

ArcelorMittal funding helps grow Mighty Acorns in NWI

TIMES STAFF

CHESTERTON | A grant by ArcelorMittal has the potential to change lives and landscapes across the region.

The grant award to the Northwest Indiana Mighty Acorns Partnership, as well as a three-year commitment to sustain that level of support, is an example of how partnerships can benefit communities.

"This partnership unites two critical focus areas for ArcelorMittal – education and environmental awareness and improvement," said Bill Steers, president of the ArcelorMittal USA Foundation. "The notion that we are helping to instill the value of sustainability in the youngest minds of our neighbors drives our mission of transforming tomorrow. We have proudly served as Mighty Acorns partners since 2009 and look forward to enhancing the collaboration and impact."

Created around the idea of connecting urban youth with nature, Mighty Acorns is a conservation education program that engages third- through sixth-grade students and teachers through classroom lessons in environmental science and hands-on stewardship activities that are as beneficial to the natural landscape as they are to the students themselves.

"We are using natural areas to instill science and experiential learning into the educational process," Kris Krouse, executive director of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust said. "At the same time, students are gaining the knowledge to value and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured are Mighty Acorns at Imagination Glen in Portage.

protect the unique biodiversity in this region."

"This is an invaluable program for students and educators in our communities. Thanks to unprecedented and sustained

support from ArcelorMittal, this program can continue to grow and reap benefits across the region," said Geof Benson, Dunes Learning Center's executive director.