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ACC – Volunteer Center

Project: Ropes Course

Grant: \$4,000

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





Alpena Community College
Project: Cross Country Boosters
Grant: \$3,000

The money granted by the Youth and Rec committee to benefit the Alpena Community College Cross-Country program was again a great help in covering costs in running a top notch athletic program. These dollars were used to help student athletes afford to attend Cross-Country camp to start the season and with operational costs throughout the season. The 2016 team had the best finish in school history and looks to repeat as an Academic All-Americans.





Alpena Gymnastics, Inc.

Project: gymnastics beam mats

Grant: \$3,000

Alpena Gymnastics wants to thank the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee for their support of our gymnastic program. The gymnastics program is growing to over 200 gymnasts and the gymnasts are becoming more advanced. The more advanced skills require added concern for safety. With money donated from the Alpena Youth and Recreation Committee and the fundraising of our gymnastics family, Alpena Gymnastics has been able to purchase safe landing mats to go under our three high balance beams. These new mats are seamless to protect gymnasts from ankle rolls and provide the necessary firmness for safe dismounts or falls from uncompleted skills.





Alpena Gymnastics, Inc.
Project: Ready, Set, Flip!
Grant: \$6,310

The Alpena Gymnastics has provided opportunities, through Ready, Set, Flip to learn the basics of gymnastics as a healthy sport. We have served 348 different individuals. We have had partnerships with the Alpex, Nothern lights Arena and the local schools systems. The Ready, Set, Flip program has been a huge success.





Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Battle on the Bay, Tournament Support

Grant: \$10,500

The Battle on the Bay tournament support was a huge success for the 240+ kids that were able to play a tournament in the home town. It is a big saving for the families that play but there extended families that can watch them play in these tournaments. It also is huge for the community of Alpena, these tournaments bring in on average 6 teams from out of town that are using our hotels, restaurants, stores and our beautiful facility, Northern Lights Arena.





The Woods indoor Track Club
Project: The Woods Track Club Boosters
Grant: \$1,715

The money granted by the Youth and Rec committee to benefit The Woods Track Club was a great help in covering costs in running a top notch athletic program. These dollars were used to help student-athletes from Alpena High, TBJH and a few local area schools afford to participate in a program that focuses keeping students active throughout the entire winter. The program which started in 2010-2011 with 9 student-athletes has now around 50 members on the team. In 2016 the team had 12 members qualify for the State Meet which the best athletes in the state participate.





AHS Boys and Girls Basketball

Project: Reduced Player Cost for Transportation Fee, busing upgrades and team fees

Grant: \$9,000

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 grant money received from the Recreation Committee paid for these expenses. Over the last three years, the per-player cost has dropped from over \$300 to \$140. Thanks to the Recreation Grant money this has been a huge savings for player's families and the amount of fundraising they would need to do to pay for these expenses.



Alpena High School's K.A.P.U.T

Project: Activities

Grant: \$19,200

Alpena High School's K.A.P.U.T. (Kids and Parents United Together) is a collaboration between students, parents and community members focused on providing positive drug and alcohol free activities when high school students are most susceptible to making bad choices. Since its inception 26 years ago, K.A.P.U.T. has continued to adapt and create activities to ensure our students have fun and safe social opportunities. During the 2016 activities, the primary activities included:

Activity Night (which unfortunately was cancelled 2x due to weather)
Prom/After Prom Activities
Senior Lock-In





AHS Wildcat Robotics

Project: First Robotics Teams #5230 and #5505

Grant: \$25,000

AHS Wildcat Robotics participates in the FIRST robotics program with teams #5230. The Resistance and #5505 V2 Robotics. During the 2016 season the teams competed in district and state events as well as qualifying and participating in the World Championship in St. Louis, MO. Our goal is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting, mentor based programs that build STEM skills (science, technology, engineering and math). Throughout the year Wildcat Robotics participated in several youth programs aimed at elementary and junior high schools students including a summer camp and fall robotics tournament. Community service is an important focus for the robotics team with the largest commitment being our "Adopt the island" program. Students initiated efforts this year with several projects to maintain and improve Sportsmens Island including plantings, clearing brush, and adding bark to trails. Finally promoting our program to the community is important to the future success of students and the Wildcat Robotics program. The team is eager to share the

program and demonstrate the robots they have built with any group wishing to learn. This year has been filled with demonstration opportunities to promote the program including presentations at Lincoln elementary, Boys and Girls Club of Alpena, Back to School Event, Alpena County Library Fair and Homecoming parade just to name a few. Thanks to the tremendous support of the Alpena Community and the Alpena County Youth and Rec Committee the AHS Wildcat Robotics Program continues to grow and compete at the high levels of competition.





AHS - Alpena Softball Line Drive Club
Project: Right Field Foul Line Fencing
Grant: \$5,000

The Alpena High Softball Line Drive was awarded monies from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to further to improve the Alpena High School Varsity Softball Field. In the spring of 2016, new cyclone fencing was installed along the 1st base/right field foul line. The first 40' of the fence is 12' tall which helps protect the spectators along the first base line. This project, along with previous projects supported by the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, enhanced the softball facilities at Alpena High School.



Alpena Public Schools
Project: Hurdles (40)
Grant: \$3,895

40 hurdles are needed for our track facility to bring it up to standards. Our current hurdles are showing their age (purchased in 2001) and must be carried back and forth across the track during home meets in order to cover both hurdle events. We also have several hurdles that are damaged beyond repair (10+). 40 hurdles would make it unnecessary to haul back and forth during home meets thereby reducing wear and tear, and improving overall efficiency involved with hosting future track meets. These hurdles would service both junior high and high school athletes (approximately 180+ students' grades 6-12).





AHS Volleyball Program
Project: Operating Support
Grant: \$2,916

The funds for the Alpena Public Schools AHS Volleyball program provided by the Alpena Youth and Recreation Committee were used to reduce the cost to athlete's parents, 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 charter buses to travel to many schools for matches that are 2+ hours away from Alpena. The team typically leaves around 1 pm and returns around 11 pm. This enables our student athletes to be able to do homework and sleep as needed on these trips that often span 5 hours in total travel.



TBJH Athletic Outreach Program

Project: Operating Support

Grant: \$19,140

The TBJH Athletic Outreach program is designed to provide 6th grade students with the opportunity to participate in athletics. With the rising cost of participation in athletics this program provides opportunity that may not be there if not for the grant. The program is also designed to provide some monitoring for students who stay after school to participate in sports. Some students are unable to go home between school and sports and this person assigned to monitor helps students stay out of trouble as well as assist with homework if needed. Finally, this program helps 7th and 8th grade parents and families attend home competitions free of charge. These students are asked to pay a participation fee as well as fund raise through a school sports wide raffle, so having the ability to get parents and families into games free of charge has raised the numbers of attendees at home competitions. Generally, in a year, 150 students participate in sports and over 300 family members are able to attend games.





The Boys and Girls Club of Alpena

Project: Gym improvements

Grant: \$13,000

The Boys and Girls Club of Alpena's mission is to "inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens." The Club serves over 1100 youth annually and over 215 community members and volunteers. The supported Youth and Recreation project was the Club's "Gym Insulation Revitalization". The project entailed replacing the old, failing and falling down vinyl insulation with spray foam insulation. This has increased the Club's insulation value and made the facility much efficient and visually appealing to our members, volunteers and visitors. Every member, visitor and community member is positively impacted by this project. The gym is the most frequented area in our building and to have a space the members are proud of is imperative to providing a first class Club experience.





MSU Extension

Project: 4-H and Youth programs

Grant: \$40,000

MSU Extension delivers educational programming 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. This year, 6559 Alpena County youth were involved in MSU Extension programming. This represents an increase of 79.8% from 2015 to 2016. This large increase is attributed mainly to greater youth participation in the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI) and the collaboration of our MSU Extension team as they educate the youth of Alpena County. Regionally the NEMIGLSI is facilitated by Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant, 4-H Youth Programs, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, and several other area partners. The NEMIGLSI network and partnership engages youth in Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects, provides support for schools and educators, and facilitates school-community partnerships. This place-based science education strategy also fosters Great Lakes literacy learning and environmental science, technology, engineering, and math (E-STEM) opportunities applied by youth in their stewardship service. 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. Alpena County 4-H has 337 members in 30 clubs & committees and 106 volunteers. 4-H participation continues to grow, including an 8.3% increase in youth summer camp attendance in 2016. 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. MSU Extension Health and Nutrition program instruction reached 102 youth in 2016 through in-school instruction and programs sponsored by community partners. Interactive lessons over time have proven to result in increasing dietary quality and increasing physical activity.





Alpena County Parks and Recreation

Project: Pavillion

Grant: \$10,000

The Alpena County Parks and Recreation Commission was awarded \$10,000 to go toward construction of a new pavilion at Beaver Lake Park. The former pavilion was in disrepair and was considered unsafe for future usage. The new pavilion is of solid construction, is larger and includes electricity for park usage. Beaver Lake Park is utilized by many visitors and the new pavilion will provide these visitors with an excellent structure in which various events can be held.



Alpena County Parks and Recreation
Project: Restroom Renovation
Grant: \$15,000

The Alpena County Parks and Recreation Commission was awarded \$15,000 to put toward the renovation of the south bath house at Long Lake Park. Along with some matching funds the project was completed and allowed for new fixtures, a new door and frame, painting and new partition doors. The renovations are fantastic and allow for a better experience for campers and park visitors.





Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Operations

Grant: \$76,500

As the only public pool in a community surrounded by water and the only public pool in 5 counties, the Plaza Pool provides programs vital to help teach and sustain a healthy educated and safe wellbeing, day to day. It also provides the platform for training the next generation of instructors and lifeguards. The Plaza Pool also provides a safe and fun place for families to play with their children and keep them moving.





County of Alpena

Project: Ready, Set, Swim

Grant: \$8,500

The Ready, Set, Swim program is beginning its 11th year and has been the biggest success of at the Ready, Set, Recreation programs. The program provides all 2nd graders in Alpena County introductory swim lessons. The program provides aquatic opportunities to improve health, provide recreation and to insure safety. We partner with the plaza pool, volunteers and the local school systems.



County of Alpena/Green Township
Project: Manning Hill Park Improvements
Grant: \$10,000

Manning Hill Park was awarded a \$10,000 grant to complete upgrades on the hill. The major upgrade at the hill was the new concrete sidewalk which is handicapped accessible from the driveway to the pavilion (Step 1) and from the pavilion to the landing area (Step 2). The third leg of the sidewalk was concrete steps from the landing area back down to the driveway (Step 3). All three steps were included in the project with the assistance of funding from Youth and Rec fund, the Parks Commission and the contractor (Bedrock). The hill received more fill and topsoil and grass seed was planted. In addition to this, the Alpena Exchange Club donated stain, stained and painted the pavilion, Home Depot donated plywood to put under the roof to enclose the pavilion roof area, County Maintenance installed the plywood and assisted with tree cleanup and putting cement pads in. Wilbert Vault Company donated cement pads. Local residents donated concrete benches for the park and painted the wooden structures.



Friends of the Alpena Farmers' Market

Project: The Nutritional Incentive Program via the Optimist Spring Break Fun Day, the Alpena Farmers Market Kids Day and the Guest Chef Demonstrations.

Grant: \$2,250

The Friends of the Alpena Farmers' Market is a non-profit organization that supports the Alpena Farmers' Market. To support the market our organization feels it is important to involve the community to raise awareness of locally grown food and nutrition. The Nutritional Incentive Program is targeted to reach families with school age children. During 2016 the following was accomplished: Optimist Spring Break Fun Day, March 28, 2016, Four guest chefs programs and Kids Day on Sept 24, 2016, which included kayaking, pumpkin and face painting, music, magic show, petting zoo, hay rides, and vegetables tasting for 525 children and their parents





Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: Enhancing swimming and pool recreation for Alpena

Grant: \$1,700

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 events which we offer. This year we have provided Saturday morning coached swimming sessions. We had 4-8 regular swimmers at our coached sessions. In addition, the Salvation Army swim program had 26 swimmers for the eight weeks of the program, or a total of 208 kids to the pool. Our snorkel training program was offered for adults. Participants were very positive in their evaluations of our program. We linked with Great Lakes Diving to provide much of the instruction for this program.





Green Township

Project: Expansion of Recreational Facilities

Grant: \$8,200

Green Township was awarded money to enhance their recreational facility at the Green Township Hall complex. Purchased from funds appropriated by the Youth and Recreation Committee were six new picnic tables which were installed in the pavilion previously funded by a Youth and Recreation grant. These new picnic tables are made of steel with wooden seats and tops. Three of them were anchored to the floor and three of them were chained together so they can be moved within the area. Also purchased was a new tetherball set which was installed and will be ready for the upcoming season. An old merry-go-round from the Green School (an old school in the area where many residents went to) is being refurbished and will be installed on the site.



MPAC/NLAC Northern Light Arena

Project: Tournament Support

Grant: \$10,000

With the support of grant money, NLA was able to successfully host TEN(10) hockey tournaments for the 2016 calendar year. NLA sponsors and local businesses have been fabulous hosts to all of the traveling families. With 100+ teams and more that 1,200 players and families traveling to the Alpena area for tournaments alone, the Alpena CVB estimates the 2016 hockey tournaments added will over \$1 million dollars to the local economy. Your support helps us keep ice rates low, and tournament registration fees lower than most other locations, making the arena a prime destination for tournaments!



MPAC/NLAC Northern Light Arena

Project: Free Open Skating

Grant: \$8,000

The grant money for free open skate offers a no-cost activity for kids and families looking to stay active in the winter months. Skate (rental) was included at no charge. All advertising and Friday Folder inserts listed Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee as the sponsor. More than 2500 people from all across Alpena County enjoyed the activity January-March 2016 & October-December 2016.



MPAC/NLAC Northern Light Arena
Project: Ready, Set, Skate
Grant: \$9,215

The grant money for Ready, Set, Skate helped to introduce ice skating to area first graders. For the 2016 sessions, over 220 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.





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

Project: Ready, Set, Create!

Grant: \$20,000

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 six years ago. The \$19,000 grant award allowed 475 students (mostly 4th grade) to travel to the gallery and be led through four-weeks of hands-on art lessons by Certified Art Instructor, Brooke Stevens. During the four 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.





Park Family Foundation
Project: Ready, Set, Serve
Grant: \$7,500

The Park Family Foundation has provided opportunities through Ready, Set, Serve to learn the basics of tennis as a lifetime sport. We have served 356 different individuals. We have had partnerships with the Alpena Tennis Association and Apex tennis community. The Ready, Set, Serve program has been a huge success.



Park Family Foundation
Project: Ready, Set, SNAP
Grant: \$7,500

The Park Family Foundation has provided opportunities through Ready, Set, SNAP (Special Needs Adult Program) in music, art, recreation and other things that engage them physically and cognitively. January through December 2016 we have served 210 different individuals with special needs. We have had partnerships with AMAESD, Alpena County Mental Health Department and independent living homes. The Ready, Set, SNAP program has been a huge success and a real need in our community.



Sanborn Township
Project: Park Swings
Grant: \$7,000

Through a survey in Sanborn Township we learned that many children were not using the Beach-Park on Lake Huron. Community members cited the deteriorating equipment and the lack of up-keep and grooming. Members of the Planning Commission have taken on a five year project to clean up the beach and park and replace old equipment to encourage youth and adults to come outside and be active. Many volunteer work crews have really spruced up the area with the cleaning of brush, taking dead trees down and a clean up of the restrooms and changing area. The swings purchased with the 2016 Recreation Grant Funds are the second major purchase of equipment and this has created a renewed interest by local citizens and visitors to the area. We estimate that over 2000 children and adults have used the park during the summer of 2016.



Thunder Bay Martial Arts

Project: Scholarships

Grant: \$4,000

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. As instructors, we witnessed the growth of their self-confidence, pride, and self-control, among other things.



Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club
Project: Program Support
Grant: \$9,000

The Thunder Bay Schooners swim season runs a little over 5 months, with the cost of renting the pool (practice four days a week) averaging around \$2770 a month. 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 fees affordable for our families and allows the club the resources to provide enough practice time to make our team competitive.





Thunder Bay Trails Association
Project: Thunder Bay Trails Association
Grant: \$8,000

The 2016 Youth and Recreation Grant allowed for improvement to the infrastructure of the pathway. Thunder Bay Trails Association has partnered with the Department of Natural Resources, (Parks and Recreation Division). This partnership allowed for the replacement and construction of a new boardwalk and a new gate. Youth and Recreation grant monies paid for the needed materials. TBTA volunteers assisted DNR employees with the removal of the old boardwalk and construction of the new. This project assured that the Chippewa Hills Pathway will remain as a premier non-motorized pathway and be available to all users.

