

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 14 December, 2016

Community asked to help build inclusive playspace

Local businesses and the community are being asked to open their hearts and wallets this Christmas to help children with a disability.

The Touched by Olivia Foundation (TBOF) is calling for donations to assist in building South Australia's first inclusive playspace at Hendrie St Reserve, Park Holme.

The project will bring children of all ages and abilities together to play side by side.

The City of Marion has committed \$310,000 plus design and construction services for the playground and the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) \$250,000. The foundation is seeking help to raise up to \$400,000.

New plans and sponsorship packages released by TBOF show how businesses and families can donate money for specialised equipment including a tubular slide, carousel, trike track and swings as well as a nature play creek, shelter and trees.

TBOF executive officer Bec Ho said the community could help turn the dream into reality.

"Sponsoring a piece of equipment is a unique opportunity to ensure children with a range of disabilities, including mobility, vision and hearing impairments and autism can have fun and not feel sidelined," Ms Ho said.

"We're appealing to businesses and the local community to dig deep in the spirit of Christmas and help turn this dream into reality.

"In addition to seeking grants and discounted materials we are asking for major sponsors to come forward."

Council signed a triparty Memorandum of Understanding with TBOF and DPTI to build the playspace in September 2015.

The foundation has so far raised \$63,000 in grants and donations towards its target of \$400,000.

The scheduled completion date of the playspace to be completed has been extended to December next year to enable fundraising to continue until April.

City of Marion general manager Abby Dickson said the project would transform people's lives.

Contact: Craig Clarke, Unit Manager Communications, City of Marion, 0434 600 637



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“Building South Australia’s first inclusive playspace in Marion will transform the lives of children with a disability by enabling them to have fun and make friends in a stimulating environment,” Ms Dickson said.

“The project is the result of an innovative partnership between the City of Marion, TBOF and DPTI and has the potential to benefit current and future generations.”

Major equipment required includes shade sails at \$95,000, a custom-built play house for \$75,000, a carousel for \$30,000, and nature play creek for \$12,000.

Other items include special swings for \$3500 each, 10 citrus trees for \$2300 and wooden panels for planter boxes at \$350 each.

The names of sponsors will be included on the site

Council is expected to make a final decision on the design in May.

Sponsorship forms are available on the TBOF website touchedbyolivia.com.au/marion

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