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NEWS RELEASE

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Colorful Playground Just a Hop, Skip and a Jump Away

Town of Granite Falls awarded grant to update outdoor spaces and increase healthy activity

Granite Falls, N.C. – The Town of Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Department recently received a grant to transform a public area into an imaginative space for families to play and be active outdoors. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) and the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA) are supporting healthier communities by installing PlayPrints across the state.

PlayPrints are ground markings, or colorful shapes and games that are painted on existing pavement. The bright colors and interactive designs are meant to encourage visitors to take part in more physical activity. Community agencies across North Carolina were invited to apply.

“Receiving a PlayPrints grant at the Town of Granite Falls Recreation Center is a helpful step as we continue to grow healthy and active opportunities in our community”, said Chad Raby, Parks and Recreation Director. “Visitors to our Recreation Center will have new creative ways to engage with our public space and have fun participating in physical activity outdoors.”

The location for PlayPrints will be beside our playground facility at the Granite Falls Recreation Center on a newly resurfaced asphalt area. This location is currently not being used and was previously used as an outdoor basketball and volleyball court. PlayPrints will impact many of our 4,700 residents of Granite Falls, and also our surrounding communities. Since the Granite Falls Recreation Center will be the only facility in Caldwell County to have PlayPrints, it will open the door for new and innovated ways for all residents in our area to stay healthy and fit.

“We want to promote healthy habits at an early age and make it fun for North Carolinians to get outside and get active with their families,” said Kathy Higgins, vice president of corporate affairs at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. “PlayPrints are a simple way to take existing outdoor spaces in our communities and transform them into a center for healthy activity and imaginative play.”

Over the next two years, PlayPrints will be popping up at open play spaces as part of BCBSNC’s Get Outside North Carolina! (GO NC!) program. Go NC! builds healthy and active lifestyles through the advancement of greenway systems, increased access to public bicycles and the overall promotion of outdoor physical activity.

“Providing fun and creative avenues to engage our communities by adding PlayPrints to our parks and greenways is an exciting way to encourage citizens of all ages to have a little fun while increasing physical activity,” said Michelle Wells, executive director at NCRPA.

For a complete list of PlayPrints recipients and to follow progress as PlayPrints are installed throughout the state visit www.NCRPA.net/PlayPrints or follow @NCRPA @BCBSNC or #PlayPrints on Twitter and Facebook.

About Granite Falls Parks and Recreation:

The Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Department is a department of the Town of Granite Falls, North Carolina, which is the only full service municipality in Caldwell County. Granite Falls Parks and Recreation provides recreation activities for all ages from youth sports leagues to adult exercise classes. The Parks Recreation Department includes three facilities that include multipurpose sports fields, tennis courts, beach volleyball, gymnasium, men’s and women’s fitness rooms, public swimming pool, picnic facilities, playground facilities, and a 76 acre nature park. Our goal is to provide “top notch” recreation opportunities with a strong commitment towards personalized service and individual attention for those seeking to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina improves the health and well-being of our customers and communities by providing innovative health care products, services and information to more than 3.91 million members, including approximately 1 million served on behalf of other Blue Plans. Since 1933, we have worked to make North Carolina a better place to live through our support of community organizations, programs and events that promote good health. We have been recognized as one of the World’s Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere Institute every year since 2012. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Visit BCBSNC online at bcbsnc.com. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

About the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association:

Founded in 1944, the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association (NCRPA) is the premier nonprofit education and advocacy organization, dedicated to the advancement of the park, recreation and leisure professions in our state. NCRPA empowers park and recreation professionals and citizen board members through educational opportunities that enhance their ability to change lives and impact communities on a daily basis for the citizens of North Carolina. For an overview of the programs and services offered by the organization, visit www.ncrpa.net.

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