



## THE CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE

400 Tracy Circle, Boone, NC 28607 ♦ [www.goPlayhouse.org](http://www.goPlayhouse.org) ♦ 828-263-0011 ♦ EIN #27-0065653

# 8th BuildFest Sparks Curiosity and Wonder

The **8th Playhouse BuildFest** was held on **Saturday, April 1st** at Watauga High School from 9 am to 2 pm. BuildFest is a free community event featuring dozens of hands-on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities for kids aged 2-12, plus a giant Cardboard City, Tiny Town, Family Resource Village, Touch a Truck, and two Amazing Science Shows.

### BuildFest by the Numbers

**Number of hands-on activities:** more than 70, 40 provided by The Playhouse

**Number of attendees:** 1505

**Number of staff:** 9

**Number of volunteers:** 175

**Number of STEM professionals:** 8



### Sponsors

**Skyscrapers:** ECRS and OP Smiles: Adult & Child Orthodontists and Pediatric Dentists

**Bridges:** Moltox and North Carolina Science Festival

**Roads:** Avery Animal Hospital, BCS Wealth Management, Bluebird Pediatric Dentistry, Erin Anderson Design, Greenway Medical Associates, Mast General Store, Modern Toyota & Subaru, Ann Pipes, VPC Builders

**Bricks:** AppFamily Medicine, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Vincent Properties, Bluebird Exchange/Wildwood Market, The Cardinal, Cynthia Cero, EPIC Family Chiropractic, High Country Douglas, Lily's Snack Bar, Jo-Lynn Enterprises, Revolution Boone, and Delores & Shelton Wilder

**In-kind sponsors:** Stickboy Bakery, SOS Printing, WalMart, Harris-Teeter, Hole Lotta Donuts West Jefferson, Manalalu Water, Hatchett, Lowe's Hardware, Babcock Furniture, Ingles, Food Lion, and Lowe's Food

### Activity Partners

Twenty-nine classes, clubs, and community groups joined with The Children's Playhouse to provide more than 70 hands-on activities.

**Appalachian State University:** Anthropology Club, Biology Department, Chemistry, Child Development, Geology and Environmental Science, and the Physics and Astronomy Club

**Community nonprofits and local government:** BuddyWalk of the High Country, Children's Council (Circle of Parents, Parents as Teachers, Incredible Years), Children's Developmental Services Agency of the Blue Ridge (CDSA-BR), Community Artists, FARM Cafe, High Country Douglas, Parent to Parent Family Support Network, Town of Boone - Boonerang Music & Arts Festival, Watauga County Public Library and Rootle Ambassador, Western TLC Head Start, and Western Youth Network

**Local schools:** Two Rivers Community School, Watauga CCC&TI Culinary Arts, and Watauga High School (Mountain Alliance and Watauga Robotics)

**Family-oriented businesses:** Committed 2 Growth, Lara's Lactation Consulting, and the NC Medicaid Enrollment Broker







## Quotes from Families

"It was all amazing! Such a well executed event!"

"That was one of the coolest kid events we've ever been to! We can't wait until the next one. Our little boy loved Card board City, cars on the race track, Angry Birds, and the physics show. He didn't want to leave. Even with his autistic set backs the staff was so incredibly accommodating."

"My son had so much fun! ...I think he learned the joy of living in a community that values children."

"My kids enjoyed building rockets, learning about the reflection of light, static electricity, anthropology, and plants. I thought it was a wonderful setup and my family really enjoyed it."

"Totally new sensory and play experiences for our almost-2 year old."

## Quotes from Volunteers

"I loved helping them make their ideas a reality!"

"There were a lot of kids that were excited to try to build the best boat possible to hold as many pennies as possible. it was fun to see them getting excited about trying to do better than their previous attempt and break the record."

"The kids and parents were so engaged and enthusiastic about the entire event. They expressed their gratitude to the volunteers, and it was such a refreshing experience!"

"I loved getting to see kids' faces light up after scoring points with our robot."



*"Seeing the children's faces when they engaged with our activity was magical."*

—volunteer



## Countdown to BuildFest Outreach at Bethel School

In February, Playhouse Director of Visitor Services and Programs, Ellen Lewis, visited the Pre-K through Grade 3 classes at Bethel School, the most rural school in Watauga County. She led a "Hide and Seek Moon" activity and distributed 64 Astronomy play kits to take home. Each kit included all the supplies to make a pretend telescope, a Junior Ranger Night Explorer booklet, badge, and stickers from the National Park Service.

