

**ACC - Volunteer Center  
Project: The Ropes Course  
Grant: \$3,608.00**

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 youths and adults 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 of all age participants regardless of abilities. The slogan, "Challenge by Choice" is reinforced by facilitators to enhance kids' confidence and willingness to participate. **EVERYONE** and their ideas are encouraged, welcomed, and valued.



**Alpena Community College Cross-Country  
Project: Alpena Community College Cross-Country Boosters  
Grant: \$2,478.00**

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 2017 team had another outstanding finish in school history will repeat for the third time in a row as Academic All-Americans.



## Apena Figure Skating Club

### Project: Try It Days

Grant: \$1,000.00

The Alpena FSC hosted Try it Days at NLA. We offered an opportunity for children in Alpena County to try figure skating totally free. Our professional coaches and student instructors provided one on one instruction from the US Figure Skating manual. This opportunity allowed skaters to experience what it's like to take figure skating lessons in our club. It also allowed parents to ask questions and know if their child wants to skate without the financial burden.



## Alpena Hockey Association

### Project: Battle of the Bay, Tournament Support

Grant: \$5,000.00

The Battle on the Bay tournament support continues to be a huge success for the 175+ kids that were able to play a tournament in their home town. It is a big saving for the families that play but their extended families as well 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.



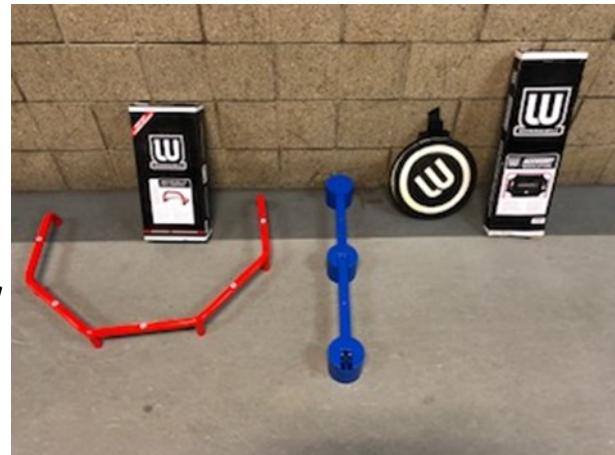
**Alpena Hockey Association  
Project: Jersey and Sock Grant  
Grant: \$3,000.00**

The Alpena Hockey Association is extremely appreciative of the Youth and Recreation Millage support it continues to show AHA. Because of this support through this grant, AHA is able to continue to keep costs as low as possible for families and players. This in turn helps to maintain and even grow our association for our local youth.



**Alpena Hockey Association  
Project: Skill Development Equipment  
Grant: \$5,000.00**

The Alpena Hockey Association is extremely appreciative of the Youth and Recreation Millage support it continues to show AHA. Because of this support through this grant, AHA is able to continue to keep costs as low as possible for families and players. This in turn helps to maintain and even grow our association for our local youth.



**Alpena High School Boys and Girls Soccer  
Project: Alpena High School Boys and Girls Soccer  
Grant: \$3,000.00**

The Varsity Soccer teams play a competitive schedule that demands long trips for away games throughout Northern Michigan and even into the U.P. This grant fund allows us to upgrade from a school bus to a charter bus. We utilize a local carrier (Coastal) which makes our travels much easier.



## AHS Boys and Girls Basketball

**Project: Reduced Player Cost for Transportation Fee, busing upgrades and team fees**  
**Grant: \$8,238.00**

The money helped to offset the cost of participation for the boys and girls freshmen, JV and Varsity Teams. Each sport is charged \$400 fee per team to offset the cost of the teams. Boys and girls paid \$2400 total for this fee. Each player is required by the school to pay a \$50 transportation fee (this totals around \$3600). Bus upgrades for travel total around \$5000 - 6000. 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 \$150. Thanks to the Recreation Grant money this has been a huge savings for players families and the amount of fundraising they would need to do to pay for these expenses.



**Alpena Public Schools KAPUT  
Project: KAPUT Sponsored Activities  
Grant: \$19,275.00**

With the support of the Alpena County Youth and Rec funds, we can continue to provide safe and alcohol free activities when students are most likely to make difficult decisions. These alternative activities allow our students to have fun and stay safe under the watchful eye of parent and adult volunteers.



**Alpena High School, Alpena Softball Line Drive Club**

**Project: Left Field Foul Line Fencing**

**Grant: \$4,000.00**

The Alpena High Softball Line Drive Club was awarded funds from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to further improve the Alpena High School Varsity Softball Field. In the spring of 2017, new cyclone fencing was installed along the left field foul line. This project, along with previous projects by the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, has enhanced the softball facilities at Alpena High School.



**Alpena High School Volleyball Program  
Project: Alpena High School Volleyball Team Support  
Grant: \$2,816.00**

The Alpena High Softball Line Drive Club was awarded funds from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to further improve the Alpena High School Varsity Softball Field. In the spring of 2017, new cyclone fencing was installed along the left field foul line. This project, along with previous projects by the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, has enhanced the softball facilities at Alpena High School.



## Alpena High School, Stadium Lights

Project: Wildcat Stadium Lights

Grant: \$10,000.00

The Youth and Recreation Committee generously granted funds that helped us replace 4 of the 8 light towers at Wildcat Stadium. This was done at a cost of slightly more than \$40,000. It upgraded our lighting to meet the MHSAA standard of 30 lumens per sq. feet. We were previously at 6 lumens per 50 feet on the old light towers. We are currently trying to raise funds to complete the remaining 4 light towers. This will provide a safer playing environment for athletes and a much better viewing environment for fans.



**The Woods Indoor Track Club  
Project: The Woods Track Club Boosters Grant  
Grant: \$1,645.00**

The money granted by the Youth and Recreation 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 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. With the support of the Youth and Recreation Committee, Alpena is now known for having one of the best running programs in the entire state of Michigan.



**Alpena Public School and Alpena Wrestling Boosters Club  
Project: Equipment and supplies (mats, uniforms, headgear)  
Grant: \$25,000.00**

The Alpena Youth and Recreation Grant for 2017 directly serviced 125 Alpena youth, ranging from ages 4 to 19 (Pre-School through High School). The Grant allowed our Alpena County Youth the opportunity to participate and learn the sport of amateur wrestling in a competitive environment. It also provided funding for new uniforms across Youth, Junior High and High School teams and brought a sense of unity across the program. In addition, two new wrestling mats were purchased for the High School and will be retained by the Alpena High School at their facilities. Lastly, the grant also allowed the purchase of headgear, shoes, mat cleaner and mops which are all imperative to maintaining the eligibility, wellbeing and health of our youth wrestlers. We had 10 Alpena Wrestlers who qualified for the Michigan State Wrestling individual tournament. High School: Noah Connon, Matthew Barrett and Dominique Agar. Junior High Wrestlers: Bruno Mucciante, Caleb Mitchell, Cameron Kubbe, Jacob Jeska, and Janessa Hilleary. Cameron Kubbe took 4th Place and Janessa Hilleary took 6th Place at the State Tournament. Youth Wrestlers: Devin Phillips and Benalli Gabara. Benalli Gabara went on to take 3rd in the Michigan State Tournament and 3rd in the National Tournament. Without this grant, we could not have provided the necessary equipment, hazard free environment and opportunity for our Alpena youth wrestlers to learn the concepts of self-discipline and individual responsibility which are inherent for success in athletics as well as life. Thank you to the Alpena Youth and Recreation Committee as well as the Alpena Public Schools and Alpena Community for providing not only the funding for our organization but a truly positive and life changing opportunity for your youth!



**Thunder Bay Junior High School, Alpena Public Schools**  
**Project: Athletic Outreach & Enhancement Project**  
**Grant: \$18,345.00**

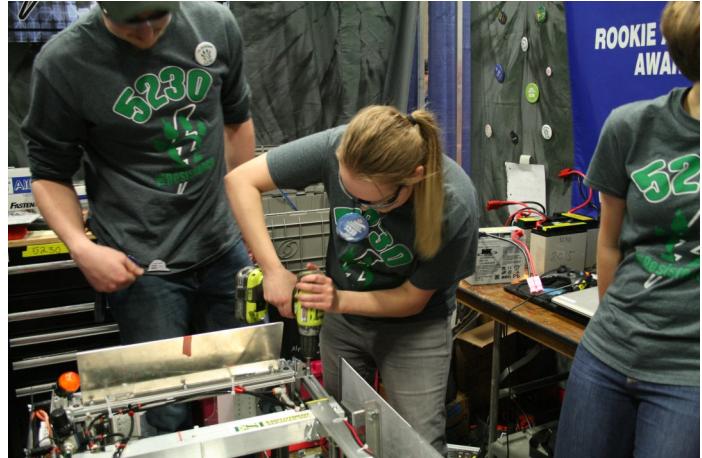
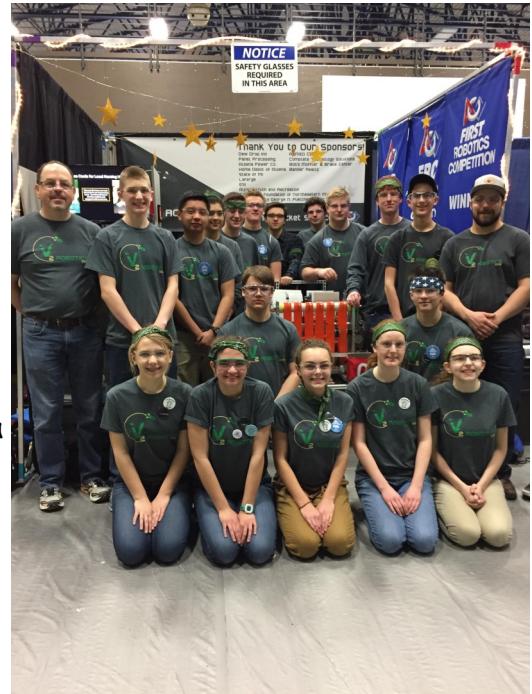
The monies awarded to the TBJH Athletic Outreach & Enhancement Project helps students and parents of TBJH in four ways: It provides 6th graders the opportunity to participate in cross country, volleyball, basketball, and track & field throughout the school year at no charge to participate. Secondly, the financial burden for our athletes' families is reduced by not charging an admission fee for our sporting events. Thirdly, participation fees have decreased for our 7th& 8th grade athletes. Finally, a staff member of the school is in the building after school from 2:30 to 4:30 to ensure student's safety.



**AHS Wildcat Robotics**  
**Project: AHS Wildcat Robotics**  
**Grant: \$33,500.00**

AHS Wildcat Robotics participates in the FIRST Robotics program with teams #5230 The Resistance and #5505 V2 Robotics. During the 2017 season the teams competed in district and state events as well as qualified and participated in the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. Our goal is to inspire young people to be leaders in science and technology 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 school students with a record high 17 teams participating in a skills 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 Sportsman's Island including clearing brush, barking trails, and planting days. Promoting our 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 to Lincoln Elementary, Boys and Girls Club of Alpena, Back to School Event, Alpena County Library Fair, and Homecoming parade just to name a few. Following the competition season Wildcat Robotics was able to hold its first off-season one day event "Bots on the Bay" with 24 teams participating. Finally the largest project awarded to Wildcat Robotics is a full district event with 40 robotics teams competing over three days April 5-7, 2018. Thanks to the tremendous support of the Alpena community and the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, the AHS Wildcat Robotics Program continues to grow and compete at the high levels of competition.



**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan**  
**Project: Shout Eureka! & Full STEAM Ahead**  
**Grant: \$11,000.00**



that is easily accessible to learners of all ages and abilities. The "science lab stations" were set up for families to move freely at their own pace through easy to do, self-directed experiences with the focus on taking as much time as they need to explore the wonders of science together.

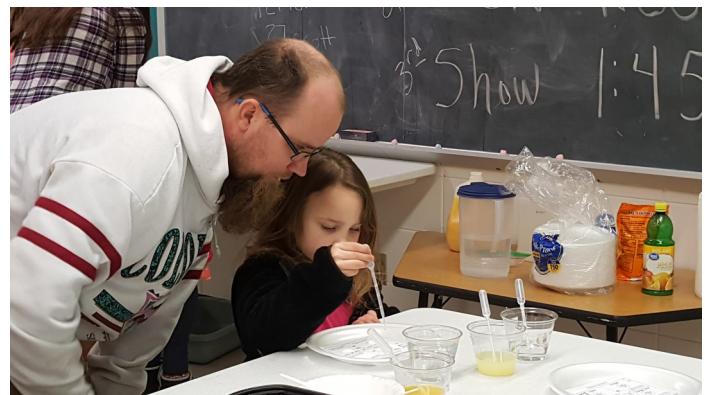
As an amendment to the original grant, the Alpena County Youth and Recreation board allowed the Besser Museum to transition to "Full STEAM Ahead" in September 2017. The Besser Museum's educational outreach department developed six different educational programs themed to highlight Alpena's community and heritage. The six Free Family Discovery Days were based on the elements of STEAM (science and technology interpreted through engineering and the arts, all based in mathematical elements). The programs introduced participants to many different topics including: meteorology, sound, large and small space bodies, and forensics.

Through the utilization of the new digital dome planetarium theater and collaboration between museum staff, volunteers, and community partners, over 750 attendees

participating in "Shout Eureka!" and "Full STEAM Ahead" enjoyed hands-on learning activities.



Since 1966, the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan has offered enriching educational experiences in art, history and science. Thanks to the generous \$7,000 grant from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, the Besser Museum was able to provide, free in 2017, four different Shout "Eureka!" Science Discovery programs to hundreds of children and their families. Shout "Eureka!" is a traveling science outreach program that provides exciting and engaging hands-on, standards-based science activities in a format



**Boys and Girls Club of Alpena  
Project: Future Shots-Basketball Hoop Project  
Grant: \$5,000.00**

The Future Shots Basketball Hoops project brought an updated basketball hoop system to the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena. The Youth and Recreation Millage funds were used to replace the archaic basketball hoops and replace them with a safer, more sustainable and more adaptable option. Over 1200 youth and community members visit the Club's gymnasium each year and virtually every one of those visitors uses the basketball hoops. The Club now has the ability to raise and lower the hoop heights to accommodate younger players learning and honing their skills. This project has created a level of excitement amongst the youth and the kids are so proud to have these basketball hoops at the Club.



**Michigan State University Extension**  
**Project: MSU Extension Children & Youth Programs**  
**Grant: \$40,000.00**

Michigan State University (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 Michigan Sea Grant programs through partnership in the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI). This year, 3049 Alpena County youth were involved in MSU Extension programming. 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 200 members in 22 traditional clubs and 75 volunteers. The Alpena County 4-H program continues to be strong. 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 381 youth through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in 2017 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. Through our partnership with Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, MSU Extension provided children and families with recipes, resources, and information to make healthier food choices as part of the weekend backpack food distribution. In Alpena County, 6 schools were served by this backpack program, reaching 268 youth with additional health and nutrition information.



**Alpena County Plaza Pool  
Project: Ready, Set, Swim  
Grant: \$8,000.00**

Ready, Set, Swim is a program that teaches the basics of Swimming and the safety needed around water. We teach all 4th graders in Alpena County. The activities provide the kids an introduction to an activity that they can continue to participate in during their entire life. It also teaches kids to respect the water and be safe at all times.



**Alpena County Plaza Pool  
Project: Pool Operations  
Grant: \$80,000.00**

As the only public pool in a community surrounded by water, the Plaza Pool provides programs vital to help sustain a healthy and safe life around water. The pool also provides a platform for training the next generation lifeguards and instructors. It also provides a fun and safe atmosphere for families to participate in swimming.



**Friends of the Alpena Farmers' Market**  
**Project: Nutrition Incentive Program - Children's Day**  
**Grant: \$3,000.00**

The Friends of the Alpena Farmers' Market is a non-profit organization that supports the Alpena Farmers' Market. The Nutritional Incentive Program is targeted to reach families with school children through activities that encourage eating fresh and buying local.



## Friends of Plaza Pool

### Project: Expanding Swimming Opportunities for the Alpena Community

Grant: \$2,180.00

The Friends of Plaza Pool "Enhancing swimming opportunities for the Alpena community" program continues to provide a broad range of health benefits to young and old through the coached swims on Saturday morning, 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 20 swimmers for the seven weeks of the program, or a total of 218 kid/hours in the pool. Our snorkel training program was designed for youth. We attempted several times to accomplish this event and because of staffing, pool closures and breakdowns, and difficulties in the participating organizations scheduling it did not work out. 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.



**Northern Lights Arena**  
**Project: Ready, Set, Skate**  
**Grant: \$7,000.00**

The Grant Money for Ready, Set, Skate, helped to introduce ice skating to area first graders. For the fall 2017 session, approximately 170 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.



**MPAC/NLAC - Northern Lights Arena**  
**Project: FREE Open Skate Days incl. Skates**  
**Grant: \$10,080.00**

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 2017 & October- December 2017.



**Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (d/b/a Art in the Loft)**

**Project: Ready, Set, Create!**

**Grant: \$20,225.00**

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 seven years ago. The \$20,225 grant award allowed roughly 400 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: \$8,000.00**

Ready, Set, Serve is a program that teaches the basics of Tennis. We teach all 3rd graders in Alpena County. The activities provide the kids an introduction to an activity that they can continue to participate in during their entire life. The program ended in the fall of 2017.



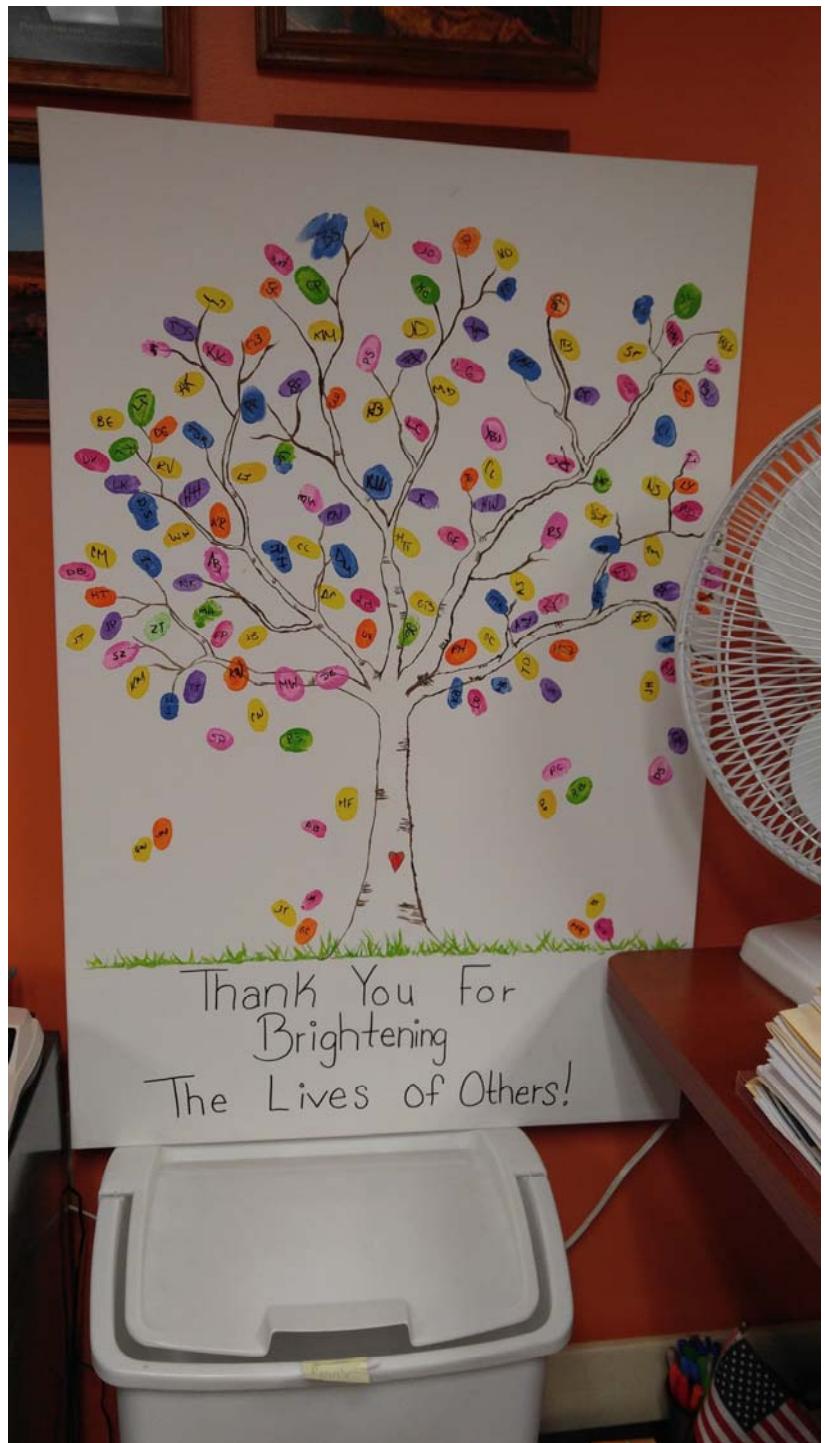
**Park Family Foundation**  
**Project: Ready, Set, Flip!**  
**Grant: \$4,000.00**

Ready, Set, Flip is a program that teaches the basics of Gymnastics. We work with all 1st graders in Alpena County. The activities provide the kids an introduction to an activity they can continue to participate in during their childhood. The program ended in the fall of 2017.



Park Family Foundation  
Project: Ready, Set, SNAP!  
Grant: \$10,000.00

Ready, Set, SNAP is addressing the need for programs for special needs individuals in Alpena County. We provide programming, year around for any individual, with special needs, who are 12 years of age and older. The programming includes arts & craft, fitness, music and healthy choices. We are in our 3rd year and continue to grow.



**Sanborn Township  
Lake Huron Park - Slide & Basketball Court  
Grant: \$10,379.00**

Sanborn Township has developed a five year recreation plan that included providing places for all children to be physically active and a safe location for them to be outside and play. This year we added an independent dual slide for children to race each other. The children loved this concept and played on it regularly. We also wanted to provide something for the older children and teens to use for regular exercise. We chose to take our basketball hoop out of the parking lot and provide a mini basketball court with a hoop on each end. The children and adults were on the court from morning to evening each day. In addition we were able to work on our Beebe Beach facility by getting help with phragmite removal, create a parking lot and add tables and a non-potable water pump for cleaning the sand off. It was a very successful summer for our recreation plan.



## Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club

Program Support / Operating Support (Pool time) to reduce the participating cost for swimmers.

Grant: \$9,000.00

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 Soccer Association (TBSA)

### Bleachers & Benches Project

Grant: \$2,500.00

Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA) received a grant from the Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee for the year 2017 to be used towards the purchase of new player benches for all of our soccer fields. We purchased (24) new portable team benches that were placed across (11) different fields at (2) different locations. Every one of our 600+ youth participants were able to enjoy using these this year rather than having to sit on the cold, wet, muddy ground and made for a much more comfortable and enjoyable experience for all. They were greatly appreciated and added to TBSA's continued efforts towards program and facility improvements.



**Thunder Bay Trails Association  
Youth Cross Country Ski Club  
Grant: \$5,500.00**



The Thunder Bay Trails Association (TBTA) was awarded \$5500 from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to form a Youth Cross Country Ski Club for area youth ages 5-17. The TBTA requested funding for six instructional ski sessions on Sundays from January through March. Unfortunately, the mild winter and minimal snowfall, limited the sessions to five. The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Funds were used to pay the cost of the rental ski equipment. The response to the ski program was overwhelming as 46 kids registered and 39-50 kids and parents participated in each session. The Youth Cross Country Ski Club program introduced kids and families to a new healthy winter sport without having to make a large investment in equipment. The TBTA provided groomed ski trails at the Alpena APlex and Alpena Public Golf Course, volunteers to distribute the equipment, instructors, and snacks for the participants. The TBTA is a local non-profit organization that collaborates with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

to maintain and groom cross country ski, hiking, and biking trails on state land in Alpena County.



**Top Of Michigan Trails Council**  
**Signage for the Alpena to Hillman Trail**  
**Grant: \$30,000.00**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are jointly constructing the first phase of the Alpena to Hillman Trail. The trail will be 13.3 miles of 10' wide shared use trail from Franklin Street in the City of Alpena to M-65 at Lachine. The Top of Michigan Trails Council coordinated the design, manufacture and installation of benches and wayfinding signs for the project. The signs and benches have been manufactured by Stevens Signs of Alpena. Because of the complexity of designing two bridges on the trail, installation of the signs will occur during the trail season in 2018. This is a great multi-purpose trail that will service hikers, bikers, equestrians and snowmobilers all-year round. The signage is the icing on the cake for the trail and would not have been possible without the support of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee.

**Large Kiosk**



**Small Kiosk #1**



**Small Kiosk #2**



**Alpena County Parks and Recreation Commission  
Long Lake Park Bathhouse Project (Contingency Project Plan)  
Grant: \$135,000.00**

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