



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Friends of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Awarded \$1,250 from the Portage Health Foundation to Offer a Weekend Kid Ski Program***

[Hancock, MI] The Portage Health Foundation recently awarded \$1,250 to the Friends of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, who will offer a Kid Ski program this winter. The program will run on Saturday's from January through early March.

Friends of the Porkies applied for funding under the PHFoundation's outdoor recreation RFP. The grant funding was a result of the foundation's Spring Gala where a total amount of \$60,000 was raised. The foundation sought applications focused on programs and resources that promoted outdoor activities, particularly for youth and families. As a result, many worthwhile applications were submitted throughout the foundation's four-county service area.

The PHFoundation believes in providing recreational activities to the area's residents and visitors. Research has shown that physical activity can lead to better mental and physical health by reducing depression, relieving stress, and improving self-esteem. Additionally, there are the many economic and social benefits by engaging in recreational activities such as the creation of social bonds, livelier communities, and stewardship.

To encourage outdoor recreation, Friends of the Porkies, in collaboration with the Porcupine Mountains Alpine Ski Area, will be offering a downhill skiing program beginning in January and running through early March. Participants will be charged \$5, which will cover lift tickets, ski rentals, and lesson fees. The program will be available each Saturday for school-aged children (6-18) who are residents of Ontonagon County. According to Jim Waters, Vice President for Friends of the Porkies, "We are pleased to announce the resumption of the Porkies' Kid Ski program. With a generous grant from the Portage Health Foundation, the Friends of the Porkies in cooperation with the management of the Porcupine Mountains Alpine Ski Area will be able to offer a downhill skiing experience for any school-aged child." Representatives from the Kid Ski program will be visiting the Ontonagon and Ewen-Trout Creek Schools in October to further explain the program. For further information about the program, please contact Jim Waters at 906-884-4158 or the Porcupine Mountains Ski Area at 906-885-5209.

According to Kevin Store, Executive Director of the Portage Health Foundation, "The foundation is thrilled to be assisting the Friends of the Porkies and the Porcupine Mountains Alpine Ski Area in once again offering the Kid Ski program. We appreciate that these two groups recognize the importance of offering outdoor programming to area youth and giving these children the opportunity to experience a new activity – an activity they can potentially enjoy for a lifetime."

The Portage Health Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that receives and contributes charitable donations, which support the health needs of the community through enhanced philanthropy and community collaboration throughout Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon Counties.

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