



FACT SHEET

Madrona Day Treatment School Therapeutic Playground

What is the Madrona Day Treatment School?

The Madrona Day Treatment School combines a supportive, therapeutic environment together with individualized academics to serve severely emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children who cannot be accommodated in their home schools. The School is staffed by a KMHS special education teacher and therapists. The program serves twelve children, ages 8 – 18, in a large classroom setting located on the KMHS campus. In general, the children will spend one school year in the program and then return to their home school more prepared to be successful in their home, family, and school environment.

The Students

Referrals to Madrona Day Treatment are made through the public schools' special education directors. During the 2009-2010 school year, half of the children experience autism spectrum disorder while other children present with diagnoses that range from fetal alcohol effects, to Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, ADHD, major depression and severe anxiety.

Why build a Therapeutic Playground?

Autistic children in particular tend to have difficulties regarding body coordination, standing, walking, and sensitivity to their outer environment. Most of the children are encouraged to engage in occupational therapy activities that involve balance, climbing, sliding, swinging and strength-building, however many of these activities cannot be provided at the Madrona School because the school lacks the needed equipment. The children also lack sensory discrimination and seek stimulation that can be hazardous to themselves such as jumping out of moving cars, or becoming frightened and crawling under a desk and covering their ears. Consequently a part of learning involves feeling "safe in their own skin." More, every child benefits from getting outside, playing, learning to get along, and experiencing themselves in fresh air.

Prior to construction of the Kids Kove Playground September 26 2010, there was no playground located at the KMHS campus and the children were transported off-site. This presented several challenges, first that it was not possible to make playground visits a daily activity, and also, that it was not always advantageous for the children to be in unfamiliar territory where the boundaries are unclear, or where they may be bullied for perceived differences.

The Therapeutic Playground

The playground equipment purchased through the generosity of individuals in our community is durable and safe, meets child and school safety standards, and includes a swing, slide, climbing poles and wall and other features, as well as soft-landing ground cover. Its construction was overseen by the manufacturer, built by a group of volunteers under the manufacturer's on-site staff guidance. Because of its quality, safety, and durability, the playground equipment from start to finish, including site preparation with protective ground cover, was approximately \$38,000.

Financial Support

At this time, the Playground expenses have been met through individual and community donations, allowing construction of the playground of our dreams! Two teens, Alanna Nixon and Paris Harrison, with their organization "Kids4Kids" inspired much of this tremendous community support, talking about the dream with the faith community, civic groups, and individual donors. Significant financial support was given to the project via the Bremerton Elks Lodge #1181, led by Sandy Read, who worked tirelessly to support the endeavor with numerous fundraisers; through the East Bremerton Rotary (their \$1,000 helped prepare the site for construction) the Bremerton Rotary who gifted \$2,500, and a grant award of \$1,500 from the Silverdale Rotary "Duck Bucks" project. NAMI Kitsap gifted the project \$3,000. A long-time friend of KMHS, Gerald Knight, bequeathed a gift of \$10,000 which provided a solid base for moving forward with the project.

Timeline

The site was leveled during August 2009 in preparation for construction September 26th, 2010. Work crews from the Silverdale Rotary and the Bremerton Elks, and KMHS completed the playground construction as of Sept 28th. A playground ribbon cutting and celebration took place Sept 26th, and was attended by over 70 community supporters.

Contact Information

For additional information or to arrange for a presentation, please contact Rochelle Doan, Director of Development and Community Relations at 360-415-5871 or rochell@d@kmhs.org.