



THE CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE

400 Tracy Circle, Boone, NC 28607 ♦ www.goPlayhouse.org ♦ 828-263-0011 ♦ EIN #27-0065653

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**.

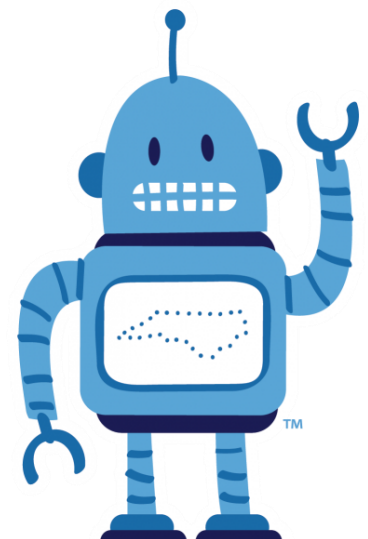
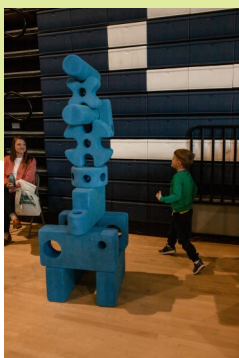
Additional sponsors include Berkshire Hathaway Home-Services Vincent Properties, Chetola Resort, EPIC Family Chiropractic, Erin Anderson Design, Greenway Medical Associates, Kilwins—Blowing Rock, Mast General Store, Modern Toyota/Subaru, and VPC Builders.



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; Wildwood ALC; and Two Rivers Community School.





Quotes from Attendees

My son has autism and doesn't really say a whole lot ...And I wanted you to know he was mentioning Buildfest days later. So I know it really stuck with him."

Hands on is a great way to learn.

My children learned about clouds, enjoyed finding activities and building activities, and got to socialize and experiment with race tracks, catapults, etc. I think it was also awesome for them to be exposed to college students that are studying different topics related to science.

So organized, well planned, spread out and fun!!



"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.

