

District 6290 Grants Committee

District and Global Grants

Approved November 13, 2018 for Rotary Years 2018-2019

DG-12

Houghton Lake

District Local Grant

Grant Title: Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center-Play Therapy Room

Amount Awarded: \$1000

The Children's Assessment Center is a non-profit 501(c3) that provides a safe, child friendly, neutral place for children to be forensically interviewed when they have been a victim of a crime or witness to a crime. Their mission is to reduce the trauma of child abuse and neglect by providing prevention, intervention and advocacy. The Center emphasizes the coordination of investigation and intervention services by bringing together professionals and agencies as a multidisciplinary team to create a child focused approach to child abuse cases.

This project will allow the Center to expand their mental health services by constructing a play therapy room. We would construct a 12x14 room for our therapist to incorporate play therapy and sensory motor arousal regulation treatment (SMART) as part of her treatment options. This type of therapy emphasizes feelings of safety and control for those children who have experienced a life full of danger and unpredictability.

The Center has partnered with Home Depot, who is going to donate all the materials needed for the construction of the room. Money from this grant will be used to purchase the mats needed to cover the floor and walls for protection, as this therapy encourages children to be active. In addition, equipment for the room would also be purchased such as a mini trampoline, balance board, blankets, large foam pillows, and air pillows.

This project will impact children in our community who are alleged to be abused and/or neglected. Children who are interviewed at the Center also receive advocacy support and medical exam when needed. The mental health services at the Center are crucial for these children to heal. All services are free of charge to the families.

Not only will the children and their non-offending family members benefit from this program, but the community as whole will also benefit, as they work towards preventing abuse, holding offenders accountable, and assisting these children with healing from their trauma.