



The Betsie Valley Community Center

PROGRESS REPORT -NOVEMBER 2019

The Betsie Valley Community Center is planned as a **regional Community Center** to serve all residents living in northern Manistee and southern Benzie Counties. The Center will offer several critical services currently not readily available to residents of this region. It will be constructed at the intersection of County Roads 669 and 115 on land owned by the Benzie Central Schools and adjacent to Betsie Valley Elementary School.

Leading the charge to bring services **closer** to home are: a seven-member Board of Directors, Building and Finance Committees, and both local and regional personnel with expertise in these areas: Early Childhood, Vital Services, Education and Recreation. **Please see who is involved on the reverse side!** A Planning Team meets monthly following Board meetings to hear from families, businesses, resource agencies, government officials and funders. A consultant works with all aspects of the project to move efforts along and coordinate the next developmental steps.

Before the **BIG TASKS** of fundraising for and building an actual facility, the Board has determined it's time to deliver some services. Our communities are ready for action and here is our status:

- **Broadband internet:** Affordable broadband internet is a basic necessity for a sustainable Community Center and a thriving community. In May 2019, we celebrated the installation of fiber optic cable, bringing broadband to Betsie Valley Elementary. Efforts continue to address start-up problems with this system. Also, we participate in the Benzie County Economic Development Broadband Subcommittee to bring increased connectivity to residential areas.
- **Mobile Dental Van Services:** We are purchasing a commercial van to be equipped to provide a number of outreach dental services. We are working on a partnership with Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc. (NMHSI) for a dental hygienist to travel to schools, events, WIC clinics, and a number of network points in our region. Services will include dental cleanings and screenings, fluoride, sealants and more - as well as referrals to NMHSI for more extensive dental and other services.
- **Recreation:** Monthly family activities will be offered during the dark months of January - March to include dinner, games, volleyball and more. Also, special programs will be offered during the 2020 Spring Break.
- **Child care:** We continue to survey area families on their projected need and interest in licensed child care (for ages birth - 5yrs). Our recent survey is tracking considerable interest in a summer day camp program for school aged children. Stay tuned!

We have a **Speakers Bureau** ready to meet with community groups to provide information on the Community Center – and to get your input! Please contact any of the Board members listed on reverse side and arrangements will be made. In addition, **on the 4th Tuesday of each month the full Planning Team meets at 6:00 PM in the Betsie Valley Elementary School Library.** (Note: November and December meetings will be on the 3rd Tuesday due to holidays.) We welcome new members, visitors and all inquiries!

Please now read the reverse side!

The Betsie Valley Community Center

17936 Cadillac Hwy, Thompsonville, MI 49683

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Martie Manty, Consultant – **231-342-9934**

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Kendra McIntyre, Benzie Central Schools Early Childhood Consultant
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