

KIDS TOGETHER NEWS

All the latest from Kids Together Playground!

WELCOME!

Don't you love spring? Flowers blooming, trees turning green, temperatures warming up, and the perfect weather for outdoor play. We sure do! Now is a great time to visit Kids Together Playground. But before you do, take a few minutes to read this issue. It's filled with articles about this quarter's activities.

We're also looking ahead to one of our biggest events of the year. Mark your calendar for the Birthday Celebration for Kids Together Playground!

SPRING BRINGS CHANGE TO THE KIDS TOGETHER BOARD

The KT Board of Directors took important actions at our April annual meeting. We welcomed two new board member and renewed the term of another. We also accepted the resignation of a long-serving member, and elected a new officer. We are pleased to welcome two new board members, Josh Fleming and Nina Schloss, who were elected to serve three-year term.

Josh Fleming moved to Cary in 2016. With a career in video games, Josh has worked around the world with people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. He currently works for Epic Games as Director of Marketplace. Josh first volunteered with KT at the 2022 Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play. He has visited Marla Dorrel Park many times, walking on the greenway or seeing it through the eyes of a child when he visits with friends and their son. In his interest statement, John said, "Joining the Kids Together board seems like an excellent way for me to support a park I already enjoy, and to do what I can to make sure everyone can enjoy it in their own way."



CHANGE TO THE KT BOARD, CONT.



Nina Schloss is a User Experience Researcher for Lowe's Home Improvement. She is a lifelong lover of the outdoors. Nina believes that parks play a vital role in creating a strong and connected community. Nina and her family moved to Cary two years ago from Maryland. As the mother of a one-year-old, Nina understands the importance of providing safe and engaging spaces for children to play and learn. In her interest statement, Nina said, "I am eager to contribute my expertise to help plan and assist with events that promote outdoor play and foster a sense of community."

We were pleased to renew the term of professional storyteller, inspirational speaker, performing artist, writer, and two-time Emmy Award Winner, **Willa Brigham**. Willa brings a song and a huge smile to KT events. She has served on the Kids Together board since 2016.



Sadly, we accepted the resignation of **Paul Zevgolis**, who has served on the KT board since 2006. He has held the position of KT Secretary since 2008. Paul has been an exemplary board member and officer, always looking out for the interests of the organization. Paul was our technology guru, setting up our Google and Facebook accounts. He provided critical insights in the selection of Flipcause to manage our contacts and donor activities. We have Paul to thank for setting up our April fundraiser with

Anything With a Plug Recycling. Year after year, he has earned IBM Volunteer Grants for Kids Together. We wish Paul and his wife happy travels as he enjoys retirement; he certainly has earned it!

Paul's departure left a vacancy in the secretary's position, and we were delighted when **Karen Gray** offered to step in for the remaining year of his term. Karen was elected as Secretary at our annual meeting. We are also grateful to **Sarah Kahn** for volunteering to assume the unofficial role of technology guru.

23RD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR KIDS TOGETHER PLAYGROUND!

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 3-5PM

It took five years and lots of friends to raise the funds and design and build Kids Together Playground. That's why we celebrate the playground's birthday each year. Everyone is invited!

We'll decorate party crowns, greet KATAL the KT dragon mascot, hear the story of how the playground came to be, munch on cookies, and make Roly Poly Fruit Juice Slushies. And it's all free!

Mark your calendar and join in the fun!



HISTORY MOMENT

APRIL 28, 1995 – KIDS TOGETHER BECOMES OFFICIAL

On April 28, 1995, Kids Together was incorporated as a nonprofit organization. The initial Board of Directors included Suzy Barile, George Barutis, Bruce Brown, Richard Burton, Marla Dorrel, Jackie Holcombe, Dena Kennedy, Ira Rubin, and Herbert C. Young.

WANTED: KIDS TOGETHER BOARD MEMBERS

The Kids Together Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers that steer Kids Together, the non-profit organization that supports Kids Together Playground.

What Kids Together seeks in board members is a commitment to actively participate, a respect for individuals with disabilities, and a passion for outdoor play.

If this description fits you, we'd love to tell you more! Contact us:

kt@kidstogethercary.org

PAST EVENTS

'A HOPPING GOOD TIME AT THE EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Easter eggs, party crowns, and prizes brought smiles all around at the 2023 Easter Eggstravaganza! This awesome event was presented by the Town of Cary's Specialized Recreation Program and co-hosted by Kids Together. The celebration began with participants decorating their very own party crowns. Things really started hopping when the Easter Bunny and KATAL, the Kids Together dragon mascot, appeared. Thousands of brightly colored Easter eggs dotted the Preschool Play area. They were scooped up and dropped into baskets, hats, bags, and anything else that would hold them. Participants opened the eggs, collected the surprises, then exchanged the empty eggs for a bigger prize.

Thank you to the Specialized Recreation Program's Laura Morton and her crew for organizing and handling all the details. A big KT Thank You also goes to the KT board members who helped with this event: Marla Dorrel, Pat Fish, Danelle Gambrell, Tullie Johnson, and Janice Sitzes.



STORYTIME WITH WILLA AT KIDS TOGETHER PLAYGROUND

On April 23rd, Kids Together hosted a free event at the playground – Storytime with Willa! Our favorite storyteller and KT board member, [Willa Bringham](#), brought stories and songs that made everyone smile. We always enjoy the way she involves her audience in the story – we'll be singing her "Nobody knows but me" song for weeks!

BTW, this free event and others we host at the playground are made possible by generous contributions from our members. Join us [here](#)!



PAST EVENTS, CONT.

KT MAKES A SHOWING AT SPRING DAZE



Perfect weather made this year's [Spring Daze Arts and Crafts Festival](#) the perfect place for Kids Together to celebrate friendship. We invited children to put a leaf on our KT Friendship Tree, and they responded enthusiastically! We filled two trees with so many leaves they hid the tree trunks!

Our friends at [LaFarm Bakery](#) offered an amazing display of breads, pastries, and sandwiches, enticing festival goers. By the end of the day, their shelves were almost empty – every baker's dream! That was good for KT, too, since LaFarm shares a generous part of the day's proceeds with Kids Together.

A big KT THANK YOU to LaFarm and all the KT volunteers: Marla Dorrel, Pat Fish, Josh Fleming, Danelle Gambrell, Amariya Green, Jane MacNeela, Shanequa Mitchell, Kacper Pyrycz, Rose Reif, and Nina Schloss. We can't wait until next year!

ANYTHING WITH A PLUG RECYCLING – APRIL FUNDRAISER



We asked, and you responded, earning **\$2,168.95** for KT! A big KT Thank You to Dennis Carter, owner of Anything With A Plug Recycling, for donating 20% of his month's sales to Kids Together!

April is Earth Month, and this year our celebration included a recycling fundraiser. We teamed up with [Anything With a Plug Recycling](#) and urged everyone to bring their cast-offs to drop-off points in Cary, Holly Springs, Raleigh, and Wake Forest.



KIDS TOGETHER NEEDS YOU AS A MEMBER

How can Kids Together present free activities at the playground, year-round? Our members make it happen! Our all-volunteer organization runs on a shoestring budget, but we could use a little help to cover basic expenses and continue to bring free fun to the playground. Members get advance notice of pop-up events and our quarterly newsletter. Subscribe at the \$100 level and get a KT tote – ready for summer trips to the playground! Get all the details [here](#)!

Businesses and organizations can show their support as KT members, too! Business and organization memberships start at \$250, with benefits at three giving levels. Get all the details [here](#).

WE ♥ OUR KT MEMBERS!

Willa Brigham
Liz Brignac
Marla Dorrel
Pat Fish
Josh Fleming
Danelle Gambrell
Karen Gray
Robert Harrison
Mary Insprucker
Tullie Johnson

Sarah Kahn
Scott Lassiter
Jane MacNeela
Sarah Martin
Reif Counseling Services, PLLC
Nina Schloss
Janice Sitzes
Tricia Tiu
Ed and Carolyn Yerha
Paul and Kaori Zevgolts

Recent Donors
[Anything With a Plug](#)
[Recycling](#)
Nancy Scott
Lisa Shissler Smith
Paypal Giving Fund

You, too, can show your love for Kids Together and our free, fun activities! A donation of any size is welcome and greatly appreciated!

Make your donation [here](#).



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