



New playground gives children of migrant workers in Belding a place to play

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By **Sue Thoms | The Grand Rapids Press**

BELDING -- About 30 AmeriCorps members showed up at a migrant workers' camp Tuesday with fun and games on their minds: They **built a playground for the children whose parents work the fields.**

In a few hours, the AmeriCorps workers from Cherry Street Health Services assembled a play structure at Wittenbach Orchards in Belding. The goal of the playground is to encourage the children to stay active and to combat obesity in a high-risk group, said officials at Cherry Street officials, which provides affordable health care at clinics throughout the Grand Rapids area.



Jon Brouwer | The Grand Rapids Press

AmeriCorps workers build a play area for the children of migrant workers at Wittenbach Orchards in Belding.

At least 18 families live at the migrant workers' camp and, in fall 2009, 38 children lived there, officials said.

The playground was to be dedicated at 3 p.m. today in a ceremony involving the AmeriCorps workers, farm owners and community leaders.

E-mail Sue Thoms: sthoms@grpress.com

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