

KIDS TOGETHER NEWS

All the latest from Kids Together Playground!

WELCOME!

This holiday season, we at Kids Together have so much to be grateful for and to celebrate! In this edition of the KT News, you'll learn about our friends John, Tyron, Julian, and Chad, and what they do to keep the Kids Together Playground clean and safe. We'll share a big surprise that we were awarded earlier this month. We'll celebrate the fun we shared at our annual Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play and the November Fall Foliage Stroll. We'll look back to 1994 in a KT History Moment that proves that kids, working together, can make great things happen. Read all about it, then go outside and play!

OUR PLAYGROUND CREW WORKS HARD FOR YOU!

We spoke with Jay Schubert, Facilities Expeditor for the Town of Cary's Public Works Department, about what the town does to keep the Kids Together Playground in good repair.

Jay reports that a landscape crew of three goes out to maintain the park every day. "We mow, we weed control, we blow off all the walkways in the playground area," he says. The crew also rakes out the sand so it's safe for playing and check the playground equipment to make sure it's in good shape. They call in mechanics to make any necessary repairs. A park attendant comes in every day to make sure the bathrooms are clean and well-maintained. Also, each year, the Town of Cary shuts the playground down for a week and does larger-scale maintenance work. They power wash and paint the playground equipment. They refill the sand and fibar, the

playground material that cushions the ground below the equipment, and they do beautification work. They also replace equipment that's getting worn out. For 2023, the shut-down is scheduled for the second week of February.

Our playground crew are John, Tyrone, Julian, and Chad. If you see them, thank them for the excellent work they do to keep Kids Together Playground clean and safe!



THE 2022 KT WALK, RUN & ROLL FOR INCLUSIVE PLAY

We could best describe our 2022 Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play as small, but mighty – mighty fun, that is! The morning started with games and raffles. We jumped, hula hooped, bowled, and ran back and forth under the colorful parachute, always a winner! KATAL joined us for a photo opp, then led everyone to the brand-new inflatable starting line. The walk began with a sensory-sensitive countdown. We followed the Hinshaw Greenway to the the foot of the pedestrian bridge. There we stopped at the water station to refresh and take a quick break. Back at the finish line, bubbles and cheers greeted our finishers. Finishing medals and goody bags added to the celebration.



But wait! There's more! Our friend Jody Weaver of Makin' Music handed out rhythm band instruments and led our "orchestra" in some fun songs. Raffle tickets flew into the prize jars, just in time for the drawings that put smiles on our lucky winners.



At the end of the day, we added about \$1,800 to our Playground Improvements Fund, something we'll build on for the future.

Thank you to everyone who participated. A special thank you shout-out goes to Marla Dansky and her daughter, Paige, who have never missed a KT Walk!

We are also grateful for the help we received from the Cary Teen Council and Cary Public Works.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR WALK, RUN & ROLL SPONSORS!

WALK LEVEL

Carolina Parks and Play
Harris & Company Insurance
Kumon of Cary Farm Woods
Math and Reading Center
Mary Insprucker
Taylor Family YMCA
Ward Family Law Group

RUN LEVEL

Brogden Orthodontics
Cary Pediatric Dentistry
Window Works Company

ROLL LEVEL

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TRIANGLE NC CARES AND THE RICCI LAW FIRM HONOR KT

December began with a huge surprise for Kids Together – we received the Triangle NC Cares Award, supported by Raleigh’s Ricci Law Firm! Each month, the Ricci Law Firm teams up with ABC 11 to present the award to a different local nonprofit. The honor came to KT on December 2nd, with a \$1,000 check from the Ricci Law Firm and promotional spots aired on ABC 11 throughout the day. What a wonderful honor! A big KT Thank You goes to our new friends at ABC 11 and the Ricci Law Firm! You'll find the ABC story [here](#).

NATURE LEADS THE WAY AT THE FALL FOLIAGE STROLL

When the leaves on the trees change to red and gold, it’s time for our annual Fall Foliage Stroll at Kids Together Playground! A warm November 5 morning brought a crowd to the playground to collect gifts from nature.

Children found colorful leaves, petals from the blooming camellias, small sticks, and more. They dumped their bags of treasures on the tables and used the best pieces, making fall wreaths to take home.

Thank you to the Cary Teen Council and our adult volunteers, Liz Brignac, Marla Dorrel, Don Seay, and Paul Zevgolis, for serving refreshments and helping with crafting. The Fall Foliage Stroll is one of several free activities presented at the playground by Kids Together each year.



LOSE SOMETHING AT KTP? HERE’S HOW TO FIND IT!

Chilly weather is back, and so are those coats and jackets! As kids play, they warm up and peel them off. It’s easy to leave them behind (the coats and jackets, not the kids!) If you’ve lost something at Kids Together Playground, call the Middle Creek Community Center, 919-771-1295. That’s where Public Works takes things they find on the playground. Thanks, Cary Public Works, for taking care of the playground and our “left behind” things!

CARY'S SHARE & CARE IN FEBRUARY!

It's back and in person! Cary's Share & Care event is set for February 3, 2023. Held at the Herb Young Community Center, Share & Care is a one-stop opportunity to learn about services and organizations that support persons with disabilities and those who care for them. Kids Together will be there – stop by and say Hi! Watch for details [here](#).



ORDER YOUR ENGRAVED BRICK TODAY

Honor a child, a parent, a grandparent, or a best friend with an engraved brick at KTP! We'll send a certificate acknowledging your gift, then follow up with the honoree when their brick is installed. We place an order annually, with new bricks installed by June, each year. Order yours [here](#).



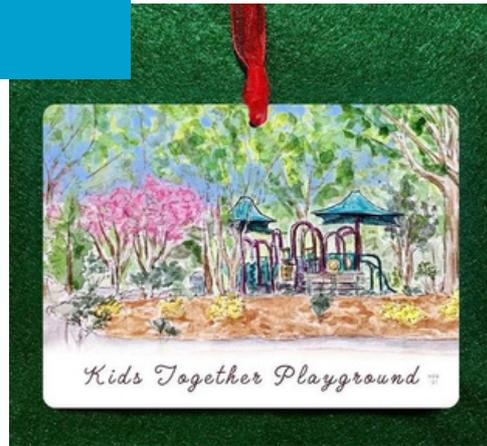
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT KTP?

Is it the swings? The slides? The picnic area? The sand? We know you love Kids Together Playground, so how about telling us what you love? If we publish your testimonial in our next newsletter, we'll send you a KT gift! Send your testimonial (and a picture, if you like) to kt@kidstogethercary.org.



A GREAT GIFT, ANYTIME!

Looking for a unique gift? Lew Wilson Art has ornaments and prints of favorite places in Cary, Apex, and other triangle locations. They even have Kids Together Playground! Here's the best part: When you enter coupon code KTP at checkout, a generous 20% of your purchase comes to KT! Browse and buy [here!](#)



Thank You!

WE ♥ OUR KT MEMBERS!

You can be a KT member, too!
Learn more [here](#).

Your donations help us do more!
More activities!
More programs!
More fun!

To show your support for KT
with a gift, click [here](#).

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A BIG KT THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

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