

# Media Kit for Inclusive Play

A facility where children of all abilities will play, learn, explore, discover and imagine together.



ROTARY CLUB  
OF BARBADOS  
SOUTH

INCLUSIVE PLAY IS AN INITIATIVE OF  
THE ROTARY OF BARBADOS SOUTH



“Play takes many forms, but the heart of play is pleasure—  
an important component in learning” (Perry, 2001).

# “Inclusive Play”

## An initiative of the Rotary Club of Barbados South

**Rotary International** is the world’s first service club organisation, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary club members are volunteers who work locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under the motto Service Above Self.

In recent years, the number of children born with physical, cognitive and sensory disabilities has increased. “For children with disabilities, finding someone with whom to play is often not an easy task. They can experience rejection and unequal treatment by their able-bodied peers, adding issues of low self-esteem and lack of confidence to their existing physical and/or mental disabilities.” The Rotary of Barbados South is embarking on an ambitious community service project aimed at

ensuring that infants and children who desire to “play” can do so regardless of physical or cognitive ability.

Our goal is to create an “Inclusive Play” facility where children of all abilities will play, learn explore, discover and imagine together in an environment where their common experiences make a more lasting impression than their different abilities.

The proposed site of this universally accessible playground and recreational centre is the Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium. We have requested 25,000 sq ft. of land from the government of Barbados on which to erect this facility and we are working with all parties to secure the selected site.

Barbados needs your help to make this exciting, socially responsible project a reality.

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# The Inclusive Play project

The Inclusive Play project will provide a safe, secure playground environment where “children with disabilities will continue to gain confidence as they interact more and more with both other children with disabilities and non-disabled peers.”

These vital interactions will also help parents overcome social challenges by providing opportunities to teach their children important social interaction skills. By extension, Inclusive Play will help the wider community integrate children with disabilities into Barbadian society.

## *Let's Play!*

- PLAY is communication and expression, combining thought and action; it gives satisfaction and a feeling of achievement.
- PLAY is instinctive, voluntary, and spontaneous.
- PLAY helps children develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.
- PLAY is a means of learning to live, not a mere passing of time.

## Component One

# Indoor Recreational Facility

We have designed an indoor recreational facility that will facilitate indoor sports, cultural activities and educational activities for the disabled community. Additionally, the Centre will feature rooms with special use, for example, a sensory room with light and sound stimulation and a soft padded room.

This building which has been designed around a half regulation sized basketball court will be equipped with a food preparation area, meeting rooms and first aid station. There will be other multipurpose rooms in the facility.





## Component Two

# Playground

We will be working with Boundless Playgrounds (the leading international non-profit developer of nearly 200 truly inclusive playgrounds) on the design and construction of the playground areas.

The playground will be designed for use by a maximum of 30-40 children at one time. A typical Boundless Playground has approximately 15 “play events” such as slides, swings, tunnels and the like. We expect our playground to be 5,000 – 7,000 sq ft.

Our goal is to make every component of our playground accessible to children

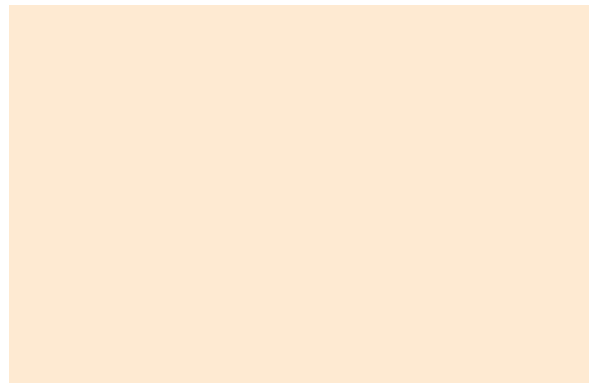
in wheelchairs. We will seek to accomplish this goal by incorporating equipment that is accessible to both disabled and able-bodied children, such as accessible slides, swings, play tables and basketball hoops.

A wheelchair-accessible surface will be used within the playground itself. This surface will allow children with disabilities to reach every piece of equipment on the playground.

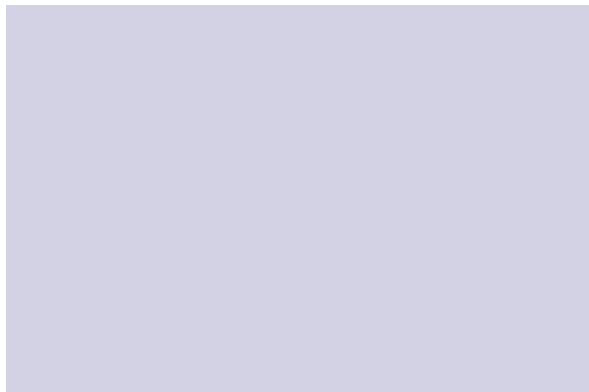
Below are some of the pieces of the equipment we have selected, accompanied by their anticipated users and resultant benefits:



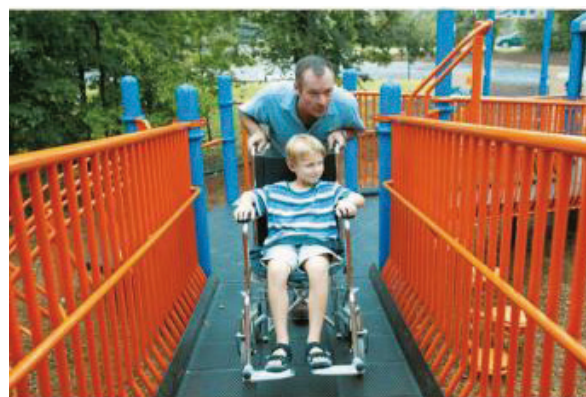
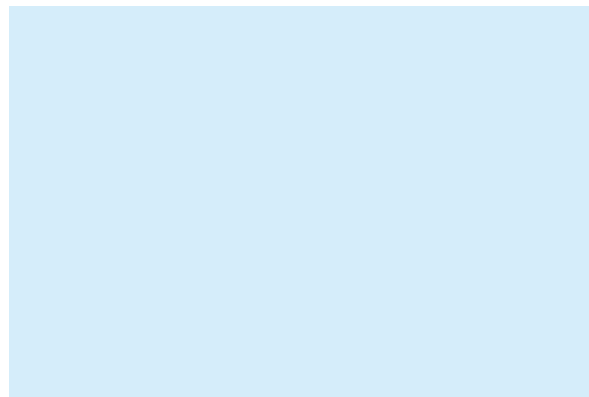
**Accessible Activities Transfer Station**  
Ideal for wheelchair transfer from deck heights of 3' (0.91m) and 4' (1.22m)



Bells ring when tapped with knuckles. Builds sense of discovery, attention spans and auditory awareness. Two-sided panel encourages socialisation, participation and imaginative play. Promotes fine motor skills, eye/hand coordination, rhythm and movement.



Rollercoaster-style safety harness lifts for entry and snap-fits into place between legs for security.



Easy access for everyone. 1:12 slope offers easy use. Side curbs prevent accidental roll-off.

# Your Partnership Opportunity...

We are extending the opportunity to all corporate citizens of Barbados to partner with us to make this socially responsible project a reality. Partnership opportunities include donations of equipment, cash donation or other donations which help the project to meet its goals.

We are pleased to extend to you the opportunity to join with us as a selected partner to make this worthy project become a reality.

We would be happy to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss in more detail our plans for this facility and how we may work effectively together to benefit the disabled community and the wider Barbadian society.





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