

KIDS TOGETHER NEWS

All the latest from Kids Together Playground!

WELCOME!

Welcome to the new, quarterly Kids Together News! We're so excited to bring you this first edition! Check out our feature article on If You Had Wings. This charity was started by one of the young women who, as a child, inspired the creation of the playground. We'll take a look back at our November Fall Foliage Scavenger Hunt. You can also read about our upcoming activities. Be sure to investigate the KT Closeup contest for a chance to be mentioned in our next edition.

Enjoy - then go outside and play!

IF YOU HAD WINGS: SERVING SPECIAL NEEDS ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE TRIANGLE

In December, Kids Together was grateful to receive a generous donation of \$1,350 from [If You Had Wings](#). **Lindsay Holcombe** runs this nonprofit organization, which helps people with special needs. Lindsay, who has Down syndrome, and her team build and paint birdhouses for people who donate to If You Had Wings. They donate 100% of their receipts to organizations like:

- [Esteamed Coffee](#)
- [Living with Autism](#)
- [Life Experiences](#)
- [The North Carolina Down syndrome Alliance](#) and
- [Dorcas Ministries](#)

Lindsay began If You Had Wings in March of 2020. That's when the restaurant where she worked closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. **"I needed something to do to keep me busy,"** says Lindsay. Seeking to help her local community, Lindsay began building birdhouses. Lindsay and her mother, Jackie Holcombe, use family money to buy their supplies. Her father, Rick Holcombe, cuts the lumber. Lindsay then builds the birdhouses.
(more)





(If You Had Wings - Cont'd.)

Finally, she and her colleague, Connie Barnes, paint them. Lindsay manages all financial aspects of her organization.

Donors to If You Had Wings can receive a “Lindsay original” birdhouse or request a custom design. Each birdhouse comes with a Thank-you note. People can donate and request birdhouses online through the If You Had Wings website. Lindsay and her team also set their work up at some local craft fairs and special events. They are hoping to find a place to open a brick-and-mortar location soon.

Lindsay’s older sister Kristen was one of Kids Together’s founders. We thank Lindsay and the entire Holcombe family for their continued support of Kids Together.



KTP CLOSEUP

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THIS IS?

Take a good look at this picture. It’s something on the playground. Send your best guess to us at kt@kidstogethercary.org. If you’re correct, we’ll publish your name in our next newsletter – instant fame!

PICNIC SEASON IS COMING! RESERVE THE SHELTER NOW!

Looking for a great place to have a party?
You can rent the picnic shelter at KTP
through the Town of Cary.
Get all the details [here](#).



SCAVENGER HUNT SENDS KIDS SEARCHING AT KTP

Saturday, November 6, was a sunny, chilly day. About 50 playground visitors participated in a free, pop-up scavenger hunt. Each child received a sheet with labeled photos of natural elements they could search for around the park. They were also given a bag to collect their treasures. The kids tore around the playground, collecting sticks, flowers, leaves, seed pods, bark, and other natural items. When a child found everything on the sheet, they received a small prize. Prizes were generously donated to Kids Together by Learning Express.

Thanks to all our volunteers and to all the families that participated in our scavenger hunt. You made the event a lot of fun! We look forward to doing future scavenger hunts at Kids Together Playground.



Find these gifts from nature at Kids Together Playground!



Oak Leaf



Flower—any color



Hemlock Leaf



Little Stick



ENGRAVED BRICKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

Surprise someone with their very own brick at KTP! It's a great gift for any occasion – place your order [here](#). Orders received by March 15 will be installed by June 1.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT KTP?

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.

COMING UP! COUNT THE BIRDS AT KTP!



Saturday, February 19, 10-11 am

Join Kids Together for the [2022 Great Backyard Bird Count](#), presented by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Gather at the Oracle benches for a COVID-safe, wheelchair-friendly, guided bird walk. Please wear a mask.

IT'S SHARE & CARE TIME IN CARY!

February is Share & Care time in Cary! Click [here](#) to see the organizations and agencies that offer resources and support to those with disabilities.

MOMENTS IN KT HISTORY

Kids Together Playground was a labor of love, undertaken by our community years ago. In each edition, we'll look back and remember our KT roots.

KT Kids Together News
Building a Place Where Everyone Can Play
Volume 1 Issue 1 February 1996

Message from Marla!

I'm thinking today about all we've accomplished since early 1994, when Helen and Kristin first decided that kids, working together, could use their talents, skills and energy to help meet a special need in our community—a public playground designed for all children, whatever their level of physical or mental ability. From this very important step, Kids Together was born.

As I look back, I smile. It's not the funds we've raised that makes me smile, although our bank balance is growing. It's the people—friends old and new—that I see as I look back. I smile and remember... the faces of Kids Together families and friends, beaming with pride as Helen and Kristin present \$1,200 to the Cary Town Council, the proceeds from the first Kids Bazaar... the thoughtful expressions of Kristin and Helen, agreeing that it's "OK" for Kids Together to be the umbrella for all our fundraising efforts. They continue as co-presidents of the KT Kids Club... the call from Mike Winters of Smith Helms Mulliss and Moore, saying they will be happy to donate legal services to form our non-profit corporation, and that Chuck Monroe will help us gain that all-important 501(c)(3) status. And

he does. The IRS letter arrives September 7, 1995... the voice of support from Mayor Booth and the Town Council as they approve the playground site and preliminary plans presented with care by Alice Webb of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. That same voice also approves the name "Kids Together Playground," a tribute to our founders and every volunteer and contributor... the concentration

on Bruce Brown's face as we work into the night at his home computer, laying in text and graphics for our first membership brochure, followed by that satisfied grin, when at last we pronounce it "ready for print"... the feeling of happy relief when I ask Cary Printing's Tim Bannister if he can handle the 6,000 brochures and flyers we need on a rush basis and he assures me that the job will be done on time, and better yet, for free... little hands, sticky with dough, glue and paint, guided by larger, helping hands of parents and friends at the KT Kids Club crafting party. I wonder if this is what Howard Johnson envisioned when he so graciously offered the Chamber of Commerce facilities for our meetings!... a crowd of KT kids, families and friends, listening in the morning sun as the Mayor and Council proclaim July 8, 1995, "Kids Together Day." That afternoon, helmeted kids on decorated bikes parade around weary grownups as they dismantle booths and pack up the cars, marking the end of another

There are over 49 million people in America with disabilities...
ADA Commercial

Inside This Issue

Message from Marla	p1
What's happening with the Playground	p2
Pizza Hut Gold Cards	p2
Kids Stuff	p4
Stuff you can get and do	p4
Cary Auto Tags available	p5
February 11 Open House	p5

(Continued on page 6)

February 1996 - Kids Together publishes first Newsletter!

Features included:

An update on playground construction:

- Easements were cleared
- A topographical map and tree survey were completed
- A flood study was underway, leading to preliminary design for the playground

Pizza Hut Gold Cards were a new fundraiser.

A thank you to The Town of Cary for donating \$9,000 to the Playground's efforts. The town's donation came from from Lazy Daze, the Cary Road Race and Hot Hoops, a day-long benefit basketball tournament, presented by the News & Observer.

BTW, the original newsletter was published 1996-2000. It was printed on paper, and sent via US mail. My, how times have changed!

WE ♥ OUR KT MEMBERS!

Thank You!

We're so happy to welcome these new KT members!

We're sending them a hug and a great big KT Thank You!

*Willa Brigham
Elizabeth Brignac*

Lori Bush

James Bustrack

Sue Chaploney

Marla Dorrel

Pat Fish

Danelle Gambrell

Ken George

Karen Gray

Robert Harrison

Tullie Johnson

Scott Lassiter

Sarah Martin

Kerry McCarthy Adams

Reif Counseling Services, PLLC

Donald Seay

Kay Struffolino

Julie von Haefen

Ed & Carolyn Yerha

Paul and Kaori Zevgolis

WE ♥ OUR DONORS, TOO!

Thank you to these generous individuals who gave gifts to KT in 2021:

Suzy Barile

Marla Dorrel

Brent Miller

Judy Newsome

Michael Stayton

Harold Weinbrecht

If You Had Wings – Lindsay Holcombe

And thank you to KT Board Member Paul Zevgolis for earning an IBM Volunteer Grant for KT!

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

You can be a KT member, too! Find giving levels, benefits, and all the details [here](#).

A BIG KT THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

Liz Brignac Marla Dorrel Rose Reif Paul Zevgolis



kidstogethercary.org
kt@kidstogethercary.org

