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# YOUTH AND RECREATION

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2015



JANUARY 1, 2016  
ALPENA COUNTY  
720 W Chisholm Street Alpena, MI 49707

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## ACC Cross Country Boosters

Project: Time-clock, accessories, travel

Grant: \$5178.00

Alpena Community College Cross Country team wants to Thank the Youth and Recreation board for their support during the 2015 season. With the grant; the team was able to buy time clocks for practices and outerwear for training during the season. The 2015 team had their best season in their history and greatly appreciates the support it has received.



## Alpena Volunteer Center at Alpena Community College

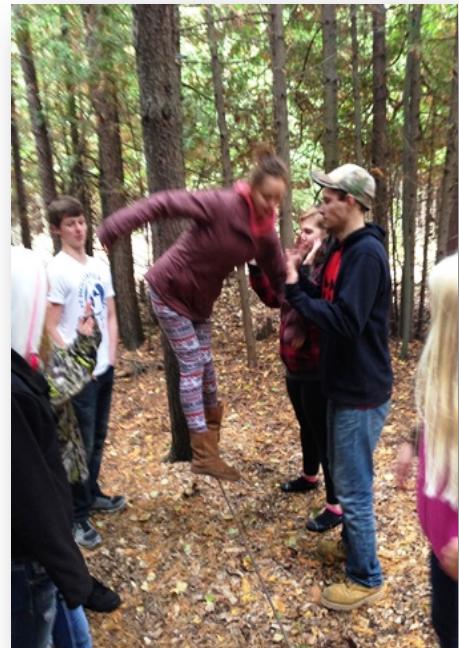
Project: The Ropes Course

Grant: \$4000.00

The Ropes Course at Alpena Community College is a series of team-building activities located in a

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beautiful, peaceful wooded area on the grounds of ACC. The Course is utilized by youth in Alpena County who, through participation in Course elements and activities, gain skills in leadership, cooperation, confidence, teamwork, decision-making, and trust in others. The Ropes Course is a unique and “wonder-filled” outdoor activity that also promotes physical fitness, agility, balance, flexibility, coordination, and stamina in all young participants regardless of abilities. The slogan, “Challenge by Choice” is reinforced by facilitators to enhance kids’ confidence and willingness to participate. ALL children and their ideas are encouraged, welcomed, and valued.





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## Alpena High School Band Boosters

Project: Provide Uniforms and Instruments to the Alpena High School Marching Band

Grant: \$9000.00

The Alpena High School Band Boosters offer support and assistance the Alpena High School Marching Band. We strive to keep the Band in proper dress, and with current and workable instrumentation. The Band performs at all AHS Wildcat Football games, and numerous parades and special events throughout a typical season. Parades in particular, include the Christmas parade, Posen Potato Festival Parade, and also in honor of our Veterans every year...

## Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Battle on the Bay-Tournament play

Grant: \$7000.00

In 2015, AHA was awarded grant money, allowing all the AHA house teams the opportunity to host, and play in a tournament format at Northern Lights Arena. With this project, approximately 200 Alpena kids, ages 5 years to 19 years, were served. NLA had an increase in out of town traffic to the arena, because of other teams coming to play in these tournaments. This not only helps to insure the success of the arena, but it helps promote, and stimulate the economy for Alpena County through weekend long tournaments run throughout the year.





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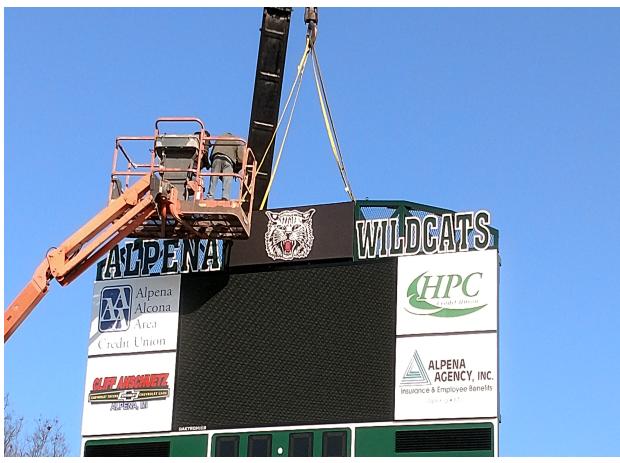
## AHS Stadium Scoreboard

Project: Stadium Scoreboard

Grant: \$10,000.00

The Youth and rec Committee Grant of \$10,000.00 to our stadium scoreboard project will help offset our expected bill of \$140,000.00 for the video scoreboard, sound system and installation. This video scoreboard will be utilized well over 50 sporting events, graduation ceremony, movie nights and other special stadium events. We anticipate thousands of spectators and participants will benefit from this project while sponsors and advertisers will gain rewards as well.





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## **Alpena High School Girls' Basketball**

Project: Team Uniforms

Grant: \$9000.00

The Alpena High School Girls' varsity basketball team received new uniforms for the 2015 season. They replaced uniforms which were seven years old. The players love the new uniforms and are very grateful to the Youth and Recreation Committee for funding this project. The girls are excited to represent the school and community in our new uniforms.



## **AHS Boys and Girls Basketball**

Project: Reduced Player Cost and Girls Uniforms

Grant: \$9000.00

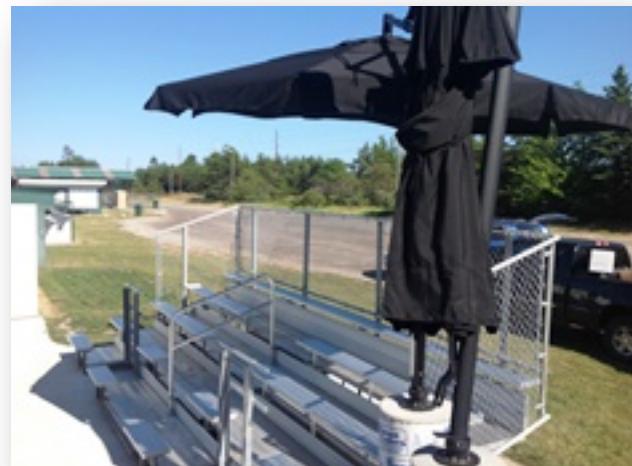
The money helped to offset the cost of participation for the boys and girls freshmen, JV and Varsity Teams. Each player is required by the school to pay a \$50 transportation fee. Each sport is charged \$400 fee per team to offset the cost of the teams. Boys and girls paid \$2400 total for this fee. The girls also were able to purchase new uniforms, which the school does not purchase and has not for over 10 years. The grant money received from the Recreation Committee paid for these expenses. Over the last three years, the player cost has dropped over \$150 thanks to this grant money.

## Alpena High Softball Line Drive Club

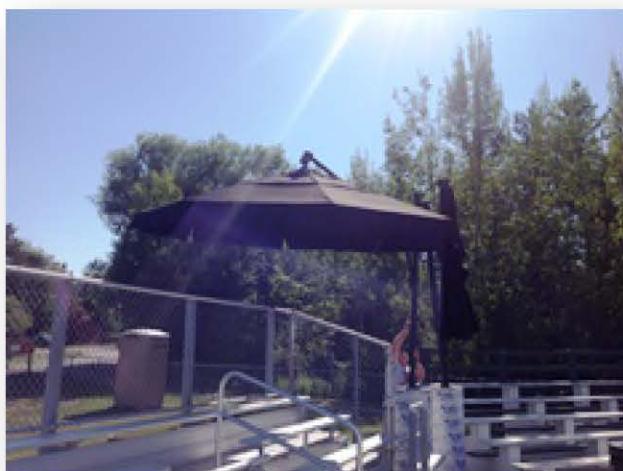
Project: Bleachers

Grant: \$5000.00

The Alpena High Softball Line Drive Club completed its "Bleacher Project" from grants granted received in 2014 and 2015. The bleachers tripled our sitting occupancy and along with other previous enhancements continued to add to our growing facilities, in which we take great pride. Our program success and positive environment are directly related to funding from the Youth and Rec millage over the past several years.



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## Alpena HS Soccer

Project: Uniforms Transportation Support

Grant: \$6135.00

The money granted by the Youth and Rec committee to benefit the boys and girls soccer program greatly eased the financial amount that each soccer player in the boys and girls program needed to raise in order to cover expenses for transportation and travel upgrades. This in turn helped ease the burden shared by parents and businesses in Alpena that may have been asked to help cover these expenses. The same is true in regards to the new uniforms that were purchased for the boys team. This allowed the JV to receive “hand me downs” that were only a couple of years old, thus replacing a uniform that they had been using for a decade. Once again these funds from the Youth and Rec committee saved us from seeking money from other sources.



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## AHS Volleyball Program

Project: Revised 2015 Budgetary Needs

Grant: \$6555.00

The funds provided by the Alpena Youth and Recreation Committee were used to reduce the cost to athlete's parents by half, therefore relieving some of the monetary burden and allowing athletes who otherwise may not be able to afford the program to participate. Additionally, the funds were used to purchase new uniforms for JV and Varsity Teams which were badly needed to replace old jerseys that had been stained and worn. (Pictures will be shared of the new uniforms.)



## TBJH Athletic Outreach

Project: Athletic Outreach Program 2015

Grant: \$19,982.00

The Thunder Bay Junior High Athletic Outreach Program grant was used to provide free, afterschool, athletic programming for our 6th grade students. Through the support of the Youth and Recreation Grant, our 6th Grade Athletic Outreach was able to offer athletic programming to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. During each sport season, our 6th graders had the opportunity to practice alongside 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and receive instruction, skill-building, and mentorship from coaches and 7th & 8th grade players in basketball, volleyball, cross country, and track. We had a wide range of students participating; from students who have already played competitive sports, to students who were able to try a sport for the first time! In addition, we received funding that allowed us to have an open gate at all of our TBJH-sponsored athletic games for all of 2013. Both the 6th Grade Outreach and the open gate were extremely well received by our students, parents, and spectators throughout the year. Game attendance is high as a result of the free admission, and this alone provides recreation for many in our community, as they watch our Jr. Wildcats.





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## Alpena Tennis Association

Project: Ready, Set & Serve

Grant: \$8275.00

The Ready, Set, Serve has begun its 9th year at the APlex and has seen much success. This was our second program in the Ready, Set, Recreation set and has shown how people can work together for a greater cause. The program offers tennis lessons to all 3rd grade children in the county, free of charge. We had 357 participants in 2015. The program has given between 3400 and 3500 tennis lessons over the 9 years. Thanks to many private donations and grants the program has afforded kids the opportunity to learn to play tennis. Thanks to the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Millage and the taxpayers we are able to provide this gift.





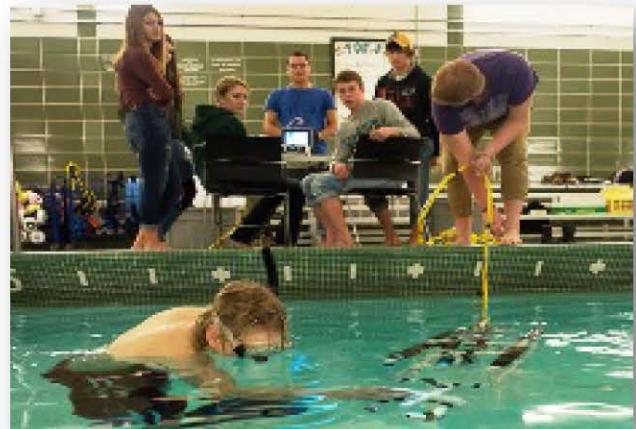
## Association of Lifelong Learners

Project: Shipwreck Alley Class Volunteer Assistance

Grant:\$5780.00

For this grant, the Association of Lifelong Learners (ALL) collaborated with AHS teacher John Caplis to bring ALL volunteers into the classroom to assist as the Shipwreck Alley students learned about, designed, constructed, tested, and deployed remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). Other students worked on creating a pool of information for glass-bottom boat guides, contributing to a book on the early Lake Huron fishing trade, researching the historic fishing boat, the *Katherine V*. These efforts involved collaboration the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Besser Museum.





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## Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

Project: Shout "Eureka!" Science Discovery

Grant: \$7000.00

Since 1966, the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan has offered enriching educational experiences in art, history and science. Thanks to the generous \$7,000 grant from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, the Besser Museum was able to provide, free in 2015, ten different Shout "Eureka!" Science Discovery programs to hundreds of children and their families. Shout "Eureka!" is a traveling science outreach program that provides exciting and engaging hands-on, standards-based science activities in a format that is easily accessible to learners of all ages and abilities. The "science lab stations" were set up for families to move freely at their own pace through easy to do, self-directed experiences with the focus on taking as much time as they need to explore the wonders of science together. Volunteers from the Boys and Girls Youth Volunteer Corp also helped out providing families assistance at each learning lab. Parents were also given ideas for fun and creative learning opportunities they could easily repeat at home. The free admission to the Shout "Eureka!" programs provided by the Youth and Recreation grant also allowed entry to the rest of the Besser Museum which created the opportunity for even more culturally enriching experiences for families to share together. The Youth and Recreation grant allowed hundreds of families to connect, enjoy, and create lasting memories while learning at the Besser Museum. Thank you for your support!



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## Boys and Girls Club of Alpena

Project: Triple Play/Wanna Play

Grant: \$13,000.00

During the 2015 funding period the Boys and Girls Club was able to better serve over 700 youth participants in the Club's Triple Play/Wanna Play program. The youth participants were able to build self-confidence and skills through physical fitness activities, healthy nutrition/dietary planning and be recognized and rewarded for positive behaviors. Participants were able to take home a workbook to track their progress outside the Club. The parents really bought in to the program which helped the success and message of the initiative. After comparing the pre/post test scores, youth showed a dramatic increase in their knowledge of healthy nutrition, improved physical activity skills and felt more supported by their community and home environment. The funds received helped bring more exposure to the program, provide much needed materials and allowed the youth to participate in special events that we were not able to provide in prior years.



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## City of Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board

Project: River Rats Summer Science Program

Grant: \$500.00

Due to the Duck/Island Park Bridge being removed during the summer, our access to the Island was limited. We chose to try a session in another location during June. We met at the Alpena Public Schools Nature Area near the Jr. High. We served approximately 40 children who were also accompanied by a caregiver. We had youth volunteers from the Jr. and Sr. High Science Olympiad and Robotics teams as well as Wildlife Sanctuary Board members and Watershed Council volunteers. Our theme was "Incredible Insects". The children enjoyed a scavenger hunt hike and games such as, Can You Hop as Far as a Grasshopper, Cockroach Races, and Insect Eyes. During the hike they used dip nets and macro-scopes to explore and identify aquatic insects and crustaceans. They were able to discover scavenger/decomposer insects under decaying logs, and find flying insects with aerial nets on the meadow. The children watched a puppet show in the forest on how insects use camouflage, and made "screen bugs" from recycled jar lids as a take home craft. Parents and caregivers filled out an evaluation survey at the end and comments were all positive! We were able to use a portion of the grant money for purchasing more animal puppets for future puppet shows at our sessions. We also purchased craft supplies and a laminator and pouches, which we use to prepare many learning station displays. The bridge should be completed and open to the public at the end of 2015. We will go back to the Island for future River Rat sessions, as our mission is to promote the sanctuary and educate our young people in the natural world. We are pleased that the magazine, Green Teacher, published one of our River Rat activities on aquatic invasive species. It is now shared with environmental educators throughout the U.S. and Canada.



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## **Alpena County Parks and Recreation Commission**

Project: Sunken Lake Park #1 – Covered Bridge Roof Project.

Grant: \$4265.00

The project was completed in August 2015 and was available for an estimated 200 campers and visitors to enjoy. The old roof on the bridge was in disrepair and was a growing safety hazard for visitors to the park. The bridge is a beautiful asset for Sunken Lake Park and for residents of Alpena County. The funds from the Youth and Recreation millage allowed the Parks and Recreation Commission to replace the roof on the covered bridge at the Park and to make the bridge beautiful and safe for many years to come.

## **Alpena County Parks and Recreation Commission**

Project: Sunken Lake Park #2 – Pavilion Roof Project

Grant: \$5,100.00

The project was completed in August 2015 and was available for an estimated 100 campers and visitors to enjoy. The old roof on the pavilion was in disrepair and was a growing safety hazard for visitors to the park. The pavilion is in the day use area and is an excellent meeting place for group functions during the camping season. The funds from the Youth and Recreation millage allowed the Parks and Recreation Commission to replace the roof on the pavilion at the Park and to make the pavilion beautiful and safe for many years to come. The matching color scheme of the two roof projects at the park is very pleasing to the eye as they are close enough to be viewed at the same time.



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## Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Alpena County Plaza Pool Operations

Grant: \$85,000.00

This grant has allowed us to touch well over 3,000 people in our community from infants to seniors 90+ yrs old. From teaching infants on up in age to swim and grandparents coming to watch to workout classes that people ages 15 to 85 yrs old participate in on a daily basis. This grant has helped the pool keep prices down so more people can come and enjoy the pool and take part in classes like volley ball, fitness, aerobics, boot camps, lessons, lifeguard trainings, ROV competitions and trainings and swim meets and more. Thanks to this grant the pool has remained a very positive part of the health and safety of our community and is still the only community pool in 5 county. Without this grant it would be very difficult to continue staying open 7 days a week like we are now. If it wasn't for this grant the pool would face a very dark outlook.





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## Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Ready, Set, Swim

Grant: \$8500.00

The Ready, Set, Swim has begun its 10th year at the pool and has seen major success. This was our first program in the Ready, Set, Recreation set and has shown how people can work together for a greater cause. The program offers swim lessons to all 2nd grade children in the county, free of charge. We had 368 participants in 2015. The program has given between 3700 and 3850 swim lessons over the 10 years. Thanks to many private donations and grants the program has afforded kids the opportunity to learn to swim. Thanks to the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Millage and the taxpayers we are able to provide this gift.





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## Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: Enhancing swimming and pool recreation for Alpena

Grant: \$1700.00

The Friends of Plaza Pool “Enhancing swimming and pool recreation for Alpena” program provides health benefits to young and old through the masters swim on Saturday morning, and through the support of the Salvation Army summer camp swimming program as well as the special snorkel training event which we offer. This year we have provided a Saturday morning coached swim. We had 5-8 regular swimmers at our coached sessions. The Salvation Army summer camp had over the course of 8 weeks, 28 hours of swim time for children in our At-Risk Program. There were 27 individual children that benefitted from this experience throughout the summer and nearly every one of them when surveyed, enthusiastically rated swimming as their favorite activity during the program. It was something each of them looked forward to all week to enjoy on Friday afternoon. The FOPP snorkel training program was offered to the Pathfinders group with 28 participants. This was a follow up of our snorkel training last year with the 4H. One bonus of this program has been having FOPP members take on the planning, development of materials, recruitment, teaching and leadership of the event.





## Hubbard Lake Lions

Project: Hubbard Lake Lions Park Security fencing

Grant: \$9500.00

The newly installed security fencing around the playground area and basketball courts provide safety for little kids and youths using the play area which is adjacent to the parking lots and entrance roadway. The Lions Park provides recreational opportunity for Alpena and Alcona County residents throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall periods.

## Hubbard Lake Lions Park Security Fencing-2015

Original railing fencing along playground and basketball court



### Tear down of original fencing



## Hubbard Lake Lions Park Security Fencing-2015 (cont.)

New fencing installed by Sunrise Fencing Co.



**New security fence installed**



## Michigan State University Extension

Project: MSUE Children & Youth Programs

Grant: \$41,474.00

MSU Extension delivers educational programing and opportunities to youth in many ways including: 4-H programs and clubs, agricultural outreach, health and nutrition programs, and through our Michigan Sea Grant initiatives. 4-H offers a wealth of opportunities to youth ages 5 to 19 and to teen and adult volunteers. Seven guiding principles steer our work: 1) Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers. 2) Youth are physically and emotionally safe. 3) Youth are actively engaged in their own development. 4) Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process. 5) Youth develop skills that help them succeed. 6) Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism. 7) Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership. “Learn by doing” takes on a deeper meaning when considered in the context of these principles. With 232 4-H members in 28 clubs and 77 volunteers; participation has increased by over 18% for members and 60% for volunteers respectively since our last reporting year. Whether it is assisting a fellow 4-H member, neighbor, volunteering at the Alpena County Fair, or cleaning up at our annual Adopt-A-Highway, 4-H youth in Alpena County strive to make a difference and better their club, community and world. In 2015 we had twenty-seven youth and twelve adults volunteer. There was a 153% increase in Adopt-A-Highway clean-up participation from 2014 to 2015. Our Michigan Sea Grant Program leads the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and reached 1793 youth in Alpena Schools alone. Through the Stewardship Initiative network and partnerships, assistance was given to Ella White Elementary (Alpena Public Schools) in their student-designed research project centered on Thunder Bay reef and lake trout restoration that went on to win a \$10,000 award as part of a nationwide competition to find the most innovative STEM program in schools. The MSU Extension Health and Nutrition program reached 167 youth this reporting period. Interactive lessons over time have proven to result in increasing dietary quality and increasing physical activity. The following information includes both youth and adult participants: 89 participants took part in a six-week series of nutrition lessons; 243 participated in a one-time lesson on healthy lifestyle choices; and 447 contacts were made with adults and youth in 2014. Youth Programs were conducted at Wilson elementary 1st and 2nd grade classes and the Boys and Girls Club. Alpena schools also participated in the Michigan Apple Crunch Day to help promote healthy eating and Michigan produce. <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/alpena/nutrition>



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## Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (Art in the Loft)

Project: "Ready, Set, Create!"

Grant: \$22,000.00

Through the generosity of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, Art in the Loft was able to conduct the largest "*Ready, Set, Create!*" program since its inception five years ago. The \$22,000 grant award allowed 475 students (mostly 4<sup>th</sup> grade) to travel to the gallery and be led through five-weeks of hands-on art lessons by Certified Art Instructor, Brooke Stevens. During the five weeks, students participated in hands-on art lessons, in conjunction with art history, and walked away with four finished projects.

The Alpena County Youth and Recreation grant funds allowed Art in the Loft to provide transportation and instruction in a professional gallery setting. This program brought students a well-rounded fine arts experience, where otherwise this might not have happened.





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## Northern Lights Arena

Project: Ready, Set, Skate

Grant: \$3815.00

The Grant Money for Ready, Set, Skate, helped to introduce ice skating to area first graders. For the fall 2015 session, approximately 260 First Graders from Besser, All Saints, Hinks, Lincoln, Sanborn and Immanuel Lutheran Schools participated. Instructors and Volunteers demonstrated the basic fundamentals of ice skating and ice/equipment safety at a beginner level. As a 'treat' for the students, instructors also displayed advanced figure skating and hockey skating as an example to show the kids what can be achieved.



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## Park Family Foundation

Project: Ready, Set, SNAP

Grant: \$8000.00

The Ready. Set. SNAP program provides recreation, music and arts & crafts to any adult with special needs, 18 years and older, in the county. The program began in mid- September and to date has served 80 different adults in only 7 weeks. The program has been a huge success and will only grow in the future. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 10:00am - Noon. The aids of the participants have complimented the program, due to the fact that there is very little for this population to do in the county. Thank you, Alpena County Youth & Recreation Millage and the Taxpayers for this great opportunity given to these residents of Alpena County.



## Thunder Bay Martial Arts

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Project: Scholarship Program

Grant: \$4303.00

Children on the scholarship program received a free uniform and belt and were able to participate fully in martial art training throughout the year, when their parental economic situation would otherwise have prohibited it. Many of the parents reported numerous positive changes and growth in their child.





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## Thunder Bay Martial Arts

Project: Judo Mats Acquisition

Grant: \$3800.00

All martial arts students at TBMA utilize the mats during some point in their semester classes; the karate students especially and the judo students exclusively. This year 110 students trained on the mats and we held our spring karate tournament on them. Last year we had a concerning number of knee and shoulder injuries despite best efforts to supervise and avoid them. Since the Alpena Youth & Recreation grant made it possible to install specialized judo mats, we have had zero injuries on the mats in 2015, this is a remarkable record. Participating in martial arts training helps address the growing childhood obesity problem while it enhances the child's respect for others, self-discipline, self-confidence, and safety skills.



STUDENTS 4 & 5 Mike & GAILYNN

STUDENT #3A/11EN



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## Thunder Bay Martial Arts

Project: Electronic Fencing Equipment

Grant: \$1897.00

Alpena fencers are a small group of dedicated swordsmen who are mastering a romantic and ancient martial art reborn in the form of modern collegiate fencing. For some years Alpena members have fought with modern practice weapons but without being able to learn how to use the current electronic scoring system that the rest of the world uses in tournaments and competitions. Thanks to the Alpena Youth & Recreation grant, electronic scoring equipment was purchased and the Alpena fencers are becoming trained in its use. One student moved and enrolled in a private school where her fencing skills helped her acclimate and be immediately accepted. One other young fencer is being groomed to pursue college scholarships for fencing.



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Student #6  
Jeramiah



Students 8 & 9  
Cayden ♂  
\$  
Cydni ♀



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## Alpena Swim Club/Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Pool time

Grant: \$7500.00

By using the Youth and Rec Grant to help cover part of the pool cost, we are able to charge lower registration fees. This helps to keep costs affordable for our families. We also were able to modify our budget from the 2014-15 season to the 2015-16 and add an extra hour of pool time. We start practice at 3:00 now for the high school and junior high swimmers. This allows them to come directly from school to the pool, increasing the number of older students participating. The elementary school swimmers start at 4:30.



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## Thunder Bay Soccer Association

Project: TBSA Equipment Acquisition Project – Intermediate sized goals/nets

Grant: \$3480.00

Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA) provides social, emotional and physical activity through the sport of soccer for 600 to 700 children in Alpena County ages 3 through 18 each year. Our program continues to grow and was in need of additional age appropriate goals/nets for our 75-100 U8 through U11 aged players each season. The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee approved funding in 2015 which allowed TBSA to purchase (3) sets of new intermediate sized goals/nets. Two of these sets were put to use at the East Campus Field location and one set was put to use at the Woodward Field location. These goals were used by recreational teams and travel teams throughout the year. They allow for improved overall age appropriate soccer skills and outfit TBSA for more age appropriate facilities to encourage and attract more travel teams and tournaments to our sites. We sincerely appreciate The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committees' support!





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## Alpena Gymnastics (Wild kittens Tumbling)

Project: Ready. Set. Flip

Grant: \$3000.00

Ready. Set. Flip was designed to build self-esteem. Confidence and sense of achievement through gymnastics. We work closely with the schools. Including homeschool families. Northern Lights Arena and the APlex to provide a quality program and fun for all participants. In the first year it has been very successful and have received great feedback from the teachers.



## Alpena Gymnastics

Project: Lesson Support

Grant: \$2000.00

Alpena Gymnastics was able to offer an early bird sign up discount for the Spring Session of gymnastics. When Gymnastics families signed up early they were able to save \$10. Over 225 gymnasts registered early which equals \$2225.00 in savings to gymnastics families.



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## City of Alpena

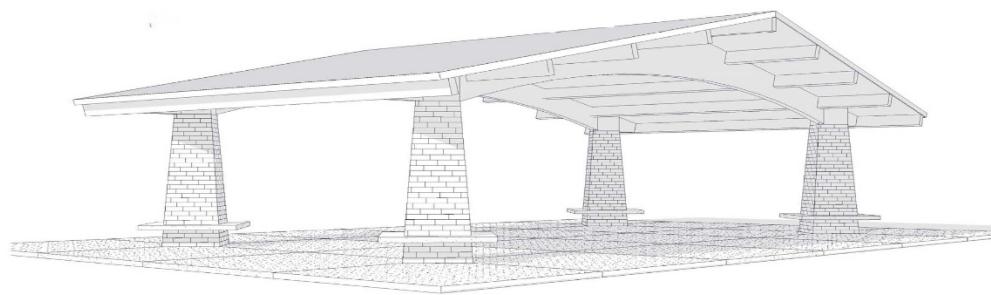
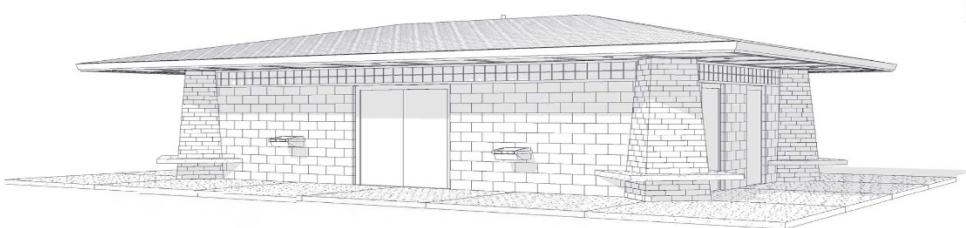
Project: NEST Trailhead

Grant: \$40,000.00

The Construction of the Alpena to Cheboygan Non-Motorized Trail, will bring additional tourists using this network into the Alpena area. It is hoped that this increased traffic will provide a boost to local businesses in the food, hospitality and general retail sectors. The proposed trailhead will provide a convenient jumping on and off point, and for those entering the community it will be linked to destinations throughout the City via our extensive Bi-Path system.

The project itself will consist of a paved parking lot, gravel snowmobile parking area, paved walks, bicycle racks, pavilion, restroom/storage building, and picnic tables and landscaping. Additionally, security lighting and cameras will be installed to increase user safety and discourage vandalism. The trailhead will be a year round facility with the restroom/storage building available for use by the Soccer Association during its season.

### Woodward Trailhead Perspectives



Designed By:



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