Kopplin and Kinas Co. Inc & Kinas Excavating Inc Donates to Playground Park: A Family's Legacy of Giving and Inclusivity

The Playground Park Revamp project in Green Lake has become a community-driven effort, with families, local businesses, and organizations all coming together to create a space that is truly accessible and welcoming for everyone. One of the most inspiring contributions to this effort has come from the Kinas family, who have donated an incredible $21,500 to fund the installation of a music station at the new inclusive playground. The donation is made possible by Kopplin and Kinas Co. Inc. and Kinas Excavating Inc.

We had the pleasure of speaking with Katelynn Coughlin, a member of the Kinas family, who shared what inspired her family to get involved with the Playground Park Revamp project and why they chose to support the music station.

What inspired your family to support the Playground Park project?

"My family is very big on the outdoors, and they love kids, so the Playground Park Project was the perfect combination of the two!" Katelynn said. "They also became more aware of the need for more inclusive parks since my daughter, Norah, a 5-year-old, has a rare genetic disorder called KIF1A Associated Neurological Disorder (KAND), and she needs a walker to help her stand and walk independently. Most parks in the area are made up of stone, sand, or woodchips that make it impossible for her to utilize them on her own. She's left with the option to either crawl, potentially hurting her knees and hands, or have an adult assist her. That isn't the case with this new park."

Why did you choose the music station as your donation?

Katelynn explained that Norah has a Cortical Vision Impairment, meaning that vision is not her primary sense of understanding the world around her. "She loves to listen to her surroundings and touch different sensations to explore her environment. Music has been a calming and therapeutic tool for her, especially in new or difficult situations. When my family saw the music station available for this park, they immediately thought of Norah and how it could be a great addition. Music is not only beneficial for Norah, but it's also a piece of equipment that can be enjoyed by all kids."

What does this new playground mean to your family?

"This new playground would mean more joy for our family and more time spent together outdoors. It would give both of my children the opportunity to play together at the park, which they currently can't do at most parks due to the physical limitations that KIF1A places on Norah. This inclusive playground will give her more independence and allow her to experience playtime like other kids her age."

What hopes do you have for this space and the kids who will play here?

Katelynn hopes that the new playground will become a space where children of all abilities can play together, and where families can find support. "As a parent of a child with special needs, it’s easy to feel isolated and like the world isn’t set up for people with different needs. This park will give parents like me one less thing to worry about. It will allow children to have equal access to play in a safe and fun environment.”

Why Donating to the Park Matters

Having children like Norah and others who face similar challenges be able to enjoy a fully accessible playground is one of the key reasons for supporting this project. Norah’s story is just one example of how this park will give children with disabilities the opportunity for independence, fun, and the chance to connect with their peers.