



News Release

Administrative Offices

P.O. Box 2, 630 Route 217

Mellenville, NY 12544

Ph: 518-672-4451 Fax: 518-672-0187

Contact: Donna Barrett

Coordinator of Public Relations

518-672-4451 ext. 3403

donnab@coarc.org

For Immediate Release

March 31, 2011

Playground Progress at Coarc

Mellenville, NY: The Starting Place is a giant step closer to replacing its playground equipment. This Coarc program is a preschool, prekindergarten and day care center in Hudson serving three- to five-year-old children. Current playground safety and performance standards call for updating the center's outdoor play equipment, an important component of the children's physical activities for gross motor skills and social development.

Christine Kirch, Director of Children's Services, said, "We are working very hard to achieve our goal to replace structures on both our large and small playgrounds. With the help of a grant from the Columbia County Department of Social Services, we have been able to purchase one new structure. We are so thankful for this donation as our playgrounds are in much need of updating."

The Columbia County Department of Social Services awarded \$10,000 of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment stimulus funds to The Starting Place for improving the quality of program services at the center. These funds were applied toward the cost of the new equipment. Stewart's Holiday Match contributed \$500 towards the playground update. Community support through Coarc's annual Polar Plunge raised funds for this project, in addition to funds for other Coarc programs. The Starting Place also received support from the Hudson Elks Lodge 787, which donated \$300 for an augmentative alternative communication text-to-speech instrument.

Coarc is a Columbia County, NY, nonprofit organization serving 500 individuals. Its mission is to expand abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their individual goals. In addition to children's services, Coarc provides residential and living alternatives, day activity programs, service coordination, legal and family support services, community habilitation, respite services, recreation opportunities, traumatic brain injury services, vocational and employment services and contract manufacturing. Coarc is supported through state and federal funding, and by individual and corporate members, donors and foundations. It is a chapter of NYSARC, Inc. More information is available at www.coarc.org or 518-672-4451.

####

(see photo next page)



(L to R) Jesse Merrill and Mallory Herber enjoyed a soft landing on February snow while playing at The Starting Place, Coarc's preschool, prekindergarten and day care center in Hudson. The center's playground equipment is scheduled for replacement.