



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHICAGO WILDERNESS AWARDED GRANT  
FOR BARRINTON LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE PROGRAM**

*Barrington KidFest Celebration Scheduled for May 4*

BARRINGTON, IL –**Chicago Wilderness** is proud to receive a grant award from the **Barrington Area Community Foundation (BACF)** to support popular Leave No Child Inside programs in the Greater Barrington and Lake Zurich Area. Each year, the Foundation awards funds to 20 charitable organizations that address unmet needs in the community.

The grant award of \$3,750 will support existing programs offered through a partnership of more than forty-five community leaders and organizations committed to promoting the physical, social, and emotional well-being of children by connecting them to nature through outdoor play and exploration.

“Chicago Wilderness is grateful for the continued support of the Barrington Area Community Foundation,” says Melinda Pruett-Jones, Executive Director, Chicago Wilderness. “Our members and partners in the Barrington and Lake Zurich area are highly successful in providing places and programs that encourage children and families get outside in nature, for their health, and to spend quality time together.”

On May 4, organizations in the Barrington and Lake Zurich area will host KidFest, a day-long celebration featuring nature-based activities for children and youth of all ages. KidFest will be held from 11 a.m. to 3p.m. in Citizens Park, 511 Lake Zurich Road (at Route 14) in Barrington.

Events such as KidFest advance the goals of the regional Leave No Child Inside initiative to encourage children to play outside and explore the natural world, in order to promote healthy childhood development and foster generations of people who will be the future stewards of local nature.

“We are very fortunate in the greater Barrington and Lake Zurich area to have so many local natural areas, as well as organizations focused on connecting children with nature,” said Sam Oliver, Staff Director at Citizens for Conservation. “Support from the Barrington Area Community Foundation will help us reach more children.”

In 2008, the Barrington Area Community Foundation helped to launch the Leave No Child Inside initiative of the Greater Barrington and Lake Zurich Area, by supporting the coordinated outreach efforts of staff and volunteers at the Vehe Farm Foundation, Citizens for Conservation, and other community institutions. The regional Leave No Child Inside initiative is also sponsored in part by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Chicago Wilderness and the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council.

“Whether it’s interacting with the natural world through simple outdoor play or learning about nature through child-friendly activities, we owe it to our children and the future of our environment to connect them together,” said Sam Oliver. “Children and nature growing healthier together is what the Leave No Child Inside initiative is all about.”

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### **Chicago Wilderness**

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. More than 260 public, private and corporate organizations work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. The four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness—to restore the health of local nature, protect green infrastructure, mitigate climate change, and leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region’s residents. For more information, visit [www.chicagowilderness.org](http://www.chicagowilderness.org).

### **Barrington Area Community Foundation**

The Barrington Area Community Foundation (BACF) was established 15 years ago to grant seed money to charitable organizations in the Barrington area for the purpose of initiating or expanding programs and projects that address unmet needs in our community. Each year, BACF plans to grant five percent of our assets based on a five-year rolling average. Since issuing the first grant in 2000 – and including the \$127,000 granted in 2012 – BACF has invested \$858,390 in the community. BACF addresses a wide range of unmet needs in our community in the areas of Human Services, Healthcare, Education, Art & Culture, Environment and Economic Development. For more information, visit [www.barringtonareacommunityfoundation.org](http://www.barringtonareacommunityfoundation.org).