

Bikes Belong Supports Friends of Granger Paths

By Christine Parkhurst

The Bikes Belong Coalition presented Friends of Granger Paths (FGP) with a check for \$10,000 at North Point Elementary School on Tuesday, Feb. 15. Bikes Belong spokesperson, Zoe Kircos, commented, "Bikes Belong is an enthusiastic supporter of Friends of Granger Paths. This is a fantastic initiative and we are happy to be part of it." Kircos said the project will allow families and children to bike and walk safely to adjoining neighborhoods, schools, churches and the library via multi-use paths.

Children are the Reason

Barbara Fredman, President of Granger Paths, accepted the check along with children from Northpoint Elementary and from local home schools. Fredman explained the goals of FGP and gave a progress report on the Adams Road project.

"The bottom line is we want Granger to be a safe place for fam-

ilies to raise their children and for families to be able to connect without having to jump in the mini-van. We have a wonderful library and neighborhoods that can be easily accessed by connecting them with multi-use paths," she said.

Fredman went on to explain that multi-use paths have shown to increase the value of homes that are connected via multi-use paths.

"Studies have shown that multi-use paths make sense for community building and for building the value of neighborhoods, something we all agree is important in these challenging economic times. We are very thankful for Bikes Belong Coalition and their support, which will put us another step closer to reaching our goal," she said.

The grant will go towards the Friends of Granger Paths capital campaign to raise \$150,000 to qualify for a matching grant from the Federal Highway Administration

that will bring an additional \$571,000 to the local economy to construct the first phase of the paths. Bikes Belongs' contribution brings the total funds raised to \$100,000.

The Friends of Granger Paths is a 501(c) 3 non-profit association formed to advocate for multi-use paths throughout Granger and the broader St. Joseph County. Additional information about the program can be found at www.grangerpaths.org.



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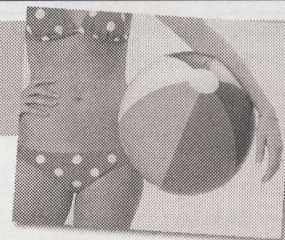
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