

October 19, 2007

Can-Do Playground is Access Wilmington Award Recipient

Wilmington, DE. – The Wilmington, DE Area Rotary Clubs, developer of the Can-Do Playground at Alapocas Run Park, was the recipient of the Agency Award at the annual Access Wilmington Awards Luncheon held on October 18, 2007 at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Wilmington.

Access Wilmington is the Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities. The purpose of the committee is to expand opportunities for Wilmington residents, workers and visitors with disabilities. To this end, the committee works with private and governmental organizations to heighten public awareness of the unmet needs, potential contributions and achievements of people with disabilities.

Tom Talley, President of the Wilmington, DE Area Rotary Clubs Community Fund accepted the award on behalf of the six Rotary clubs. The Can-Do Playground is the first public playground of its kind in the State of Delaware. It is designed for use by children of all abilities with at least 70% of the play environment equipment accessible to children with physical disabilities. The playground occupies 23,000 square feet and is located near Foulk and Weldin Roads.

The Can-Do Playground is receiving praise from the community. Beth Gilliland, Executive Director of the Delaware Curative Workshop complimented the Playground to the audience at Access Wilmington. She noted that her organization now regularly refers young patients to the Playground. Karen Ward of Wilmington commented: "... just wanted to say what a blessing the playground is. I adopted a daughter who is disabled and normally when we take the other kids to the playground she just sits in her wheelchair and watches. We went to the playground this past weekend and spent 2 and a half hours just pushing her on the swing alone and you could not get the smile off of her face! She also enjoyed the sand box area but for her the swing was the best! We look forward to spending a lot of time at the playground and letting her have the opportunity to enjoy as well as the other kids. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you from the bottom of my heart."

The Can-Do Playground development involved the partnership between the six Wilmington area Rotary Clubs, the State of Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation and DelDot and is part of the overall Blue Ball project. The National Center for Boundless Playgrounds® was the consultant.

Rotary is the world's first service club, now a global network of over 1.2 million business and professional leaders volunteering in over 32,000 clubs in 168 countries. This year's theme is "Rotary Shares."

For additional information, contact Tom Talley at 302-798-9113.