

# KIDS TOGETHER NEWS

*All the latest from Kids Together Playground!*

## WELCOME!

Winter is a quieter time for Kids Together, but that doesn't mean we've been idle. The year started with a week-long maintenance closure for Cary Public Works to get the playground ready for spring. As the playground re-opened, Kids Together presented its first free, pop-up event of the year – Safety Day! Spring is just around the corner, with warmer days that are perfect for outdoor play. We're planning more fun – accessible and inclusive, as always. While you're waiting for spring, how about ordering an engraved brick to honor a friend, showing your love of all things KTP by joining us as a member, or making a donation to support those fun activities on the sunny days ahead. We'll see you at the playground!

## TAKE A BOOK, SHARE A BOOK BRING YOUR BOOKS TO OUR LITTLE FREE LIBRARY!

We love to read. We hope you do, too. But after you've read your book, it's time to share it!

The Little Free Library at Kids Together Playground welcomes your books. And while you're there, you can choose one to take home. And after you've finished that one, drop it off and pick up another. Easy peasy!



## SAFETY DAY AT KIDS TOGETHER PLAYGROUND: A DAY OF FUN AND LEARNING!

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, Kids Together Playground was abuzz with excitement as families gathered for Safety Day, a special event organized by the KT board. A ladder fire truck and a police car were the highlight of the day, much to the delight of children and parents alike.

The firefighters went above and beyond, opening up the entire fire truck for exploration. Kids were thrilled to peek inside and even sit in both cabs, imagining themselves as brave firefighters. To top it off, free firefighter hats were given out, adding a touch of authenticity to the experience.

Not to be outdone, the police officer present also made sure everyone had a chance to climb into the police car. He demonstrated how the lights and sirens worked, captivating the audience with a glimpse into the world of law enforcement.

With such exciting attractions, it's no wonder that Safety Day drew quite a crowd. Laughter and smiles filled the air as families enjoyed this unique opportunity to learn about safety in a fun and engaging way. Thank you to the Cary Fire and Police Departments for making it a day to remember, reminding us all that learning can be both educational and entertaining.







## WINTER MAINTENANCE REFRESHES THE PLAYGROUND

We're always a little bit sad when Kids Together Playground closes for maintenance, but we jump for joy when it reopens! After five days of work, KTP reopened on March 17, and boy did it look good! The sidewalks and shelter were pressure-washed, fresh mulch was spread everywhere, new sand was added, and – as they say – much, much more!

A big KT Thank You to the Cary Public Works team that spent the week making sure everything at the playground was safe, clean, fresh, and welcoming!

## LAST CALL FOR ENGRAVED BRICK ORDERS MARCH 15 DEADLINE

Maybe you've admired the engraved bricks that line the walkways at Kids Together Playground. And maybe you've thought of someone you would like to honor in that way. If so, don't delay! We collect orders year-round and submit them to our engraver in March. Orders received by March 15 will be included in this year's group, to be installed by June. It's a great way to honor anyone who loves to play! Just \$50 – [order yours now!](#)



## BE A STAR IN OUR SHOWCASE OF ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Kids Together Playground uses [Universal Design Principles](#) to make the playground accessible to everyone. You may not realize it, but many of the playground's features are designed to assure that children of all abilities can play comfortably, side by side. One example is our new [We Go Swing](#) that allows a child in a wheelchair to swing without having to transfer. How wonderful is that?!

But that's not all. Kids Together has many features that are accessible and inclusive: the raised sand table, the Sway Fun, and the Oracle talk-tube benches, to name a few.

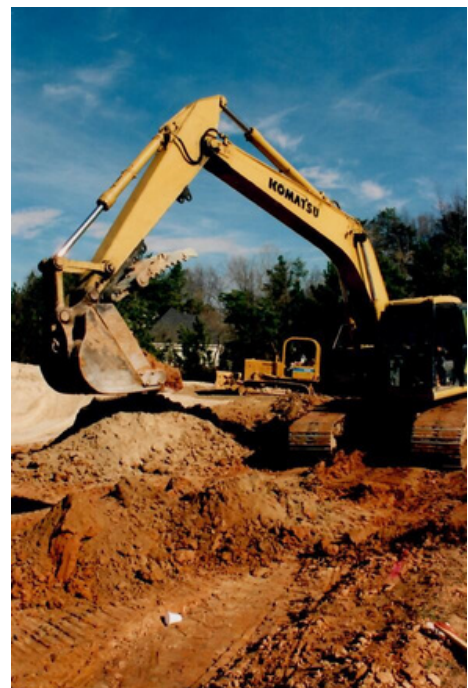
We want to be sure everyone knows about the accessible features at KTP, so we are designing a page on our website to showcase this important aspect of the playground.

Here's where you fit in: If you experience one of the accessible features, take a video or a photo and send it to us. You might be the next rock star on our website! Send your video and/or photo to [KT@kidstogethercary.org](mailto:KT@kidstogethercary.org).

## MOMENTS IN HISTORY STILL INFLUENCING KTP TODAY!

### MARCH 1999 – KTP CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!

In early 1999, the lot selected for the playground was cleared, with diggers moving dirt, and lots of it! Tons of infill were needed to position the playground above the flood plain. It would take almost a year and a half for the playground to be ready for play. It seemed to take forever, but it was certainly worth waiting for!



## GROWNUPS – THE KT BOARD NEEDS YOU!

Do you ever wonder who puts together the fun activities at KTP? Who identifies new equipment for the playground? Who monitors conditions on the playground? Who leads the fundraising efforts?

The answer to all these is the same – the Kids Together Board of Directors! Kids Together is an all-volunteer organization. What we seek in our board members is a commitment to actively participate, a respect for individuals with disabilities, and a passion for outdoor play.

Our board meets every two months for about an hour-and-a-half, in person at the Cary Arts Center or virtually. Besides attending the meetings, board members help plan and volunteer for events at the playground. They are expected to make an annual membership donation (\$30 minimum) and assist with member recruitment and other fundraising efforts. Prospective board members are required to complete and pass a background screening. The cost of the screening is covered by the organization.

Sounds interesting? Would you like to learn more? Contact KT President Marla Dorrel, [mdorrel@kidstogethercary.org](mailto:mdorrel@kidstogethercary.org).



## CONNECT WITH KTP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up with everything KTP on our social media! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! We'll see you there!



## KIDS TOGETHER NEEDS YOU AS A MEMBER

We love hosting free activities at the playground year-round, but we couldn't do it without the support of our members! Members get advance notice of pop-up events (like Safety Day) and our quarterly newsletter. Subscribe at the \$60 Family level and get a color-changing KT tumbler. At the \$100 level you'll 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  
Sarah Martin

[Reif Counseling Services, PLLC](#)  
Nina Schloss  
Janice Sitzes  
Tricia Tiu  
[Window Works Co.](#)  
Paul and Kaori Zevgolis

### RECENT DONORS

We appreciate the gifts we've received over recent months from these generous donors!

James Bustrack  
Michael Stayon  
Sue Chaploney

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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