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KidsPeace Receives \$5,000 Playground Grant from Flutie Foundation

ELLSWORTH, ME (February 19, 2019) - KidsPeace announced it has received a \$5,000 grant from the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism for playground improvements at its Graham Lake Campus in Ellsworth, Maine.

KidsPeace New England has redesigned the Graham Lake playground facilities to include apparatus and activities which respond to the sensory needs of youth on the autism spectrum and with developmental disabilities. Open-air recreation and therapeutic play opportunities are proven to enhance therapeutic treatment and improve sensory and social responses to various situations and stimuli.

The Flutie Foundation gift will allow KidsPeace to add a wide variety of playground equipment pieces so that youth in its programs at Graham Lake can benefit even more from the opportunity to play and interact with each other on the playground.

“It’s been said that play is the work of children, and having the opportunity to play in a safe and enriching environment is even more important for kids like those in our programs,” said Ken Olson, executive director of KidsPeace New England. “Thanks to the generosity of the Flutie Foundation, we will be able to enhance that experience for all our kids going forward.”

“The Flutie Foundation Signature Grants help our partner agencies address a variety of significant needs in the autism community,” said Nick Savarese, executive director of the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism. “Programs like those at KidsPeace are helping people on the autism spectrum live life to the fullest, and we are proud to support their efforts.”

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, based in Framingham, MA, awards grants annually through a competitive application and review process. The Signature Grants that the Flutie Foundation distributes each year help to support family-focused programs in three key areas: promoting active lifestyles, improving access to services, and enhancing the independence of adults with autism.

About KidsPeace

Since 1882, KidsPeace has been building on its expertise to give hope, help and healing to children, adults and those who love them. Through its comprehensive range of residential treatment programs; accredited educational services; unique psychiatric hospital and foster care and community-based programs, KidsPeace is dedicated to helping people connect, transform and overcome their challenges to ensure a stable future, transition to adulthood and gain independence. Since its doors opened, more than 200,000 children have participated in one of the multitude of programs KidsPeace offers. For additional resources or more information on how to get involved, become a foster parent or make a donation, please visit www.kidspeace.org. Follow us at www.facebook.com/kidspeace.org or on Twitter @KidsPeace.

About The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism (DFJFA) is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) public benefit corporation helping families affected by autism live life to the fullest. Through programs and partnerships, DFJFA helps people with autism get access to care; lead more active lifestyles; and grow toward adult independence. NFL Quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife Laurie, whose personal experience raising a son on the autism spectrum inspired their passion to help other families, established the Foundation in 1998. DFJFA primarily serves families throughout New England, New York, New Jersey and Central Florida. For more information on the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, visit www.flutiefoundation.org.

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