

January 19, 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for The Swing High Project and the organization's efforts to build a universally accessible playground in the city of Colorado Springs.

As a parent of a child with a disability I truly understand the difference a universally accessible playground would make in our community. Many families often look forward to a trip to the neighborhood playground for exercise and fresh air. As they watch their children make friends and play on the equipment, caregivers and parents get a chance to socialize with others. Because of my son's limitations we did not have the same positive experience. Despite Tyler's valiant efforts, he was not able to climb the stairs to reach the top of the equipment or use the slide. If I helped him up the slide, he became terrified and unsure and needed assistance coming back down the stairs. Since Tyler does not have an apparent physical disability we were often the subject of many inquisitive looks or straightforward questions from other children, such as "What's wrong with him?" Outings to the playground often ended in frustration rather than a fun and positive social experience.

For many children like Tyler the development of motor and social skills often occurs in a therapeutic setting. An accessible playground would give children an opportunity to develop their skills and confidence in a natural setting, while also teaching their peers about acceptance and compassion. I look forward to bringing my children to the grand opening!

Sincerely,



Donna Greenfield