

Press Release : for immediate release
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Kiwanis Donates \$10,000 to “Darrell’s Dream” Boundless Playground

At the May 19 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Kingsport, President Dan Coughlin presented a check for \$10,000 to Betty DeVinney, Chair for the “Darrell’s Dream” Tri-Cities, TN/VA Warrior’s Path State Park Boundless Playground project. The money will be used to complete the construction of a central structure in the Boundless Playground at Warrior’s Path State Park. The playground is named “Darrell’s Dream” after Kiwanian Darrell Rice who provided much support and inspiration toward the construction of this amazing handicapped accessible playground.

The central structure will carry a permanent picture of Darrell as shown in the artist’s sketch below. Designed and constructed of locally produced brick the central structure will feature the paw prints of various animals found in this area along with the animal’s name below in Braille. The structure will also contain the logos of the three major organizations that were instrumental in the design and construction of the playground; the Tennessee State Parks Commission, the Friends of Warrior’s Path State Park and Boundless Playgrounds.

The club’s gift of \$10,000 will pay for the labor to set the brick as well as the mortar and other supplies. One special feature of the structure is the wood-like poles at each corner. Built of brick, each pole will feature a different turtle at the top of the pole. This is to honor Darrell’s story about the turtle on the fence post. As Darrell said; "You knew the turtle did not get there by himself. He had to have help!"

In keeping with Kiwanis International’s new theme, "Serving the Children of the World," President Dan Coughlin said: "We selected this project as a way to give permanent recognition to Kiwanian Darrell Rice as well as Kiwanis’s commitment to helping children. The Boundless Playground will serve children with handicaps of all kinds. Every bit of the playground will be accessible to children despite any kind of handicap. In addition to promoting the Boundless Playground project, Kiwanian Darrell Rice made major contributions to his club and community in many other ways. Darrell served as President of this club as well as the Chamber of Commerce. He was a big promoter of the Santa Train. He chaired our club’s major fund raising project, the Kiwanis Golf Scramble at Cattails at Meadowview, which has posthumously been named in his honor. He was also the nicest guy you’d ever meet."

Ground breaking for the Playground was held late last year at Warrior’s Path State Park and site preparation is underway. This is the first Boundless Playground in our area and the first ever constructed in a State Park. Expected to cost over \$1 million at completion, the park is a unique public and private partnership combining the resources of the State Park Commission, the Friends of Warrior’s Path State Park and many local businesses that made significant contributions to construct the major play areas in the park.

Most importantly, “Darrell’s Dream” will be just that – a dream for handicapped children from all over the Tri-State area – a playground where they can get in the middle pf play with other

children. And Kiwanis is proud to be a part of it and looks forward to opening day when children of all abilities have a place to play together.

Persons wishing to make a contribution toward the completion of the Boundless Playground at Warrior's Path State Park can send a check to "Boundless Playground", 477 Steadman Rd., Blountville, TN 37617.