

Help the All-Children's Inclusive Playground acquire a \$15,000 grant!!

Two clicks and a comment...
that's all it takes!



General Mills Sales, Inc. and Hamburger Helper are searching for hometowns across America that are raising funds to help improve their communities. Here in Anderson Township, the APD is doing just that by fundraising to create an inclusive play environment at Beech Acres Park. As a part of the "Hometown Helper" Grant, General Mills Sales will provide monetary grants of up to \$15,000 each month through May 2007 to selected projects. The All-Children's Playground at Beech Acres Park has been accepted as a project worth consideration, but in order to better our chances of receiving the funds, we need to demonstrate that our community supports the construction of this innovative and inclusive play environment.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - This grant is important as 100% of this 50,000 sq. ft. playground is being funded outside of the Anderson Park District's operating budget. A "gap" in excess of \$100,000 still exists for funding the entire project. However, a few very large gifts, fundraising events, and numerous donations have enabled the Park District to give the green light to the manufacturing of the specialized custom play structures and finalize the construction plans. In spring of 2007, the Anderson Park District, with assistance from community groups, businesses and individuals, will put the construction efforts into full swing. A family event is currently planned for June 23, 2007, which should coincide with the opening of what will be an amazing new recreational facility available to all members of our community. Demonstrate your support by posting a comment on our project's web page and by encouraging your friends and family to do so as well. **Click here to show your support:** <http://www.myhometownhelper.com/ViewProject.aspx?tell=2&id=15184> (If you can't click on the link, copy and paste it into your web browser.)

ABOUT THE PLAYGROUND - The Anderson Park District is building a 50,000 square foot playground – about half the size of a professional football field - that will transcend compliance with ADA standards and go beyond the typical jungle gym. This playground will truly allow children with a variety of disabilities as well as caregivers with limited mobility the opportunity to engage in side-by-side play with friends.

The design will inspire children of all ages and abilities to explore, discover, and participate in fantasy play through a colorful "village-like" theme. River images are carried throughout the environment in water play, sidewalks, boardwalks, and levee/wharf areas. Surfaces and amenities will tie the river theme together with a representation of a tot village, tree house, train station, train, playhouse, mountain climbers, and sand play. You can visit the APD's website for more information on the All-Children's Inclusive Playground at Beech Acres Park by clicking here: <http://www.andersonparks.com/ParkBAPlayground.html> (If you can't click on the link, copy and paste it into your web browser.)

A TRIBUTE TO MARCUS - The inclusive playground will also include a memorial to Marcus Fiesel. The tragic events that unfolded recently have captured the hearts of our community. Our community has responded by requesting that a portion of the All-Children's Playground serve as a tribute to Marcus. It is a fitting tribute since Marcus, as a special needs child, would have greatly benefited from hours of play in this proposed playground designed to encourage happiness and acceptance.