

Friday, September 7, 2001

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## Rochester girl's 'Rainbow Kastle' is a wish come true

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ROCHESTER — It began with 4-year-old Kylene DeSmith's crayon drawing and ended with what can only be called a dream come true.

Kylene recently had her dream of having her own playground called the Rainbow Kastle become a reality thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Learning Structures.

Twenty volunteers worked eight-hour shifts Aug. 30-31 to build the Rainbow Kastle, with many people working both days, according to Learning Structures Vice President Kelli Magowan.

The enormous playground is in the DeSmiths' back yard in a space approximately 55 feet by 34 feet.

The Rainbow Kastle is fully equipped with a firefighters pole, a tire swing, and bright yellow spiral and wavy slides. The front facade was painted by Kathy Jackson of Learning Structures to resemble a stone castle wall with a rainbow arch connecting two towers and covering a wobbly bridge. In the back are pictures of cats and dogs on a lawn drawn by Kylene's aunt and painted by Kylene and her two siblings.

Kylene had a tumor on her kidney, and is doing well after both the tumor and kidney were removed in November, according to her mother, Patty DeSmith.

DeSmith said they were approached by their doctor concerning the Make-A-Wish Foundation because Kylene was eligible for the program due to her illness. Nancy Mason, Kylene's wish granter, met with her July 30 and asked her to draw a picture of her wish.

Mason then contacted Learning Structures Inc., a Somersworth-based developer of community playgrounds which then designed the Rainbow Kastle and sponsored its construction. The design took approximately 100 hours, Magowan said.

Seven people from the company also worked on the two-day project from approximately 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DeSmith said that in the original plan Learning Structures was mainly going to build a swing set, but the project grew. DeSmith added that she had not known about the castle facade until seeing it last week.

"We just couldn't stop. It was just too much fun," Magowan said, smiling.

"It's enjoyable just to watch kids and help kids. It's just really great to see them smile and laugh," Mason said.

"I think it's really big," said Kylene's 10-year-old brother, Casey, referring to the playground. Kylene's sister, 7-year-old Kirin, said her favorite part of the playground is the "twirly" slide.

"They've been excited and waiting all day to get on this," Mason said.

"We're just overwhelmed by the outpouring of love by all these people we've never met," DeSmith said, who added that the family expressed their heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteered.

"We have just felt so honored," Magowan said. "What this is, is a celebration of life for her."

As 4 p.m. and the end of the construction drew near, Kylee and her siblings were joined by friends who crawled, climbed, swung and slid, giving their own nonverbal signs of approval.

The following companies volunteered their time or provided low-cost or free materials: Middleton Lumber, the McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton Professional Association, Calypso Communications, Outdoor World, Fastenal Co., Davis and Towle, Color Codings and Superior International Industries of Georgia. Food was donated to the volunteers by Moe's Italian Sandwiches of Dover, Dunkin' Donuts and Wooden Nichols Restaurant. Blue Dolphin also donated shirts to the volunteers working on the playground.