

Teddy & Friends Inclusive Playground

at QUEENY PARK in ST. LOUIS, MO

A UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND PROJECT



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Where **limitations** are forgotten,
and **differences** are celebrated





Why do Playgrounds Matter?

Play is a critical part of the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of every child. Unfortunately, the vast majority of playgrounds deny children with disabilities and critical illnesses the opportunity for exercise, entertainment, and social interactions that other children enjoy. In fact, only a small percentage of fully accessible playgrounds exist within our nation and these are insufficient to serve 43 million Americans with disabilities.

An **Inclusive Playground** is specifically designed to remove physical and social barriers so ALL children, with and without disabilities and/or critical illnesses, can play side by side with their peers and families.

To be located in St. Louis, MO, Teddy and Friends Inclusive Playground will be an Unlimited Play playground honoring Teddy Gooch — it will be a place where limitations will be forgotten and differences are celebrated!



The Vision

Theodore (known as Teddy) Gooch was born on January 4, 2016. Before Teddy was born, his parents (Erin & Craig) were told there was a chance he would be born with a form of Dwarfism, called Achondroplasia. Shortly after birth, it was confirmed Teddy did in

fact have Achondroplasia. Living with Dwarfism, Teddy has had his share of medical complications, physical, motor and speech delays. Erin & Teddy quickly noticed after attending numerous play dates at local playgrounds, that he could not participate with his peers like he wanted to. This often led to many tears from both mom and son. After visiting a playground designed by Unlimited Play and Little Tikes Commercial, Teddy and mom left the playground for the first time ever with happy tears. “Mom this was the best day ever. I got to play with my friends without any help from you.” From that day on, Erin knew she wanted a similar playground to be built closer to home.

“I have been thrilled to meet so many moms and dads that all have different, but yet similar, obstacles with their kids. We all want what is best for ALL kids. Building an inclusive playground should be a norm. It needs to be our future. I am so grateful I get to be part of this journey with these new moms I met.”

“If we build it, they will ALL come”

Many local families of kids with disabilities have come together to form a committee for Teddy & Friends Inclusive Playground. They have stories just as powerful as Teddy's, and this playground will be life changing for them as well. Some of these families include the Stacy's, Gilliam's, and Schwetye's



The Stacy Family

Stella was born with a congenital heart defect (CHD) that required open heart surgery when she was 2 days old, 4 months old and 3 years old. She was feeding tube dependent for the first 16 months of her life, and experienced a lot of physical developmental delays due to all the time she spent inpatient as a small child.

Did you know that there are currently 1 million children in the United States living with congenital heart disease? Or that 1 in every 100 babies are born with a CHD, and 25% will need open heart surgery or other procedures in their first year of life? Our story is not uncommon, as CHD is the most common birth defect in the world. But despite its prevalence, there is very little awareness around pediatric heart disease.

Stella has twin siblings who are 20 months older than her, so caring for 3 kids under that age of 2 was instantly a struggle. Play dates at the park were almost impossible because I was constantly worried one of the twins would run away or fall off a slide, I was worried about germs, and I had a child who was medically fragile, on a blood thinner, and who required a lot of equipment to leave the house.

I love the idea of a playground that is safe for all children, no matter their age or ability. Where a mom can find a quiet place to feed their tube dependent child, and educate other children about what makes some kids unique. CHD is a lifelong, chronic illness with no cure, and despite looking “healthy”, Stella will always have limitations to how physically active she can be. We cannot wait to tell all the area heart families about the inclusive playground where friends come together to learn and PLAY.



The Gilliam Family

Charlie is our sweet, curly haired, 3-year-old boy. He was born with Koolen de Vries Syndrome, an extremely rare genetic syndrome that affects 1 in 30,000 people. To put that into perspective, there are only 5 known cases in the St. Louis Metro area.

Koolen de Vries Syndrome (KdVS) most commonly presents with developmental delay, moderate intellectual disability, low muscle tone, and epilepsy.

For Charlie, this means he uses a wheelchair, has a feeding tube, and is non-verbal. He frequently has seizures and requires hospitalization for normal childhood illnesses. Kids with KdVS are affectionately referred to as “Kool Kids” and Charlie is most definitely that! He loves nothing more than being outside with friends and family. Having an inclusive playground nearby will mean that Charlie can enjoy just being a kid and finally be able to be in the center of the action.



His parents won't have to worry about how his equipment will interfere with or limit play. His brothers will have a place to play side by side with Charlie and meet other siblings of special kids.

Every child should have a place to play. Inclusion should be the norm. Wouldn't that just be the coolest?

The Schwetye Family

Owen Schwetye was born in August of 2016. He was the perfect new addition to our family, making us a family of four. His older brother Hank is just 16 months older than him. Owen was a typical, thriving baby until things slowly started to change. It was like the lights turned off for him between 12 and 18 months.

On February 22, 2018, he was diagnosed with autism level 1. This came with many obstacles. He began an intensive program at 21 months old. While Owen has made leaps and bounds, going from nonverbal to speaking at the end of his fourth year. Owen faces obstacles including, physical sensory issues, speech delays, and behavioral struggles.

Bringing Owen to the playgrounds around town has always been a bit of a struggle because I always feel like I must explain to other kids and parents about his behavior, lack of communication skills, or something as simple as not being able to wait in line without a melt down occurring. Not only was it hard for Owen but it was hard for his brother who always had to deal with us leaving early because Owen and mom couldn't handle it.

After meeting Erin Gooch this past year and hearing all about Unlimited Play, I was thrilled. This is an opportunity to work with other families with kids with all sorts of special needs to help create a fully inclusive playground. Having a playground and atmosphere for ALL kids is incredible. Our family feels so lucky to be part of this process and journey to bring an all-inclusive playground to St. Louis's Queeny Park.



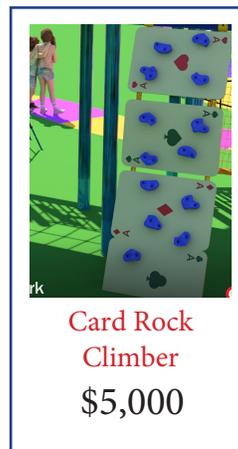


YOUR COMMUNITY'S Unlimited Play Playground

- Safe, smooth, spongy surfacing
- Ramps from bottom to top
- Transfer stations throughout
- Specialized seating and handholds
- Slanted/graduated climbing elements
- High back swings
- Roller and molded slides
- Musical elements
- Parallel play
- Lots of shade
- Fun, educational play panels
- Saucer swings

Join us in the efforts to build this universally accessible playground.

Your generous support will enable children and caregivers of ALL abilities the opportunity to experience the joys and benefits of play. This destination playground will truly impact ten thousand people each year.





Candy Cane House
\$18,000



Double Quantum Slide
\$18,000



Teeter Totter
\$15,000



Climber
\$15,000



Rocker
\$12,000



Slide 5-12 Section
\$10,000



Spinner Seat
\$5,000



Spinner Top
\$5,000



Big Dice
\$1,500



“PLAYGROUNDS
MAKE ME FEEL
POWERFUL.”

Brendan, Age 10



Who is Unlimited Play?

Unlimited Play is an award winning nonprofit organization that builds universally inclusive playgrounds to promote health and wellness and change communities by providing freedom of play for ALL children. The transformational power of an inclusive playground brings kids and adults of all abilities together to play and learn from each other.

Unlimited Play is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that helps to plan, design and build fully accessible playgrounds. Unlimited Play playgrounds allow all children – regardless of their abilities – to play together. A valuable resource in our community, Unlimited Play has unique expertise in this area and is available to assist in the development of inclusive playgrounds that promote dignity, understanding and respect among children. In 2016 Little Tikes Commercial and Unlimited Play announced a partnership to help provide the magic of outdoor play to children of all abilities.

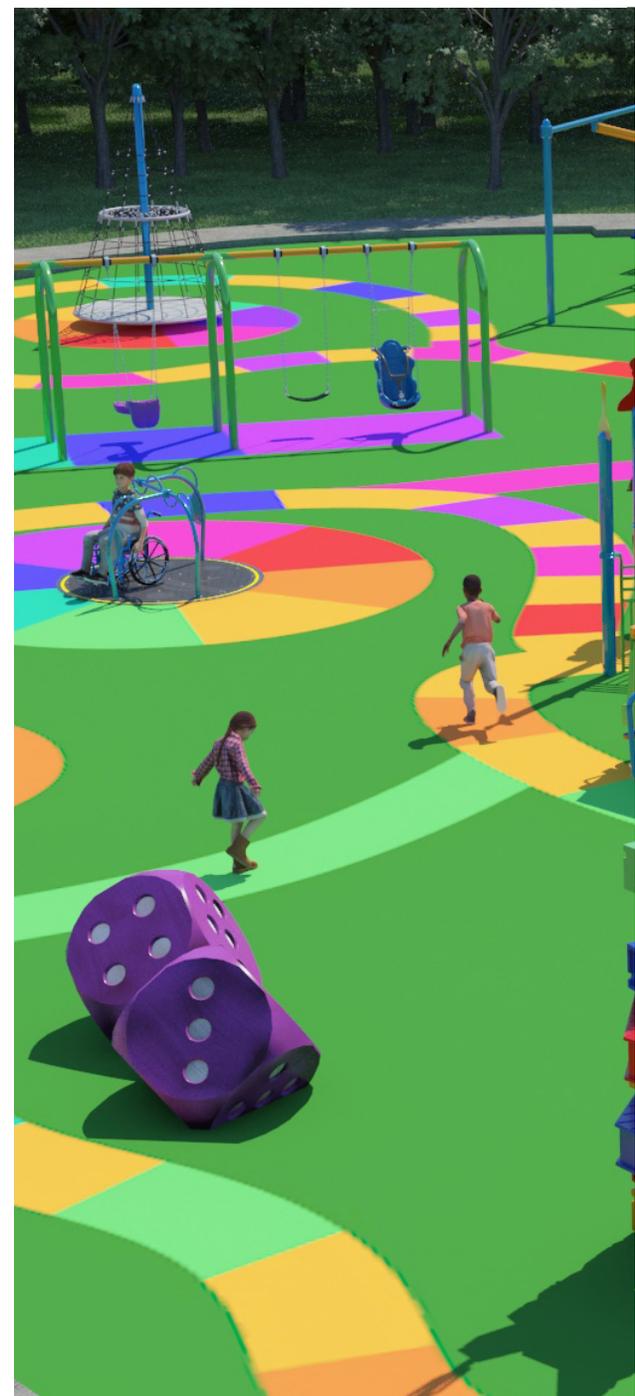


New Partners in Inclusive Play

From individuals making donations, businesses sponsoring playground equipment, corporations contributing grants, and volunteers offering gifts of time, we welcome your involvement.

Here's How You Can Help

- Make a monetary donation using the form on the back of this booklet.
- Donate your time to a fundraising event or Community Build Day. Complete and mail the contact information on the back of this booklet to be contacted about upcoming volunteer opportunities.
- Donate goods/services such as concrete, fencing, shrubs, etc. Complete and mail the contact information on the back of this booklet, noting what goods/services you would like to donate.

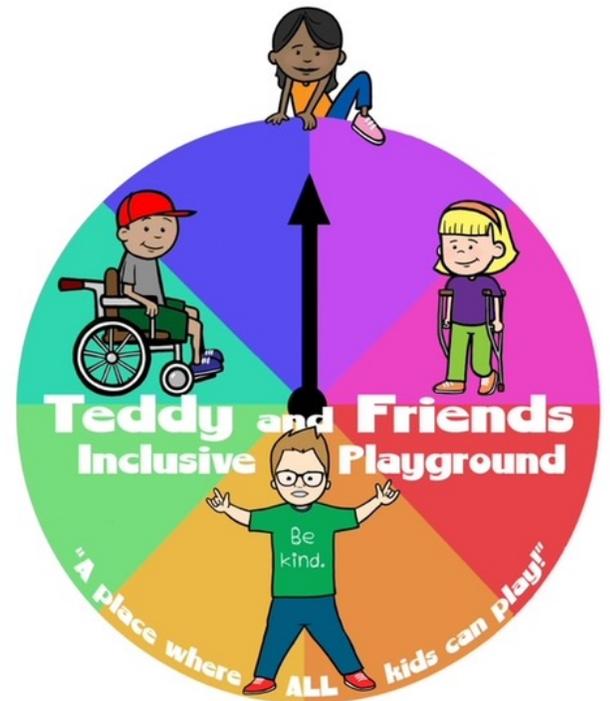


TOGETHER
WE CAN CREATE
YOUR DESTINATION
PLAYGROUND



Playground Builders

TITLE SPONSOR	\$100,000+
ADVOCATE	\$75,000 - \$99,999
ADAPT	\$50,000 - \$74,999
INCLUSION	\$25,000 - \$49,999
EQUALITY	\$15,000 - \$24,999
AWARENESS	\$5,000 - \$14,999
ACCEPTANCE	\$1,000 - \$4,999
COMMUNITY	\$1 - \$999



Step 1: Complete Donor/Volunteer Information: (please print)

Name: _____

Company/Organization (if applies): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

If you are only wanting to be contacted about volunteer opportunities such as community work days, leave the next sections blank.

Step 2: Choose Your Donation

☐ Sponsorship level

Be a playground builder by sponsoring Teddy & Friends Playground! Choose a sponsorship level from below and write a specific amount within your chosen range on the line.

- Title Sponsor: \$100,000 + Inclusion : \$25,000 - \$49,999 Acceptance: \$1,000 - \$4,999
- Advocate: \$75,000 - \$99,999 Equality: \$15,000 - \$24,999 Community: \$1 - \$999
- Adapt: \$50,000 - \$74,999 Awareness: \$5,000 - \$14,999

SPECIFIC AMOUNT: _____

☐ Equipment Sponsorship

Please note that item quantities are limited and may no longer be available. Unlimited Play will confirm sponsorship upon receipt of both this application and the gift amount. Equipment may not be identical to photos in this catalog (color variance, etc.) Sign size and color may vary and be placed either on or near the piece of equipment in compliance with safety standards.

Unlimited Play reserves the right to reject sponsorships.

Unlimited Play is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which makes your donation tax deductible

SELECT EQUIPMENT ITEM FROM THIS CATALOG: _____

Step 3: Payment

PAYMENT METHOD Credit Card Check Pay Online at www.unlimitedplay.org

Name on Credit Card: _____

Amount to Charge to Card: _____ Credit Card No.: _____

Security Code: _____ Credit Card Type: _____ Expiration Date: _____

*Please make checks payable to:
Unlimited Play, 5988 Mid Rivers Mall Dr., St. Peters, MO 63304
Please write Teddy & Friends Inclusive Playground on memo line*

**Any questions, please contact: (636) 757-3978
E-mail: natalie@unlimitedplay.org • www.unlimitedplay.org**

