



## MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Silver City, MI] A blue sky, sparkling snow and mild temperatures provided a brilliant setting this past Monday at the Porcupine Mountains Ski Area as representatives of the Portage Health Foundation presented the Friends of the Porkies with a check in the amount of \$2500. This cash award will be used to support the Winter Park Recreation Program with its Saturday night lantern-lit interpretive cross country ski outings as well as the Kurt Blake Helmet Fund in its efforts to provide area youth with low cost ski helmets.

"The Portage Health Foundation is honored to support programs for youth that encourage safe outdoor recreation and physical activities." said Kevin Store, Executive Director of the Portage Health Foundation. "The programs offered by Friends of the Porkies, such as the Kurt Blake Helmet fund and the Winter Park Recreation program are excellent examples of community involvement and use of our natural resources to create a healthier community."

The Kurt Blake Helmet Fund was established in the spring of 2008 to honor the memory of local skier Kurt Blake. Kurt struck his head in a skiing accident and died several days later of a closed head injury. Since that time the Kurt Blake Helmet Fund has helped put helmets on the heads of over 100 area youth skiers. ***The Kurt Blake Helmet fund will assist any Ontonagon County youth, up to age 18 years, in the purchase of a new ski helmet by covering 50% of the cost up to \$50. Contact Jim Waters at the Friends of the Porkies or the Porcupine Mountains Ski Shop for more details.***

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Portage Health Foundation for this generous award and looks forward to working with PHF on future projects to enhance recreational opportunities and the health of our residents." said Jim Waters, representative of Friends of the Porkies.

The Portage Health Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that receives and contributes charitable donations which support the health needs of the community through enhanced philanthropy and community collaboration throughout Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties.