributions have provided KFRC the unbelievable opportunity to open The Tree House Indoor Playground while continuing to offer its existing quality programs to area families with children birth through age 4. THANK YOU!!!

Tree House Sponsor:



Tree House Donors:



BHK Child Development Board

Copper Country ISD

Copper Country Mental Health

The DellaValla Family

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

Elizabeth Jacobson

Richard & Stasia Gray

Erik & Molly Hayenga

Martha Janners

Jon & Gail Neufeld

Psychology Associates of the Keweenaw, PC

Rice Memorial Foundation

Margaret Sottile

Superior Child Abuse Prevention Council

Community Partners:



Rotary Club of Houghton



Leonard Bohmann & Janeen Stephenson

Randy & Glenda Folker

Petio & Zhasmina Kotov

Kirk & Kristin Lufkin

Thomas & Renee McConnon

Dale & Luann Penny

Bob Sharkey & Susan Donnelly

Sherwin-Williams Co.

Dr. Pichai & Rajanee Sripaipan

Stephen & Angela Webber

Michael Wilder



## Friends of KFRC & The Tree House (01/01/2009 - 05/01/2010):

Alfred & Laverne Aho	Joan Hawkins	Linda Ott
Angela's Massage & Spa	Josiah & Merlyn Heyman	Mary Pachmayer
Martin & Nancy Auer	Michael & Lauren Higgins	Delphine Pastula
James Baker	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Almor & Kathleen Penegor
Mike & Cathy Benda	Ellen Horsch	Karl & Anne Peterson
Robert & Sierra Bishop	John W. Jobst	Rolf & Carolyn Peterson
Bluesky Health PLLC	Phil & Rene' Johnson	Dale & Jennifer Pisani
Jim & Ronda Bogan	William & Megan Johnson	Portage Hospital Auxiliary
Suzanne Boxer	Horatio & Suzanne Jones	Portage Lake United Church
Scott & Lori Bradley	Brian & Kathleen Joyce	Marcia Pruner
Louis & Terry Braun	Jason & Salvadora Keith	Range Bank
Campioni Enterprises, Inc.	Amber Kempainen	Range Lion's Club
Brian & Rima Carlson	Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	Dana Richter & Sharon Levine
Dr. Simon Carn & Ruth Gill	Keweenaw Art Fair, Inc.	Thomas & Rita Rodeheffer
Larry Carroll & Mary Haller	Terry Kinzel & Sue Ellen Kingsley	Bill & Nanno Rose
Chassell Women's Club	Kiwanis of the Copper Country	Brian Ruhl
Chi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society	Kenneth & Elisabeth Kraft	James & Catherine Ruhl
Computer Mechanix, Inc.	Allie Lamoureux	Kevin & Susan Ruhl
Copper Country Great Start Collaborative	Larry & Rachel Lankton	Paul & Jennifer Sanders
Natalia Crespo	George & Peg Lazzari	Steve Schmunk & Ann Russ
Daniell Heights Resident Council	Gil & Susan Lewis	Kamran & Ellen Shayesteh
Donald & Gladys Dawson	Paul & Karen Lewis	Ted & Alice Soldan
Delta Zeta Sorority	William & Audrey Liston	Jason & Renata Sommerville
Christian Dinsmore & Kimberly Dovin	George & Dorothy Love	James & Patricia Spain
William Donnelly	Cully & Debbie Maki	Doug & Norma Stuart
Jason & Amy Evans	Charles & Ivette Margraves	Christine Sullivan
Joe & Gail Evans	Cindy McLean	Superior Family Chiropractic
Harvey & Norma Filppula	Suzanne McLean	Trinity Episcopal Church
Sue Fitzgerald	Willie & Gloria Melton	Susan Tylar
Jeff Flam & Cindy Drake	Philip & Joyce Menard	Noel Urban & Judith Perlinger
Willis & Brenda Fontaine	MI Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity	U.P. Association of Realtors, Inc.
Ted & Karen Fredrickson	Michigan Tech Employees FCU	Up & Running
Jean Funk	Mike & Lisa Mikkola	Denise VanDyken
John & Debbie Gershenson	Roswell & Ruth Miller	Stan & LouAnn Vitton
John & Lynn Gierke	Walter & Sheila Milligan	Bob & Linda Vollwerth
Sonia Goltz	Moms Club of the Copper Country	Gregory & Kathleen Waite
Hugh & Bonnie Gorman	Virginia Monroe	Wayne & Elizabeth Weaver
Grace United Methodist Women	Dennis & Pauline Moore	Julie Williams
Gretchen's House, Inc.	Faith Morrison	Mark & Amy Wisti
Ernest Griff	Glenn & Gail Mroz	Ruth Wisti
Leslie Griffith	Emily Newhouse	<b><u>Baby Blanket Volunteers:</u></b>
Douglas & Katherine Groeschl	North Wind Books	Girl Scout Troop 361
Amy Hagenmiller	Grant & Peg Olson	Laurie McLeod
Hairsmiths Salon	Blair & Robin Orr	Mary Lou Mooney & the awesome volunteers at the Bluffs
Dale & Judith Harkonen		Mabel Vollmer
Victor Harrington		



850 West Sharon Avenue, Ste #6 ~ Houghton, MI 49931

***Return Service Requested***

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Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Houghton, MI  
Permit No. 31

**The mission of the Keweenaw Family Resource Center is to support, enrich and strengthen family life in the Keweenaw Peninsula by providing a variety of programs which focus on families with children from birth through 4 years. KFRC is a 501© 3 non-profit organization.**

KFRC is located in the Red Ridge Plaza,  
850 West Sharon Avenue , Suite #6, Houghton, Michigan.  
= Office Hours: Mon—Thurs, 9am-4pm; Fridays by appointment  
Phone: (906) 482-9363      Fax: (906) 482-9353  
Email: info@kfrckids.org      Website: www.kfrckids.org  
*For program schedules check our website or call us at 482-9363.*

KFRC is supported by the Michigan Department of Education, BHK Child Development Board, Copper Country Intermediate School District, Michigan Children’s Trust Fund, Canterbury House/Episcopal Association for College Work, Copper Country United Way, Trinity Episcopal Church, Superior Child Abuse Prevention Council, Portage Health, Rotary Club of Houghton, Kiwanis of the Copper Country, Keweenaw Community Foundation, The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, local businesses, service organizations, and individual donations.

KFRC STAFF  
Cathy Benda, *Director*  
Lori Bradley, *Administrator*  
Laura Nakkula, *Home Visitor/ Early On Services Coordinator*  
Pam Sheridan, *Home Visitor*  
Kathy Williams, *Center-Based Coordinator*  
Andra Ziemnick, *Program Assistant*

KFRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Judith Harkonen, *President*  
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