

2014

[Youth and Recreation]

The Committee serves as an advocate for the citizens of the County. The Committee is charged with the sole purpose of providing recreational activities for youth and recreation for Alpena County residents, as well as, recreational service and improvement or development of recreational sites. The Committee is also responsible for recommending to the County Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as "Commissioners", the prudent spending of public funds to promote youth and recreational opportunities to Alpena County citizens. On August 5, 2014, the residents of Alpena County voted for a county youth and recreation millage. The ballot language for the millage was as follows:

Alpena County

OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION
FOR YOUTH AND RECREATION

“Shall the limitations on the amount of taxes which shall be assessed against all property both real and personal in Alpena County, Michigan be increased as provided in Section 6, Article IX of the Michigan Constitution, and the Alpena County Board of Commissioners be authorized to levy a tax (renewal) not to exceed one half (1/2) mill (\$0.50 on each \$1,000.00 of Equalized State Taxable Value) for a period of four (4) years starting with the Levy made December 1, 2014 for the sole purpose of providing “Recreational Activities” for Youth and Recreation for Alpena County Residents, as well as, recreational service and improvement or development of recreational sites. (The estimate of revenue the County of Alpena will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the first year (2014) is \$448,000).”

YES _____

NO _____

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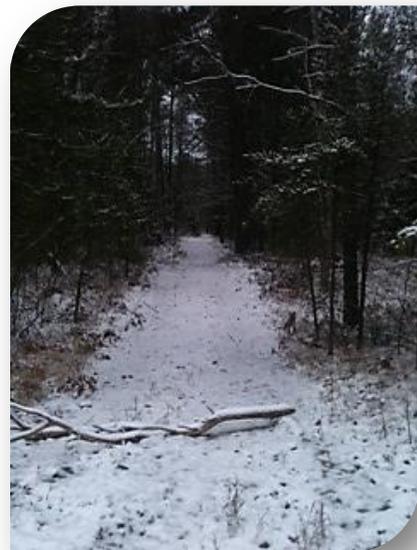
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APS – ACC Cross County

Project: Trail Project at Besser Company

Grant: \$4,600.00

By gaining funding for the Trail project; for the first time, both Alpena High School and Alpena Community College Cross Country teams now have their own home course. Both teams would like to thank the youth and recreation committee for their support. This project not only helps the present teams, but all of the teams in the future. During the off -season this trail will also be used by the community for hiking and cross-country skiing.



Alpena Community College Lumberjack Cross Country Boosters

Project: Operating support

Grant: \$2,700.00

Alpena Community College Cross Country team wants to Thank the Youth and Recreation board for their support during the 2014 season. With the grant; the team was able to buy coats, shirts, timing watch and a tent to get the team out of the elements during the season. The team had their best season to date and the support of the committee was greatly appreciated.



Alpena Volunteer Center of Alpena Community College

Project: The Ropes Course

Grant: \$3,500.00

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 youth 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 in all young participants regardless of abilities. The slogan,

“Challenge by Choice” is reinforced by facilitators to enhance kids’ confidence and willingness to participate. ALL children and their ideas are encouraged, welcomed, and valued.





Association of Lifelong Learners

Project: Association of Lifelong Learners Shipwreck Alley Class Assistance

Grant: \$6,000.00

For this grant, the Association of Lifelong Learners (ALL) collaborated with AHS teacher John Caplis to bring ALL volunteers into the classroom to assist as the Shipwreck Alley students learned about, designed, constructed, tested, and deployed remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). Other students worked on creating a pool of information for glass-bottom boat guides, contributing to a book on the early Lake Huron fishing trade, researching the historic fishing boat, the *Katherine V*, and developing a Trifold brochure which described the restoration of the *Katherine V*, and an oral history project with area fishermen. These efforts involved collaboration with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Besser Museum. The complete project spanned three trimesters of AHS classes as well as three quarters of ALL courses, and about 25 days of volunteering in the classroom. In total it included about 175 AHS students and 60 ALL participants, including 17 in-the-classrooms ALL

volunteers. It involved field trips to TBNMS and several trips on the glass bottom boat to learn about marine archeology and shipwreck sites.



Alpena AHS Band Boosters

Project: Symphony Band uniforms and instruments

Grant: \$20,000.00

Alpena HS Band Boosters are a parent led group that supports the Alpena High School band program with fundraising dollars to purchase and repair instruments, uniform purchases and maintenance, transportation costs not covered by the school and auxiliary teaching staff for marching season and festival competition. This year we have been using the grant money from Alpena County Youth &

Recreation Committee to purchase a new xylophone, new concert band uniforms, silver marching trombones and trumpets, and various other small miscellaneous instrument parts such as drum heads and mallets, etc. The marching band of 95 students is the largest physical representative of Alpena High School and the community. The look of the marching band is the first impression others get of our school and it became more uniform and dressed with the addition of the silver instruments.



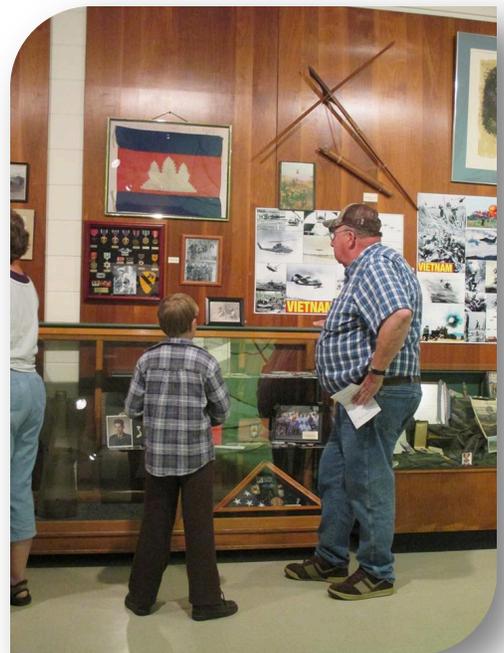


Alpena Boosters Club

Project: Wings over Alpena Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Weekend

Grant: \$10,000.00

The Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Weekend was an honor and tribute event for our local Vietnam Veterans and to educate those in attendance about the Vietnam War. The event took place at the Besser Museum on the weekend of September 26th-28th and was attended by an estimated 2,300 people. On display at the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Weekend was the Vietnam Veterans Tribute Exhibit that was on display at the Besser Museum starting May 10th, 2014. In addition to the exhibit, the Michigan Vietnam Traveling Wall Memorial and vehicles from the Michigan Military Vehicle Preservation Association was on display for attendees to view. In addition to the above list, on Saturday, there was "Shout Eureka" science exhibit and rope making for the kids in attendance.





Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Tournament Play, Battle on the Bay

Grant: \$6,000.00

AHA was awarded funds to support the house program, by exposing the kids to more tournament play. Our Under 6 and Under 8 kids will play in Jamboree's, while the Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, JV and Girls teams play in tournament games. This helps to improve their skills with the tournament format. By bringing tournaments to Northern Lights Arena, AHA was also able to help the arena, and the County of Alpena. When we bring out of town teams to play in these tournaments, it helps support commerce in the area.





BATTLE ON THE BAY

1 - Cabin Creek Coffee 201 N 2nd Ave 989-356-5613	House Bantam Oct 31 - Nov 2	
2 - Alpena Express Care & Family Practice 109 S 13th Ave 989-356-2400	House Pee Wee & House Squirt Nov 7 - 9	
3 - John Boy's Restaurant 817 W Chisholm 989-356-0481	House Girls U-19 Dec 5 - 7	
4 - Thunderbay Chrysler Jeep Dealership 852 Chisholm 877-629-7601	Mite Jamboree Dec 14	
5 - Krash Pizza 314 W Millau 989-340-2002	House Midget Dec 10 - 21	
6 - Alpena Electric Motors 1581 M 32 W 989-356-8780	Grants Made Possible By: Alpena County Youth And Recreation Millage	
7 - 19th Hole 1081 US 23 N 989-356-3712		
8 - Sand Bar And Grill 9027 W Long Lake Rd 989-595-0009		
9 - Quality Lawn Care 989-340-0495		
10 - Michigan Extreme Laser Tag 205 Water St 989-358-2444		
11 - NOAA / Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary 500 W Fletcher 989-356-8805		

SPONSORED BY:



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Operating Support

Grant: \$19,000.00

Project Not Completed

Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Operating Support

Grant: \$3000.00

In 2014 Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth provided the opportunity for area youth to play baseball, softball and T-ball. The funding we received for operational support helped to keep our registration costs down for our participants and to fund tournament entry fees for our older travel teams.



Alpena Swim Club/Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Pool time and meet fees

Grant: \$6,000.00

The Thunder Bay Schooners swim season runs for almost 5 months, with the cost of renting the pool averaging around \$1900 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. The majority of the swim meets are 1-3 hours away so parents have the cost of gas and, sometimes, hotels. By using the Youth and Rec Grant to pay for meeting fees, there is a smaller burden on the families to attend.



Alpena Symphony Orchestra

Project: Alpena String School of Music

Grant: \$8,000.00

The Alpena String School of Music grant made it possible to purchase violins, violas, cellos and a string bass for students of all ages in Alpena County to use in our new String School program. As of December 2014 we will have served 21 students who are learning about classical music as well as some fiddle styles. The students have individual lessons as well as groups. In the group and ensemble classes, they keep pace with their peers in addition to learning from more advanced students. The instruments purchased through the grant have been invaluable in giving students a chance to get started and participate in the program for a relatively low cost. The students have been amazing about taking care of these instruments and to this date, we have not had a single incident of damage or loss! Properly maintained, these instruments will continue to serve the string students of Alpena County for dozens of years!



Alpena Tennis Association
Project: Operating Support
Grant: \$9,000.00

Since 2000, the Alpena Tennis Association (ATA) has promoted the lifetime sport of tennis for Alpena County residents. In 2010 ATA formed the Ace Club to fund Alpena High School Boys & Girls tennis when Alpena Public Schools dropped it as a varsity sport. Since then over 160 boys and girls have had the opportunity to represent their school in both Junior Varsity and Varsity matches across the state.



Alpena Tennis Association- Ace Club

Project: Ready, Set, Serve

Grant: \$7,500.00

The program promotes the development of Tennis as a means of healthful recreation, physical fitness and social activity for a lifetime. We provide all 3rd graders in Alpena County with 5 tennis lessons at no expense to their family or the school. Our hope is some of these kids will be our future high school and JV players and also develop a love of the game.







Alpena Public Schools - AHS Boys and Girls Soccer

Project: Operating Support

Grant: \$6,800.00

Used to help offset travel costs for away games during the spring girls' season and fall boys season. This funding allowed both teams to continue to upgrade to charter bus transportation instead of traditional school bus, easing the fundraising burden on players and parents. When away trips average between 2 and 3 hours one way, charter bus upgrades allows our student athletes more comfortable travel. Typically, this is helpful in allowing our student athletes to catch up homework and rest on the way back. Once again, the both soccer teams achieved exceptional grade point average of 3.5 and were awarded Academic All-State. Transportation upgrades definitely contribute to this academic performance.



Alpena Public Schools – AHS Boys Track and Field

Project: New Uniforms

Grant: \$8,000.00

Alpena Public Schools - AHS Boys Track & Field program provides a competitive and interscholastic field and track experience to approximately 50+ boys in grades 9 through 12 at Alpena High School. The team competes with similar schools in Michigan under the auspices of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The funded project allowed the team to purchase new team uniforms. The previous uniforms were mismatched and ranged from 12 – 20 years old. Many showed deterioration due to normal wear and tear such as failed stitching, failed elastic waistbands, rips, tears and color fading. Purchase of the new uniforms allowed the AHS Boys track team to be suited up in matching team apparel, represent Alpena proudly and compete confidently in functional appropriate attire

suitable for high school interscholastic competition.



Alpena Softball Line Drive Club (carry over)

Projects: Backstop

Grant: \$4,319.00

Funds were used to construct a new twenty-four foot high backstop on the A.H.S Varsity field. Two sets of bleachers were added to the facility as well. Four, thirteen foot cantilever umbrellas will be mounted over the existing bleachers and newly constructed bleachers to provide shade and protection from the rain. The bleachers are set on a concrete slab/sidewalk/concrete area.

Alpena Softball Line Drive Club

Projects: Backstop/Bleachers and Grand Stands at AHS Varsity field

Grant: \$20,000.00

Funds were used to construct a new twenty-four foot high backstop on the A.H.S Varsity field. Two sets of bleachers were added to the facility as well. Four, thirteen foot cantilever umbrellas will be mounted over the existing bleachers and newly constructed bleachers to provide shade and protection from the rain. The bleachers are set on a concrete slab/sidewalk/concrete area.





Thunder Bay Junior High School, Alpena Public Schools

Project: Thunder Bay Junior High School Athletic Outreach & Enhancement

Grant: \$19,000.00

We served approximately 190 6th grade students with our 6th grade outreach sports program. Another 500 students, both athletes and non-athletes, benefited from our Outreach Intervention Specialist being in the building until 4:30 pm to ensure the safety any and supervision after school has dismissed for the day.

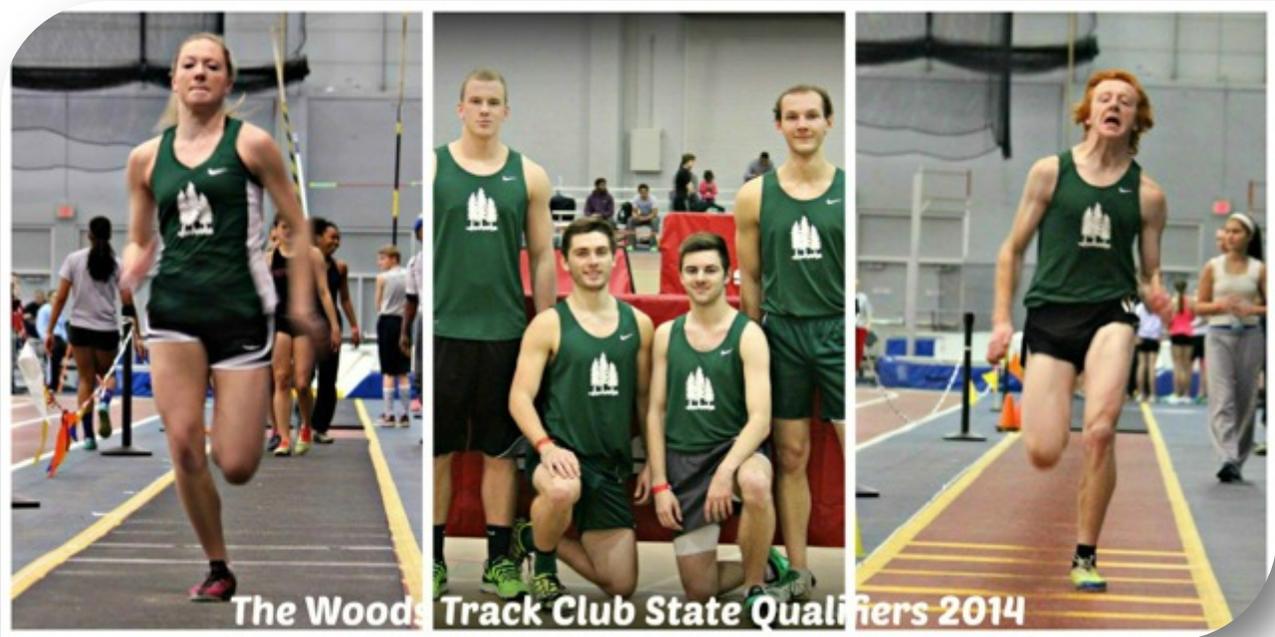


The Woods Track Club (APS)

Project: Operating support for High School Indoor Track Club

Grant: \$4,100.00

The Woods Track Club, which consists of 35 Alpena High School runners, was awarded \$4100 by the Youth and Recreation Board for operating support. This grant was used to purchase 35 new uniforms and 35 new jackets. The uniforms are used for competition and the jackets are used during the season, which begins in early November and ends at the end of February. The coats will keep the runners warm and also keep them visible during the dark winter months. We greatly appreciate the support of the Youth and Recreation Board!





Alpena Public Schools Boys Basketball

Project: AHS Boys Basketball Operating Support

Grant: \$6,000.00

The program helped to reduce the expenses paid for by the team and the parents for their travel and participation fees. It also helped reduce the amount of fundraising used by both teams to support their programs. The overall cost and fundraising reduced by the grant was \$80 per player. The teams and players are grateful for the generosity of the committee and how they helped so many players and their families with the growing cost of participating in high school athletics.



Alpena High School Volleyball Club
Project: Alpena High School Volleyball Program
Grant: \$7,500.00

The AHS Volleyball Program provides players with the opportunity to learn to play volleyball and to compete at the high school level. Specific skills related directly to volleyball are developed, but the

program is also committed to the development of the student in areas of personal growth. Players learn teamwork, leadership, dedication and determination. They learn to juggle various commitments to maintain academic excellence and on-court performance. An important part of the service provided by AHS Volleyball is an ongoing commitment to make these benefits available to students, regardless of financial situation. With recent and the ongoing reductions in funding, the Program seeks to fund team costs so that no player who truly wants to work hard and be successful in volleyball is faced with a financial burden. High School athletics account for less than 1% of the APS annual budget, and volleyball is a very small part of that, but the result is that families have been asked to make up for costs the district cannot sustain. The AHS Volleyball Program seeks to minimize the cost of participation for student athletes.



Boys and Girls Club of Alpena
Project: Painting and Ceiling Project
Grant: \$3,300.00

The project funded through the 2014 Alpena County Youth and Recreation Millage at the Boys and

Girls Club of Alpena was painting the ceiling, tiles and outdated tile grids throughout the Club. The dingy and discolored ceiling tiles and metal tile grids at the Club now have new tiles and a fresh coat of paint. The building looks much cleaner and brighter all due to the project funded through the Youth and Recreation Millage. Every person that walks into the doors of the Club will notice the cleaner and updated environment. The Club strives to provide a building that the members can be proud of and undergoing this project brings us one step closer to that goal.







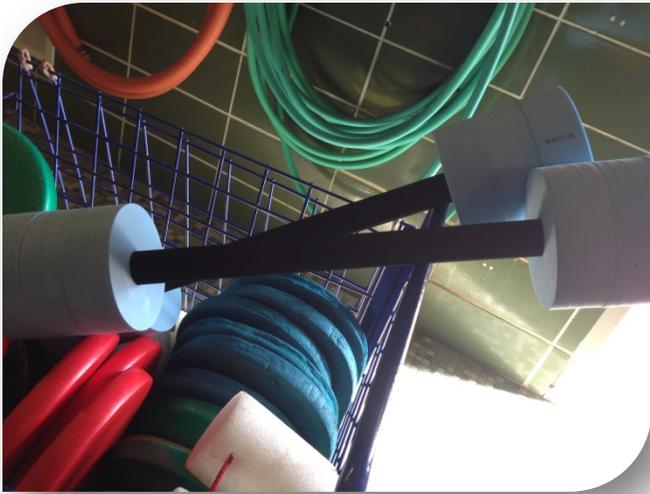


Alpena County Plaza Pool 1
Project: Aquatic Equipment Operating

Grant: \$85,000.00

The grant allows the Alpena County Plaza Pool to keep the activities at the pool affordable to all residents in the County. We provide everything from water walking to lap swimming to lessons. Without this grant, the prices would have to increase and may not be affordable to most in the county.





Alpena County Plaza Pool 2

Project: Pool supplies

Grant: \$2,500.00

The grant allows the Alpena County Plaza Pool to have equipment in order to serve the pool community needs. The AED is providing the patrons with the required safety equipment in case of emergencies. The remaining aquatics equipment is to provide the pool members with the best possible experience so they continue to use the pool.





Alpena County Plaza Pool 3

Project: Ready, Set, Swim

Grant: \$7,500.00

The program is providing aquatic opportunities to all Alpena County 2nd graders to improve health provide recreation and ensure safety in, on and around the water. We provide five swim lessons to all 2nd graders in Alpena County at no expense to their families or the schools. Our goal is to keep kids safe as we are surrounded by water in and around Alpena.





County of Alpena - Michigan State University Extension

Project: MSUE Children Youth (4-H) Programs

Grant: \$30,500.00

Michigan State University 4-H Youth Programs are open to all youth and encompass a wide range of interests. One of the fastest growing projects is in the area of S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics)

Enrollment in these 4-H clubs has drastically increased over the past year. The clubs include the Robot Factory, Wildcat Welding and Future Tradesmen. These S.T.E.M. related 4-H Clubs focus on Placed Based Education (PBE) through hands-on learning so 4-H youth can get a real world experience.

This year 4-H recognized outstanding achievement for two of its members. Thanks to the Youth Recreational Funding the youth had an opportunity to develop leadership skills which will assist them as they continue their education. This year Caitlin Borke and Abbie Kowalski were recognized as the 2014 Alpena County 4-H Council scholarship recipients.

Borke is a 2014 Alpena High School graduate. This fall, she will be studying abroad in Germany for one year and plans to attend Western Michigan University in the fall of 2015 to study education. Her goal is to be a music and choir teacher. Borke's favorite 4-H memory is when she encouraged a younger 4-H member to sign up for the performing arts awards category at last year's 4-H Achievement Day.

Kowalski is also a 2014 AHS graduate. In the fall, she plans to attend Alpena Community College to pursue an elementary education degree in hopes of becoming a teacher. Her favorite 4-H memory is when she served as the Alpena County 4-H member of the Year and got to help promote and

represent such a great organization.







County of Alpena

Project: Tennis Court Reconstruction

Grant: \$17,839.00

The completion of the tennis court reconstruction project that was funded by the Youth and Recreation millage in the amount of \$17,839.00 included surfacing and striping. This project for the County of Alpena has served hundreds of people. The project included completely pulverizing the original tennis courts, reshaping of the surface, installing new asphalt, installing new posts for the nets and surface and striping. This project will continue to serve the community with no cost athletic and fitness opportunities for many years to come.





Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: AQUATICS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Grant: \$2,755.00

The Friends of Plaza Pool “Aquatics for Health and Safety” program provides health benefits to young and old through the masters swim on Saturday morning, and through the support of the Salvation Army summer camp swimming program as well as the special snorkel training event which we offer. This year we have provided Wednesday evening coached swimming sessions and a Saturday morning coached swim. We had 7-8 regular swimmers at our coached sessions. In addition, the Salvation Army swims program had 26 swimmers for the eight weeks of the program, or a total of 208 kids to the pool. Our snorkel training program was offered to the 4H clubs in the area and we are hoping to have about 25 participants for the December 14th event.



Green Township

Project: Green Township Hall and Recreation Facility Upgrade

Grant: \$10,200.00

Green Township received a grant from Alpena County Youth and Recreation millage funds for \$10,200 to assist in the building of a pavilion near the township hall for all county residents to use. The pavilion is located approximately 50 feet from the hall and is surrounded by the basketball court on one side, the swings on the other side and sits beside the fenced in ball field lending a place for people to dine, gather, watch and participate in all events that are occurring. People using the facility and grounds have expressed their appreciation for what the pavilion has added to Green Township

facilities.







First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Project: Navigators Crew 1756, Scouting Supplies

Grant: \$4000.00

The Navigators USA, of which our Crew at the First Congregational UCC in Alpena is Chapter 1756 (begun in Oct 2011), was created to provide a scouting experience for boys and girls who are unable to join the existing scouting organization in their community. All of our Alpena Crew youth receive services through the Dept. Of Mental Health, the Pied Piper School, or has been diagnosed as physically disabled or cognitively impaired. Through a \$4,000 grant from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, we purchased a generator to enable CPAP-machine dependent young people to camp safely outdoors overnight, uniform vests for pride of appearance in parades and while performing local service projects, other camping equipment and participant fees, and awards for achievement and leadership training.









Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (Art in the Loft)

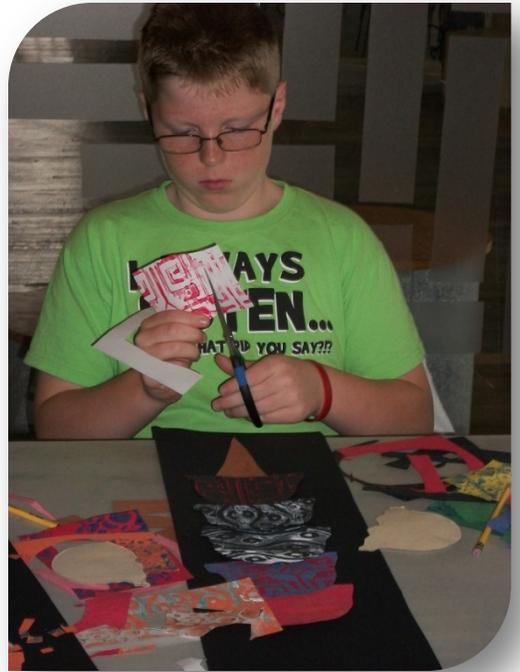
Project: "Ready, Set, Create!"

Grant: \$20,000.00

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 four years ago. The \$20,000 grant award allowed 500 students (mostly 4th grade) to travel to the gallery and be led through five-weeks of hands-on art lessons by Certified Art Instructor, Brooke Stevens. During the five 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.









Thunder Bay Soccer Association

Project: Field Improvement at Woodward – New Well

Grant: \$20,000.00

The Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA) provides social, emotional and physical activity through the sport of soccer for 600 to 700 children in Alpena County ages 3 through 18 each year. Our playing fields require constant upkeep to provide a safe playing environment for these children. It is difficult to properly maintain the fields relying solely on natural rainfall. The lack of adequate water along with an increase in grub infestation the last several years has caused significant damage to our fields. The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee approved funding in 2014 which allowed TBSA to install a well at our Woodward fields. The well will allow us to water our fields throughout the summer, which provides us with a perfect long term solution for our field maintenance. We sincerely appreciate their support!







Wildkitten Tumbling, Inc

Project: Purchase of a regulation size spring floor

Grant: \$18,000.00

Wild kitten Tumbling, Inc /Alpena Gymnastics' purchase of a regulation size spring floor in 2014 has ignited the gymnastics program in Alpena. The improvement and expansion of the tumbling area have created a higher quality gymnastics program. The added safety of softer landings has both lessened the potential for injury and created a faster tract for learning new skills. We have a record amount of gymnasts learning back-handsprings! The larger tumbling floor allows us to teach more students at the same time, gives gymnasts the ability to prepare adequately for competitions, and provides a much safer space for tumbling passes. The Wild kitten Tumbling gymnastics program has not only increased in the number of participating gymnasts in the year 2014 but gymnasts are coming more hours per week. A big Thank you from over 300 youth for the Alpena County Youth and Recreation grant!



Wilson Township Wolf Creek Park

Project: Purchase and installation of Pedestrian Bridge

Grant: \$25,000.00

In 2014 plans for the bridge were finalized, and the bridge was purchased. The bridge was recently installed at the park in December, but approaches to the bridge are not complete. Due to late season start and weather conditions, approaches and installation will be completed in the spring 2015. Although the bridge project did not provide any service in 2014, once completed in 2015 this bridge will provide access to both sides of the park and river, allowing visitors complete utilization of the park.





City of Alpena (carryover)

Project: Trail Head Project

Grant: \$40,000.00

Local match for \$245,000.00 MDNR Grant

Project Not Completed