

**B-H-K Child Development Board  
700 Park Avenue  
Houghton, Michigan 49931**

Serving Children & Families  
through:  
Head Start/Preschool,  
Early Start,  
Child Care,  
Even Start,  
AmeriCorps, and  
Other Family Services

TELEPHONE (906) 482-3663  
800-236-5657  
FAX# (906) 482-7FAX  
e-mail: bhk@up.net  
WEB PAGE: bhkresources.org

Gale Eilola  
*Board Chairperson*  
Jim Waara  
*Council Chairperson*  
Rod Liimatainen  
*Director*

To: The Daily Mining Gazette, L'Anse Sentinel, MTU Lode,  
WCCY/WOLV, WCUP, WGGL-FM, WMPL/WZRK, WUPY,  
WBUP-TV5, WLUC-TV6, WMTU, WNMU  
From: B-H-K Child Development Board  
Contact: Lisa McKenzie or Maj-Ra Kangas-Norsen, 482-3299  
Date: March 7, 2002



**Print media editors: Photos and cutlines will be emailed.  
Thanks.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Hancock toy store donates train set to B-H-K's Ryan Center**

**'The kids are really looking forward to it,' teacher says**

HANCOCK – Trains will be on the minds and in the hands of Hancock preschoolers in the coming days, thanks to a generous gift from a Hancock toy store.

Gizmos, Gadgets & Toys Galore, which sells toys for all ages, has donated an \$800 train set to B-H-K Child Development Board's Ryan Center. Ninety area children take part in preschool, child care and Head Start programs at the center.

Manufactured by Learning Curve as part of the Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends product line, the set includes a sturdy play table and play board with a circular wooden track, a roundhouse, several cars and people. The set is valued at \$800.

Lisa McKenzie and Maj-Ra Kangas-Norsen, co-owners of the store, earned the set from their distributor after selling large quantities of the Thomas the Tank Engine products, a popular line that has been featured on a PBS television series.

Instead of selling the train set, however, McKenzie and Kangas-Norsen decided to donate it to the community as a way of saying thanks for supporting their business, which opened in late July.

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“The community has been so supportive, so we thought we’d give something back,” said Kangas-Norsen, who also serves as store manager.

Added McKenzie: “We could sell it, we could have a contest – but we thought the best thing to do was to give it back to the community.”

B-H-K Executive Director Rod Liimatainen said B-H-K is excited about the gift.

“This generous gift will provide children with another exciting learning opportunity – it’s a high-quality, durable play station,” he said.

Debbie Bean, a preschool-childcare teacher at the Ryan Center, said children in her classroom already have been buzzing about the arrival of the train.

“It’ll probably be the talk of the center for a while,” she said. “The kids are really looking forward to it.”

Prior to serving as a B-H-K center, the former Ryan School was home to Hancock Elementary School. Hancock School District donated the building, which was built in 1897, to B-H-K in 1989.

Gizmos, Gadgets & Toys Galore is located at 127 W. Quincy St. in Hancock. For more information about its offerings, call 482-3299.

For more information about B-H-K programs, call 482-3663 or 1-800-236-5657.