

Can-Do Courier

A Progress Report on the Can-Do Playground at Milford

Fall 2011

Donor Generosity Grows Can-Do Fund

The generosity of eleven corporate and organizational donors has helped the Can-Do Playground at Milford fund grow toward its \$800,000 goal.

To date, gifts have been received from the following:

- Draper Holding Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens
- Milford Lions Club
- Longwood Foundation
- Laffey-McHugh Foundation
- Garbutt Family Trust
- Welfare Foundation
- Safeway Foundation
- Tidewater Utilities
- Trent Cole
- Dr. Steven Alban

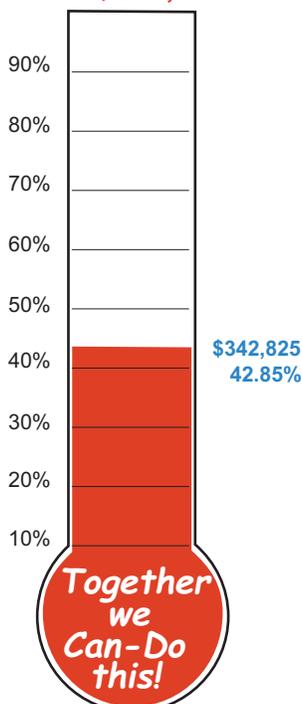
Thanks to the foresight and generosity of the City of Milford and its Department of Parks and Recreation, the playground already has a home in Silicato Park on Milford's Airport Road. This is a huge contribution towards the \$800,000 estimated cost of the project. Once the funds for construction have been raised and the playground constructed, the City will own and maintain it.



Tidewater Utilities, Inc. recently presented a check for \$14,500 to the Can-Do Playground at Milford Steering Committee. This gift was made possible by proceeds raised during Tidewater's 4th Annual Golf Tournament in August. Shown above are (front row, from left) Mike Kazala; Jerry Esposito, President of Tidewater Utilities; Peggy Anderson; Dave Rutt, Can-Do Playground Chair; Joe Cuccinello and Liz Cuccinello; (back row, from left) George Anderson, Chip Lank, Jack Donovan and Joe Wallace.

Can-Do Progress

Goal \$800,000



The need and a vision to fulfill it . . .

Research shows that one in twenty persons will experience a disability during their lifetime. In southern Delaware, several thousand children who are not institutionalized have some form of physical, cognitive, or sensory disability which limits their opportunity to use traditional playground equipment.

This matters because play is a fundamental part of a child's development and an important way children learn to navigate the world. Experts in pediatrics and early childhood education note that through play, children develop their language skills, decision-making abilities, social interaction strategies and physical, sensory, and cognitive strengths.

Real play happens in the minds of children. A child's perception of the play space is the combination of the real space (the physical environment), and the imaginary world they create while interacting with other children.

The Can-Do Playground at Milford will be a unique public playground for children and families of all abilities in Central and Southern Delaware. It will be designed for use by children between the ages of two and twelve; although it also appeals to parents and grandparents with disabilities to enjoy it with their families.

This unique playground is being developed by Rotary District 7630 Area 4 Rotary Clubs in partnership with the City of Milford and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Boundless Playgrounds™ has been selected to provide technical and design support for the project.

History of Can-Do in Delaware

In 2007, six Wilmington area Rotary clubs, partnering with Delaware State Parks, developed the first “Can-Do” playground in the State of Delaware – a playground for children and families of all abilities.

This playground was constructed in Alapocas Run State Park. In the three years since it opened, it has been extremely popular, attracting an estimated more than 60,000 visitors.

Anecdotal review has shown that visitors have traveled up to three hours just to have their children play at this unique playground.

Expanding to Southern Delaware

The success of the Can-Do playground led the project’s leader, Tom Talley, to consider expanding the effort to lower Delaware. In 2009, along with Assistant Governor Peggy Anderson, they met with the Area 4 Rotary Clubs to determine the interest in developing a second Can-Do playground.



Six clubs accepted the challenge and initiated the Can-Do Playground at Milford project. The project team joined with the City of Milford who agreed to provide a location for the playground, and to own and maintain the playground once it is constructed. The Area 4 Rotary Clubs of Rotary District 7630 participating in this project are: Milford, Milford-Mispillion, Lewes-Rehoboth, Harrington-Greenwood-Felton Centennial, Rehoboth Sunrise and Nanticoke-Seaford. This represents a combined membership of between 150 and 175 members.

The Rotarians organized a board of directors, an advisory board and several working committees of volunteers who are raising funds and developing this playground project. David Rutt was chosen as the project leader.

In 2011, the Can-Do Playground at Milford was granted status as a 501c3 charitable organization, ensuring that all donations are tax deductible.

The neighborhood . . .

The Can-Do Playground at Milford will be located off Airport Road in the Tony Silicato Memorial Park on land identified as an area for recreational development including open space, soccer fields, a general use field, walking paths and public playgrounds. The park was dedicated in the fall of 2010.

The area already includes the Greater Milford Boys & Girls Club, the Delaware Veterans Home and the Delaware Hospice Center.



Members of the Can-Do Advisory Board joined local legislators at the dedication of the Tony Silicato Memorial Park.



The Can-Do Playground at Milford will have good neighbors!

Fun for all . . .

The Can-Do Playground at Milford will be designed for use by children between the ages of two and twelve; it also appeals to parents and grandparents with disabilities to enjoy it with their families.

At the right is an example of what a “Boundless Playground™” looks like. These playgrounds are designed by a non-profit corporation headquartered in Bloomfield, CT.



Community meetings were held in Milford to allow the public, including children, to express their needs and desires for the playground. These ideas will be included in the final design of the Can-Do Playground at Milford.

Can-Do Playground - Where Dreams Are Never Disabled



Above — Children enjoy the outdoors at a Can-Do Playground.

Help Us Make Dreams Come True

The Can-Do Playground at Milford will be a unique public playground for children and families of all abilities in Central and Southern Delaware. It is designed to be a Boundless Playground™, the first of its kind in the area. Your contribution will help make this dream a reality.

Yes, I want to help make the **Can-Do** dream a reality!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

My check is enclosed.

Please bill my credit card.

Type: _____ Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Sec. Code: _____

Signature: _____

Contributions may be mailed to
 Rotary Area 4 Can-Do Playground, P.O. Box 924, Milford, Delaware 19963
 or Contact Dave Rutt • 302-424-2240 • dnrutt@mooreandrutt.com
 or Joe Cuccinello • 302-236-2286 • jcuccinello@tuiwater.com

The Can-Do Playground at Milford is a 501c3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

Change Service Requested



About Boundless Playgrounds

Mission:

To build truly inclusive playgrounds where children — and adults — of all abilities can play and learn together in a fun and welcoming environment.

Vision:

To create a world where ALL children have the opportunity to gain the developmental and health benefits derived from unstructured play in an inclusive environment.

Impact :

Since 1997, Boundless Playgrounds has been the leading national nonprofit developer of nearly 200 truly inclusive playgrounds in 31 states and Canada. There are currently over 100 projects under development.

Hundreds of thousands of children, parents, grandparents, other caregivers, military veterans and their family members with a disability or limited mobility impairment can freely navigate a Boundless playground.

The information above and at right is reprinted from the Boundless Playgrounds™ website: www.boundlessplaygrounds.org.

What makes these playgrounds different?

A Boundless Playground puts children of all abilities in the middle of the fun by building upon the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The playgrounds go beyond minimum requirements and incorporate universal design practices and child development theories . . . for a truly inclusive play environment. The playgrounds address the needs of children with different physical, developmental, cognitive and sensory abilities. Differences include:

- Ramped wheelchair access to the highest platform center.
- Universally accessible pathways and surfacing.
- Activity transfers that maximize accessibility.
- Play structures that support child development.
- Swings and equipment with back support.
- Elevated sand tables and activity panels.
- Activities for the hearing and visually impaired.

Selecting Boundless Playgrounds™

In the process of choosing a developer for the Can-Do Playground at Milford, the Rotary project team visited several playgrounds with varying levels of accessibility. Sites visited included the Rotary Can-Do playground in Alapocas Run State Park, Wilmington, Delaware.

Milford's project team hired the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds, a non-profit corporation headquartered in Bloomfield, Connecticut, to supply technical support and design configuration services associated with creating this special playground.

At right - A youngster is fully involved in the fun at a Can-Do playground.

