



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TMH FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SPECIAL NEEDS PLAYGROUND

Warren, January 5, 2010 — The Trumbull Memorial Hospital Foundation (TMHF) awarded a grant for \$10,000 to the Valley's Inclusive Playground (VIP) — an ADA accessible playground located in Perkins Park, as part of its Healthy Community Grants Program.

Created by non-profit organizations Main Street Warren and Putting Downs First, the VIP project is the first playground of its kind in the area. Located adjacent to an existing playground, the VIP is both accessible and challenging for children.

Disabled children now have the opportunity to play with accessible learning and skill panels, music panels and activities at the VIP. The playground also features specialty-designed ramps, cushioned flooring to provide children in wheelchairs the ability to maneuver independently and a specially designed swing to hold a wheelchair.

“Many volunteers and community organizations have come together for this worthwhile project and our Foundation is proud to be a major donor,” said Christine Ruggieri, director of the TMH Foundation.

Healthy Community Grants are awarded quarterly to applicants with a not-for-profit status to fund projects that promote health and wellness in Trumbull County. The TMHF Grant Committee reviews many requests and deemed this a worthwhile project to support, Ruggieri said.

“The Grant Committee is very selective with the awards,” Ruggieri said. “These two organizations are excellent stewards of the funds and are pleased that this project is now a reality,” she added.

In 2009, the TMHF awarded more than \$64,000 in grants. In addition to the community and hospital grants, the Foundation supports scholarships, patient needs and hospital projects with a total contribution of more than \$680,000 for the year. “The community donations have made it possible for our Foundation to support hospital initiatives that enhance patient care as well as assisting community organizations with their wellness initiatives,” she says.

Main Street Warren continues to accept donations for the playground. Please send donations to MSW in care of 197 West Market Street, 7th Floor; Warren, Ohio 44481 or call 330.392.6140 ext. 14. For more information, please contact Christine Ruggieri at 330-841-9720.

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Photo: (Left to right) David Kostolansky, Chair, TMHF Board; Lynn Gibson, Chair, TMHF Grant Committee; Chuck Joseph, President, Main Street Warren Board of Directors; and Jim Dalessandro, Executive Director, Main Street Warren.