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September 8, 2016

## Carolina Raptor Center Partners With Gratitude Training And Wild Child Workshop To Build Nature Playground



Huntersville, NC: Carolina Raptor Center was the recipient of a community service project from Gratitude Training of Mooresville during Labor Day weekend. Over 25 volunteers worked Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 2-4 to build a Nature Playground (especially for kids 3-8) designed by Brevard's Wild Child Workshop.

"We are thrilled to be able to connect our smallest visitors to nature through creative nature play," said Associate Executive Director Michele Miller Houck. "We have been 'dreaming of fairies' for some time now, and our friends at Gratitude Training have made it a reality."

An entry sculpture and natural chalkboard encourages kids to "Come and Play" in raptor themed active and imagination play areas. Kids can learn to fly on the stump hop, walk like a vulture on the balance beams, and soar up and down on dueling tetter-totters. Nesting pairs can help build an eagle-sized nest with materials found on site, and budding engineers can dig in the dirt or stack tree cookies into

structures of their own design. The playground's centerpiece is an eight-foot fairy house with adjacent fairy condos all connected with a tree cookie walkway.

The playground will be dedicated on Saturday, September 17 during Carolina Raptor Center's annual Friends and Family event for donors, volunteers and friends of the organization.

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Gratitude Training is a leadership and personal growth curriculum with a training center in Mooresville, NC. For more information, visit their website at [www.gritudetraining.com](http://www.gritudetraining.com).

Carolina Raptor Center is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of raptors. Our ¾ mile Raptor Trail connects with 40,000 visitors a year and houses over 30 species of raptors including eagles, hawks, osprey, harriers, kites, owls, falcons, vultures, and corvids. The education team provides curriculum based programming to 27,000 kids a year on-site or in their classrooms. The Jim Arthur Raptor Medical Center treats an average of 900 birds a year releasing over 70 percent of those that live through the first 24 hours into the wild. For more information, visit their website at [www.carolinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org).

Wild Child Workshop, located in Brevard, NC, delivers nature to your organization. They create wood products for outdoor learning environments, playgrounds, nature play areas, museums, child care centers, and parks. Their products are 100% natural, made from locust wood, and guaranteed to bring out the wild in your child. For more information, visit their website at [www.wildchildworkshop.com](http://www.wildchildworkshop.com).