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Six Hawkesville children rebuild community park as part of TVO show, Giver

Joel Wittnebel
Independent Staff

A group of six children wouldn't be the first choice for many people if they were looking for help in building a community park, especially if they only had three days to do so, but a new TVO show is doing just that.

A group of six young Hawkesville citizens were chosen to help redesign and build the community playground at the Hawkesville community center.

The show, Giver, a partnership between TVO, Ontario Parks and Sinking Ship Entertainment is traveling across the province to 13 different communities for the 13-part live-action series and recruiting kids to help rebuild their decaying playgrounds over a three-day span.

For Hawkesville, the show transformed their old, rarely used addition to the community center, into a vibrant playground that is used daily by the community.

"From what we had, to what we have now, there's no comparison, it's just completely different, and safe," said Brad Voisin, Director of Facilities for the Township of Wellesley, who received the call from the show's producers.

According to Voisin, he sees the equipment being used everyday as he passes by on his way to work.

"It's made this building into more of a community center," he said.

The stars of the Hawkesville episode include: Cole Martin, 8, Kyle Kraemer, 9, Ben Ruppert, 11, Brooke Bauer, 8, Marissa Ruppert, 14, and Safaye Borutskie, 11.

Along with the joys of being on television, the group found it exciting to be able to use power tools and contribute to something the other kids in their community could use.

"It made our playground larger so that kids can come out more and have something to do," said Marissa Ruppert.

Brooke Bauer, one of the youngest of the group, won't soon forget the list of things she accomplished while on the show.

"I put a swing set together, and I planted a garden," she said stating the new park was a large improvement from the "boring" one that was there previously.

"It was very fun, and my community got together and helped each other out," said Cole Martin. "I got to build the



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Top down, left to right: Kyle Kraemer, 9, Safaye Borutskie, 11, Cole Martin, 8, Marissa Ruppert, 14, Brooke Bauer, 8, and Ben Ruppert were recruited by TVO to help rebuild their Hawkesville community park

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pyramid walls and put all the things on where you can climb up and it was very fun."

The parents of those on the show couldn't be happier for the experience their children received, as well, they are grateful for what the show has done for their community.

"They're just great people trying to better people's lives," said Natascha Martin, Cole's mother, of the show's producers.

The show is currently airing on the TVO network, and is also available for viewing [online](#).

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