Playhouse BuildFest Returns after a 2 Year Break

About BuildFest
The 7th Playhouse BuildFest was held on Saturday, April 2nd 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, Family Resource Village, Calm Down Corner, and the Amazing Science Show.

BuildFest by the Numbers
Number of attendees: 1372
Number of staff: 8
Number of volunteers: 172
Number of STEM professionals: 10

Sponsors
BuildFest was organized by The Children’s Playhouse with support from OP Smiles Orthodontists & Pediatric Dentists, Bluebird Pediatric Dentistry, and the North Carolina Science Festival.


Activity Partners
BuildFest activities were provided by The Children’s Playhouse; Appalachian State University’s AGE Labs, Anthropology, Chemistry, Education, Geography, and Physics and Astronomy departments; Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture; the Boone Fire Department; Community Artists; the Children’s Council of Watauga County; the Children’s Developmental Services Agency; High Country Doulas; Kind Designs; Parent to Parent; Lara’s Lactation Consulting; WAMY; Watauga County Public Library; Watauga High School Robotics Club; Woodland ALC; and Two Rivers Community School.
“This event was a balm to a weary community soul! Thank you all for the hard work and dedication to the children and families of the region.”

— Andrea Anderson

BuildFest in a Box brings the fun to underserved kids

New in 2022, “BuildFest in a Box” kits were designed by The Playhouse to spark curiosity and combat summer learning loss.

Separate kits for preschoolers and early elementary students which were packed with 6 to 8 great fun and easy sensory, science, reading and art activities.

150 kits were packed and were distributed free of charge through the Watauga County Schools early intervention program, the Hunger Coalition, the Western TLC Head Start, and to the Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classrooms at Bethel Elementary school. Additional kits are available at The Children’s Playhouse.