

It's A Beautiful Day

Subcommittee of  
Community Health  
Improvement Coalition  
(CHIC)  
A 501(C)(3)



# Nicky's Dreamland

A Shane's Inspiration Inclusive Playground  
@ Del Rio Sports Complex

Coming in 2020...  
Del Rio's first fully accessible playground!



Images shown are for conceptual purposes only.  
Some elements may vary.

# A Dream is Born

On March 6, 2006, God blessed our family with a new addition, Nicholas “Nicky” Peña! On September 9th, 2010, He called Nicky home. During Nicky’s time with us, we learned so much about the meaning and significance of Love, and Family. The Del Rio community prayed for Nicky and supported our family in countless ways. “Nicky’s Dreamland” is our families way of saying thank you.

In March of 2009, Nicky was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. He underwent multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, and therapy to relearn basic functions like speaking, eating, sitting up, and walking. One day at the Ronald McDonald House, Nicky was sitting in his wheelchair watching children run and play. We asked him if he wanted to play with them. Unable to speak, he vigorously shook his head YES! We quickly learned that therapy could & should be PLAY.



Nicky displayed an unusual thirst for life and unwillingness to let anything, even weather, stop his fun! One cloudy day in Del Rio while in remission, I was helping Nicky get dressed. He asked, “Mommy, what are we going to do today?” I looked out the window and replied, “I don’t know; it’s dreary outside”. With a huge joyous smile on his face and wide spread arms, he said “It’s a beautiful day!” This is a perfect example of Nicky’s unfaltering positive attitude!



The year after Nicky passed, a wonderful friend of ours, Sharlene Perez, called as Nicky’s birthday was approaching. We shared memories of his sense of humor and infectious laugh as well as his love of playing outdoors. She suggested we throw a birthday party at his favorite park. I quickly pointed out that kids like Nicky can’t play in the local playgrounds safely. After all how many kids in wheelchairs had we seen in Del Rio playgrounds? Sharlene said she had always wanted to build an accessible playground, and I said, “Let’s do it!”. At that moment, “It’s A Beautiful Day” was born!

Our community still does not have a 100% fully inclusive & accessible playground where children like Nicky can play alongside other children. Together we can change this, creating a play space where every square foot is accessible to children and adults of all mobility levels. A space where wheelchairs are not limiting! A space where parents and grandparents of all mobility levels can take their children/grandchildren to play!

There isn’t a day that passes that Nicky isn’t missed desperately by our entire family. Please join us in making Nicky’s playground dream a possibility for all the children and adults in our community. Let’s plan on celebrating the anniversary of Nicky’s birth in March of 2020 at the Grand Opening of “Nicky’s Dreamland” Playground at Del Rio Sports Complex! It is possible — with your help! After all, if universally accessible playgrounds can be found all over the globe, we should have one for our kids! As Nicky would say to his fellow patients during Physical Therapy at Texas Children’s Hospital, “You can do it!”

Sabrina Peña, M.Ed.  
Co-founder of It’s A Beautiful Day & Nicky’s Mom



*"Unless someone like you cares  
a whole awful lot,  
Nothing is going to get better.  
It's not.*

*~ Dr. Seuss*



We would like to  
acknowledge  
the support of

Shane's  
Inspiration

&

The City  
of Del Rio

for their  
unwavering  
support and  
commitment to  
the first fully  
inclusive  
playground  
within a  
150 mile radius!

An Inclusive Playground is desperately needed in Del Rio, so all children can play together. I have been a Social Worker for over 20 years working with special needs children and their families in Del Rio, Texas. So many of the children here are unable to participate in park activities because the equipment is inaccessible. Sabrina Peña and I dreamed of a place where all children could play together....where Nicky would have loved to go. Our realization that there were no parks with playgrounds where special needs children could play alongside their able-bodied peers, sparked our dream to build a fully inclusive playground in honor of Nicky Peña. If you build it, they will come. Del Rio needs a place where ALL can play!

Sharlene Plyler Perez,  
LBSW-IPR, M.Ed.  
Co-founder of "It's A Beautiful Day"



## THE PROJECT

Our sensory-rich inclusive playground was envisioned as an outdoor space where children like Nicky could play freely! "Nicky's Dreamland" will provide the first truly barrier-free playground for children of all abilities in Del Rio...a space where adults with mobility differences can also play alongside their children. Everyone will be able to explore unique play opportunities and experience social interaction and acceptance.

The City of Del Rio acquired 45 acres and received a \$500K grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to develop the Del Rio Sports Park, designating a portion for the inclusive playground! This funding will support our playground with accessible restrooms with adult changing tables, parking, fencing, lighting, maintenance and full access to the sports complex, allowing every dollar we raise to go directly into the playground elements. Additional infrastructure improvements and portions of the Del Rio Sports Complex are outside the scope of this sponsorship package.

## THE LOCATION

The Del Rio Sports Complex will house "Nicky's Dreamland". Other activities will include a nature trail, exercise stations, pedestrian bridge, irrigated baseball and football/ soccer multi-purpose fields, a concession stand and picnic tables. With a 40K+ population and 10% under the age of 5 with one or more disabilities (US Census Bureau), it is clear Val Verde County and the City of Del Rio need more recreational facilities, including an inclusive playground.

## THE DESIGN

A playground is a child's creative classroom. They learn by interacting physically, emotionally and socially with their peers. While a child would never be denied entrance to school, children with disabilities are routinely denied

entrance to playgrounds, as many traditional playgrounds are physically inaccessible to them. This means children like Nicky with brain tumors or those in wheelchairs, are denied access to not only their social circle, but also to the vital benefits of play. The inclusive design of "Nicky's Dreamland", goes beyond minimum ADA requirements. It will be a unique place where children, regardless of ability, can play with their friends and families where everyone is equal.

In Del Rio, a prominent user group will be veterans returning from war overseas. With over 5,800 veterans living in the Quad County area (Val Verde, Uvalde, Maverick & Kinney Counties) and Del Rio being home to the United States Air Force's largest pilot training base with over 3,000 personnel, this playground offers a unique opportunity to show our appreciation for their service to our country (U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs). Additionally, 10% of the people in Val Verde County under 65 have a disability (US Census Bureau); many of them unable to take their children or grandchildren to a playground. Typically, we assume playgrounds support children with disabilities so they can engage with parents and peers, but equally as important is giving disabled parents and grandparents the opportunity to engage with their able-bodied children.

Our project received a \$50k in-kind donation from Southern California based Shane's Inspiration, a leader in inclusive playground design. Designed by Diane Scanlan, a Landscape Architect and Sr. V.P. of Design at Shane's Inspiration, her project goal was to bring a fantasy element to an innovative and interactive play space. The design is sensory-rich, age appropriate, supporting multi-generational play for all. The whimsical nature theme was inspired by Nicky's love of anything nature (birds, butterflies, flowers & rainbows). Language panels in both English and



Spanish, support our 'Too Small to Fail' early childhood awareness literacy campaign. The project also incorporates an American Sign language alphabet panel. Thematic bird 'Look n' Find' panels will include Braille, providing a tactile touch opportunity. In the spirit of our parent organization, Community Health Improvement Coalition, the health and safety of our community was a major consideration. When feasible our design includes recycled materials.

It's A Beautiful Day has a mission beyond the playground opening. With the continued help of Shane's Inspiration, we are committed to providing children possessing typical abilities the opportunity to experience and accept their special needs peers as equals, teaching lessons of compassion, awareness and acceptance through monthly, integrated fun-filled play events like "My Play Club".

### SPONSORSHIP

Please join our effort and help make "Nicky's Dreamland" a reality. We developed this packet as a visual tool depicting levels of sponsorship. Opportunities exist to sponsor a play area, a piece of equipment, or partial sponsorship. In order to commemorate all partners in this collaborative venture, the project site will contain signage recognizing all donors. Our Community

Health Improvement Coalition web site will recognize all corporate and individual contributions on the 'It's A Beautiful Day' subcommittee page. Tax deductible contributions can be made to "It's A Beautiful Day", a non-profit organization that is committed to providing inclusive play events for our community.

For more information as to how you can make a tax-deductible donation, please contact Sabrina or Viviano Peña, Jr. at (830) 703-6500 or message us on the Facebook Page "It's A Beautiful Day – All Inclusive Playground".



It's A Beautiful Day

Subcommittee of  
Community Health  
Improvement Coalition  
(CHIC)



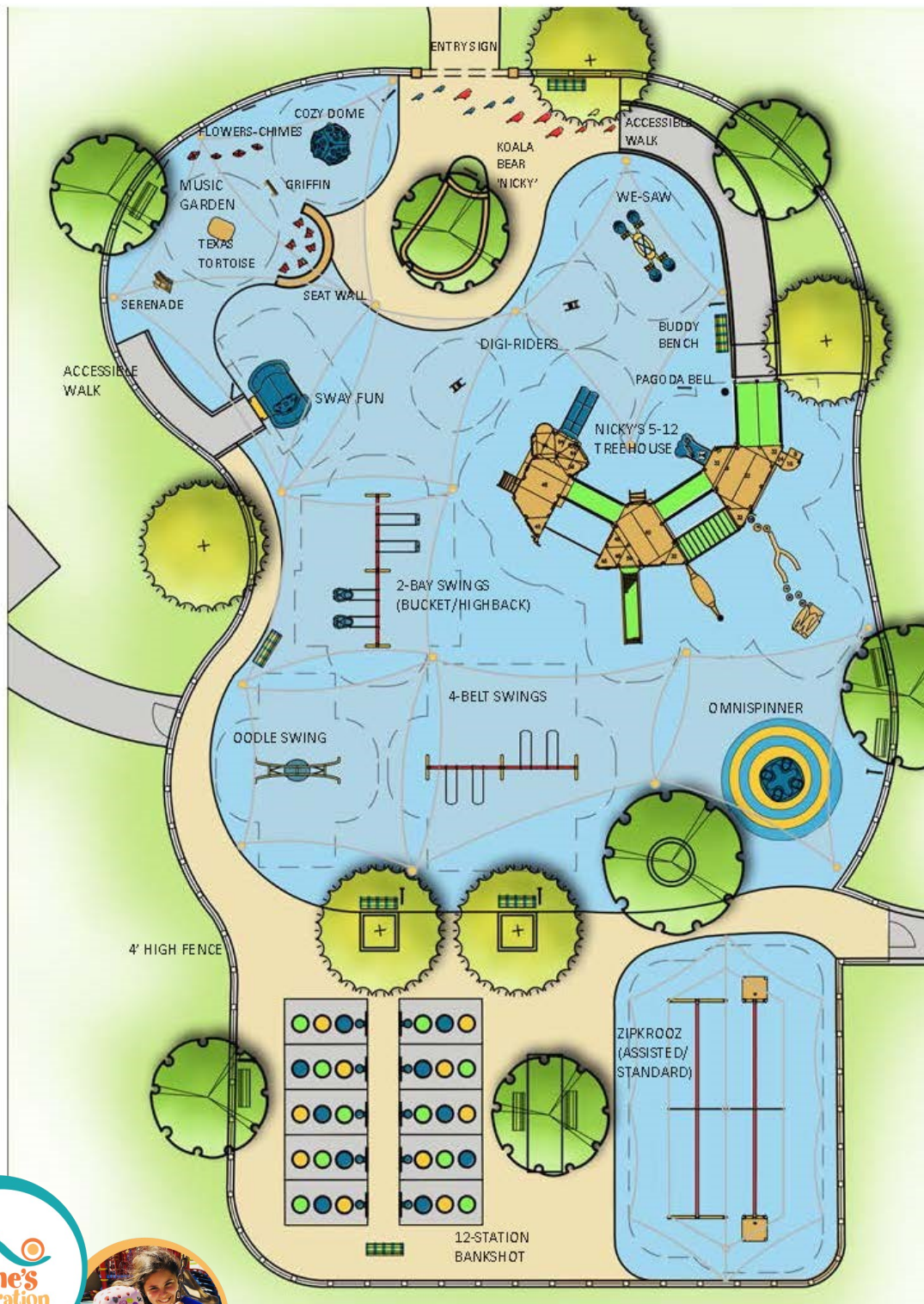
# Del Rio Sports Complex



"Nicky's Dreamland" is part of the new Del Rio Sports Complex, which has an approved master plan designed by Debra J. Dockery, Architect, P.C.

# 'Nicky's Dreamland' Site Plan

An Inclusive Playground  
Whimsical Nature Theme - Ages 0-12



Project total      \$1,049,410  
All Playground equipment, resilient surfacing and shade

*"A community that excludes even one member  
is not a community at all"*

*~ unknown*

The design of this playground began with input from the children and adults of Del Rio! On March 1, 2012, 49 adults and 18 children with special needs gathered at the Del Rio Civic Center for a "Dream" session. This was the largest community planning event Shane's Inspiration had ever held...larger than they experienced in most metropolitan cities.

A few weeks later 88 volunteers gathered to host the first fully inclusive/accessible "It's A Beautiful Day" Festival. These are some pictures of the 110 attendees. These children helped spark the dream".



Thank you to the volunteers from Del Rio Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Living Stone & Grace Community Church, Laughlin AFB, Home Depot, SFDRCISD, Val Verde Regional Medical Center, Simply Beautiful and Community Health Improvement Coalition & It's A Beautiful Day subcommittee and all the other individual volunteers for providing food, games, decorations, arts & crafts and opportunities for bucket loads of laughter! It was an afternoon full of joy for the children and a spark for what is possible if we just Dream!

# Welcome to the Playground

## Entry Gateway – ‘Koala Nicky’

All Ages Total: \$41,210

After passing under the main entry sign children and families will be welcomed by “Nicky”, a 4’ tall one-of-a kind Koala Bear. Surrounded by a seat wall and paving with colorful, indigenous bird details, this whimsical colorful concrete character, sporting a red baseball cap, became one of Nicky’s favorite keepsakes. “Nicky” will become the playground’s photo opportunity for children to touch, hug and enjoy. Pretty soon people will be saying “Let’s meet at “Nicky Koala”.



Adjacent to the entry circle children will discover the 2-5 age Music Sensory area on the left, or the accessible walk, providing access to the 5-12 age Treehouse themed play structure, on the right, named ‘Nicky’s Dreamland’.

<b>Welcome Sign &amp; Koala Nicky</b>	<b>\$ 18,490</b>
<b>Concrete Walks w/Sandblast Detail</b>	<b>\$ 14,490</b>
<b>Concrete Seatwall w/ sandblast detail</b>	<b>\$ 5,590</b>
<b>Kaleidoscope Bench</b>	<b>\$ 2,640</b>



# Musical/Sensory Area

All Ages

Total: \$130,555

As you leave the Entry Circle, children will be transported to a magical sensory garden. This area is primarily for 2-5 year olds, but can be enjoyed by all. The indigenous Texas tortoise, sensory Cozy Dome, DigiRiders, and multiple musical instruments are all playable at ground level allowing access for all.



The Cozy Dome offers kids a place to escape the hustle and bustle of a busy playground, take time by themselves or socialize together. It provides a quiet space for over-stimulated kids. Peek holes let kids and supervisors keep an eye on the action and the outer surface texture creates a challenging climbing experience. The Cozy Dome is a wonderful opportunity for cooperative play or for children with autism or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) who may need a quiet space.

Bounce away on the wings of two colorful DigiRider® Butterflies. They will capture young ones imagination. These butterflies offer a springy, bouncy motion that encourages body awareness and imaginative play, heightening visual/auditory processing skills.





The rainbow “Buddy Bench”, also called the Friendship Bench, is a simple idea centered around eliminating loneliness and fostering friendship on the playground. The Buddy Bench promotes better mental and social health for our children. Signage and education at the monthly “My Play Club” will ensure every child will have the opportunity to play with others!

<b>Cozy Dome</b>	<b>\$ 6,270</b>
<b>Musical Elements</b>	<b>\$ 19,690</b>
<b>Texas Tortoise</b>	<b>\$ 21,830</b>
<b>DigiRiders</b>	<b>\$ 4,250</b>
<b>Concrete Seat walls w/sandblasted details</b>	<b>\$ 3,450</b>
<b>Signage/Educational Panels</b>	<b>\$ 6,195</b>
<b>Buddy Bench</b>	<b>\$ 1,540</b>
<b>Shade</b>	<b>\$ 50,340</b>
<b>Resilient Surfacing</b>	<b>\$ 16,990</b>

Musical components offer an additional sensory element of play...the opportunity to observe on their own while building auditory skills. Music is especially beneficial for the visually impaired. It is a wonderful opportunity for cooperative play, or individual pieces can simply serve as an independent focused activity for children with autism or cognitive disabilities.



**Flower Chimes**



**Serenade**



**Griffin Metallophone**

*Music gives a soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind,  
flight to the imagination, and  
life to everything. ~ Plato*

# Nicky's Treehouse

Ages 5-12

Total: \$505,050

"Nicky's Dreamland" reflects on his whimsical love of play, nature and learning. This magical multi-level world will transport children to a fully accessible fantasy "Treehouse" with butterfly and bird accent details. No child is left behind! As the focal point of the park, children will enjoy musical and sensory panels offering a variety of sounds to help build auditory and visual skills. Multiple slides, accessible via wheelchair transfer stations,



provide opportunities for vestibular stimulation. The roller slide encourages sensory body awareness. The hollow log and wishbone balance beams become opportunities for balance, developing gross motor skills while experiencing proprioceptive stimulation. The resilient surfacing will cushion any unexpected falls while linking play spaces. Benches and shading offer a comfortable place to rest and relax maintaining parent oversight.



The structure includes Look n' Find Panels and Fun Fact plaques that encourage children to search for local birds identified by the National Park Service as species likely to be seen in the area. This engaging activity is extremely beneficial to the non-verbal child as it builds communication skills. Our hope is to create the next generation of bird watchers/lovers as the children learn about their habitats, behaviors, diets and more!

<b>Nicky's Dreamhouse Structure</b>	<b>\$ 275,380</b>
<b>Hollow Log Climber/Wishbone Balance &amp; Log Steppers</b>	<b>\$ 20,445</b>
<b>Bird Look &amp; Find Panels w/Braille (3)</b>	<b>\$ 11,345</b>
<b>Bird Fun Facts (30)</b>	<b>\$ 17,970</b>
<b>Sensory Info Panels (12)</b>	<b>\$ 16,445</b>
<b>Kaleidoscope Benches (3)</b>	<b>\$ 5,395</b>
<b>Shade —Tri Sails</b>	<b>\$ 72,185</b>
<b>Resilient Surfacing</b>	<b>\$ 85,885</b>



**LOOK AROUND THE PLAYGROUND FOR THE BIRD FUN FACTS!**  
What do Birds Eat?

<p><i>Painted Bunting</i></p>  <p>Forage on the ground in dense cover, among grasses. Sometimes they venture out into grass to forage on seeds.</p>	<p><i>Great Tailed Grackle</i></p>  <p>You will find them with other blackbirds pecking for food on lawns, fields, and at marsh edges, vying for trash in urban settings, or crowding in trees and on telephone lines in noisy roosts.</p>
<p><i>Vermillion Flycatcher</i></p>  <p>Found in open habitats including scrub, deserts and weedy fields where they sit on low, exposed perches scanning for insects as they fly by.</p>	<p><i>Black-chinned Hummingbird</i></p>  <p>Flower at flowers, dart erratically to take tiny swarming insects. Forches atop high branches to survey its territory, watching for competitors to chase off and for flying insects to eat.</p>

*"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning."*

*~Mr. Rogers*



# Spin, Sway & Swing Zone

Ages 5-12

Total: \$208,295

The Sway & Swing Zone contains popular play equipment for the children to practice swinging, rocking and swaying, all movement opportunities that promote physical activity while providing vestibular and proprioceptive stimulation. Swinging combines coordination, an elevated sensation and awareness of height with fun and speed. Repetition for children with sensory processing disorders, or autism can be stimulating and relaxing. The We-Saw and Oodle Swing provide opportunities for multiple participants to play together challenging their body awareness, balance and coordination.



The traditional swings are separated by age group. The 5-12 age 2-bay set is designed with four belt swings and the swing bays for the 2-5 age children include two bucket and two accessible high-back molded seats. Children of all abilities will find the back and forth horizontal movement soothing as they swing with their peers and reach for the sky!

Resilient surfacing beneath the entire Sway & Swing Zone will cushion any unexpected falls. Shade will allow everyone to play even on the hottest days!

A concrete ramp and secondary entrance steps lead up to the Sway Fun® Glider — the first wheelchair accessible glider that meets all safety standards. A great choice for totally inclusive playground fun! There is room for two wheelchairs, plus two large benches for other passengers! Children 2 and up can enjoy the fun.



The We-saw™ is a new take on the traditional seesaw. Its unique design and gentle rocking motion invites kids and families of all ages and abilities to participate in the fun. The We-saw is wheelchair accessible through transfer and provides opportunities for collaborative play and teamwork for up to 9 people.

The high-backed OmniSpin® Spinner — with transfer points for wheelchairs & walkers — offers children the opportunity to experience varying speeds with different degrees of applied force, and controlled movement while providing gross motor development and vestibular and proprioceptive stimulation.



<b>Swings (4 belt, 2 bucket &amp; 2 molded)</b>	<b>\$ 18,950</b>
<b>Oodle Swing</b>	<b>\$ 8,425</b>
<b>Omnispinner</b>	<b>\$ 11,545</b>
<b>We-Saw</b>	<b>\$ 14,595</b>
<b>Sway Fun</b>	<b>\$ 23,095</b>
<b>Kaleidoscope Benches (3) &amp; signage</b>	<b>\$ 7,425</b>
<b>Shade—Tri-Sails</b>	<b>\$ 74,690</b>
<b>Resilient Surfacing</b>	<b>\$ 49,570</b>

# High Activity Zone

Ages 5-12

Total: \$164,300

The High-Activity Zone offers children of all abilities the opportunity to safely ride on the thrill seeking **Zipkrooz** — or shoot a few hoops on the awesome **Bankshot Court**. Kids of all abilities will be able to feel like an NBA player or sail through the “sky” feeling the thrill of flight. Just add a cape and super heroes will abound in Nicky’s Dreamland!



With two Zipkrooz Bays side-by-side, kids of all abilities can race side-by-side to the end and back ensuring a truly inclusive play experience. The assisted side includes a platform for children in wheelchairs to transfer to the molded bucket seat with lock-in-place harness providing stability and security for kids with limited core strength. ZipKrooz challenges one’s ability to sense oneself in space, the basis of Proprioceptive stimulation.



**Bankshot (Basketball)**  
**Zipkrooz (assisted)**  
**Zipkrooz (standard)**  
**Kaleidoscope Benches (4)**  
**Shade over Zipkrooz**  
**Resilient Surfacing**

**\$ 29,665**  
**\$ 12,855**  
**\$ 14,360**  
**\$ 7,230**  
**\$ 71,675**  
**\$ 28,515**



The Del Rio Sports Complex includes fields for baseball, softball, football and soccer. The complex wouldn't be complete without another sport Nicky loved...Basketball!

What better way to play basketball than the inclusive way!



*"When we think of a disabled person solely in terms of what they cannot do, we reduce that person's humanity, worth and capacity to have a good life"*  
~Christopher Krentz

With this 10 station Bankshot™ Court, players of all ages and abilities can feel the excitement of shooting hoops. Each player proceeds through a course of angled, curved and non-conventionally configured brightly colored backboards, banking shots off the Bankboards™ and through the rims.



**It's truly a family sport, because players do not play against one another but along-side one another.**

**It's non-running and non-exclusionary; accommodating players of all abilities including those who use wheelchairs or walkers! Grandparents can play, too!**



April 8, 2019

Re: CHIC "It's A Beautiful Day Universal Playground Committee"

I am writing in support of the efforts to construct the City of Del Rio's first all-inclusive playground facility located within the Del Rio Community Sports Park. Your commitment and determination to making Nicky's Dreamland a reality has inspired and excited our community.

With this project, you are helping to transform the Del Rio Community Sports Park into a recreation destination for the entire region. Through the support of donors, we can realize the dream of turning this area into a place where children, along with their entire family, of all ages and abilities can have a place to play, learn, and socialize without limitations. This project represents our community's increasing commitment to become an inclusive community and will serve as a role model for other parks and community spaces to be configured for complete access.

I appreciate your commitment and dedication to making Nicky's Dreamland into a reality. With your hard work and with the support of donors, we will be able to witness a new day filled with unlimited possibilities.

Thank you again for your time and dedication to this project and to the City of Del Rio's quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Lozano".

Mayor Bruno J. Lozano  
City of Del Rio



2/15/2019

Laura Gill Vasconcellos  
Del Rio Parks Foundation  
13 Nighthawk Trail, Del Rio, TX 78840

Please accept this letter as our commitment of support for Del Rio's first inclusive playground. Our mission at the Del Rio Parks Foundation is *to enrich the quality of life for the community through the development of outdoor park and recreational spaces in the City of Del Rio. We serve to nurture open space improvement opportunities by encouraging and mobilizing the financial support of neighborhood groups, foundations and citizens.* Thus, we can think of no project more deserving of our support than *Nicky's Dreamland*.

Del Rio is home to a vibrant and diverse community of active and engaged citizens. We boast several incredible natural resources, and many parks, that provide wonderful opportunities for Del Rioans to spend time outdoors. As a small and relatively remote community however, we realize the very real barriers to these outdoor experiences for some members of our community. We **MUST** do better for our friends, family, and neighbors to ensure that everyone feels welcome, enriched by our outdoor spaces, and recognized as equal members of our community.

It is our organization's sincere hope that *Nicky's Dreamland* becomes a reality through the deliberate and overwhelming support of our community. We will be doing whatever we can to support the project and we are eager to celebrate another first for our wonderful community.

Laura Gill Vasconcellos

President  
Del Rio Parks Foundation

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a statewide program within the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. In 2017 the state of Texas reported ECI serviced the following % of population:

State-wide: 3.34%  
Val Verde County: 5.64%



## EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 15

132 Foster Dr.

Del Rio, Texas 78840

Telephone (830) 774-1156 Fax (830) 774-7123

March 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Early Childhood Intervention (E.C.I.) program serves families with children birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities. The Del Rio office provides services to an average of 115 families in Val Verde and Edwards Counties.

E.C.I. helps families incorporate intervention strategies into daily routines which has shown to increase children's rate of growth in key developmental areas.

Research shows children learn new skills best during everyday activities and play. Children of all ages should have the opportunity to learn and grow through play and exploration regardless of abilities and/or limitations, including visual and hearing impairments.

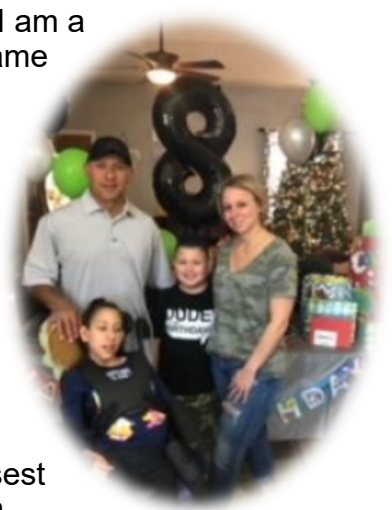
Nicky's Dreamland / It's a Beautiful Day has the potential to offer play and exploration for all children. The Del Rio community will benefit from a resource where families can experience time together in an environment that promotes and allows activities to be enjoyed by all children.

Best regards,

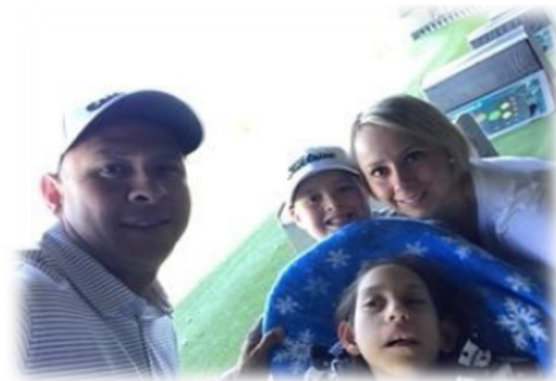
Lena O. Bermea, E.I.S.

Early Childhood Intervention

My name is Tara Fernandez, I live here in Del Rio, Texas. I am a mother of a 13 year old girl with multiply disabilities. Her name is Tatianna, she cannot walk, and she is non-verbal and requires a wheelchair for mobility. Tati as she is known to her family and friends enjoys being outside. But unfortunately the local playgrounds make it difficult for her to enjoy play time, since they are not compatible with her mobility restrictions. Creating a place for families similar to mine would open up opportunities for Tati. It is not an easy task to take a child in a wheelchair to an inaccessible playground. Basically, she can only watch as other children laugh and play around.



Currently, we must travel over 180+ miles to get to the closest adaptive playground so Tati can enjoy a playground like an average child. Some families may not have the financial ability to visit a distant adaptive playground. Building one here would make a huge difference in the lives of so many children with or without disabilities that belong to our community. My able-bodied child could play with his brother if an inclusive playground existed. Here, children could play side-by-side, connect and gain an understanding of one another. Tati met Nicky at the day care on base when they were around 2 years old. They loved playing together and became fast friends! I am sure they would have loved playing together on this playground too!



I support the request for funding to create an inclusive playground for kids of all abilities. I support having a place where all children can practice inclusion and build new friendships.

Sincerely,  
**Tara S, Fernandez**

As a mom, I would enjoy seeing a playground that is inviting and inclusive to children of all abilities and needs. Children have the purest of hearts and when we address differences in a positive environment, we are creating an encounter that emphasizes we have too many things in common rather than focusing on our differences. What a beautiful concept for everyone to subscribe to! I want my own children to realize that every person is a beautiful soul. A community playground of this nature will bridge the gap, facilitate discussion, and prevent awkward encounters for families when they meet in other places.

**Amy Stewart**  
**Mother of 3, Educator and Military Spouse**

As a former Del Rioan and mother of two special needs children, a park for our children would've been awesome. Living there, I always had my kids out, but mostly we hung out at the park with the ducks or by the lake. There was very little for my babies to do, because they couldn't swing on the swings, play on the monkey bars or swim. I don't know if you know this, but there are A LOT of special needs children in Del Rio, and they could benefit from being taken outdoors and enjoying the parks as well as the other kids. It's not fair for everyone to have something and not them. My son loves the wheelchair swing and playing with the other kids in the town where we live now. Just interacting with others, having fun and not being left behind is what all children need. You don't know what it's like until you bring your child to the park only to see them sit out there looking at the other



kids —not able to do much because the park doesn't have anything for them to play on. I'm sorry, but it's not fair to our kids. I ask you to consider helping build this park. Think about if you had a special needs kids, you would want for them to have a place to play, have fun and just interact with other kids and for you to be able to interact with other parents just like you. This is the time to do this... to build it! I guarantee you that you won't regret it. Del Rio is growing, so why not show that we can do this for our kids and our town. I'd like to know that when I visit family in Del Rio with my son, that he will have somewhere to go... a big beautiful park that was built for our kids just like him.

**Dora Guardiola and Juan Morin Jr.**

*“Dig a little deeper and the lesson is clear:  
Make something accessible and everybody  
benefits, not just the disabled people. Every  
single time. That’s an impressive record.*

*~Lawrence Carter-Long*

Texas Education Authority (TEA) Reported in 2018 that San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated School District (SFDRCSID) — part of Region 15 — provided Special Education services to 1,000 students with physical, mental, learning and/or emotional disabilities.

I believe having this inclusive playground is very important. It will allow all children to grow and learn from one another no matter what their abilities maybe.

**Amy Haynes-Sanders,  
SFDRCSID Board Member**

I am an Educational Diagnostician with our local school district. As an Educational Diagnostician, I evaluate students for special education eligibility and participate in programming decisions for our students who receive services. Several of the students I have had the honor of meeting would benefit from an All Inclusive playground. There is a large community of children who cannot access the current playground facilities. Please consider an All Inclusive playground for Del Rio and show that our wonderful community considers and embraces all children!

**Michelle Clark  
Educational Diagnostician, M. Ed.**



# Sponsorship Opportunities

<b>Koala Nicky Entry Gateway</b>	<b>\$41,210</b>
~ Signage/Resilient Surfacing/Seating	
<b>Musical/Sensory Area</b>	<b>\$130,550</b>
~Cozy Dome	
~ Musical Elements	
~ Texas Tortoise	
~ DigiRiders	
~ Concrete Seat walls w/sandblasted details	
~ Signage/Educational Panels	
~ Buddy Bench	
~ Shade—Tri-Sails	
~ Resilient Surfacing	
<b>Nicky's Treehouse</b>	<b>\$505,055</b>
~ Nicky's Dreamhouse Structure	
~ Hollow Log Climber	
~ Wishbone Balance & Log Steppers	
~ Bird Look & Find Panels w/Braille (3)	
~ Bird Fun Facts (30)	
~ Sensory Info Panels (12)	
~ Shade—Tri Sails	
~ Resilient Surfacing	
~ Benches	
<b>Spin, Sway, &amp; Swing Zone</b>	<b>\$208,295</b>
~ Swings (4 belt, 2 bucket & 2 molded)	
~ Oodle Swing	
~ Omnispinner	
~ We-Saw	
~ Sway Fun	
~ Shade—Tri-Sails	
~ Resilient Surfacing	
<b>High Activity Zone</b>	<b>\$164,300</b>
~ Bankshot (Basketball)	
~ Zipkrooz (assisted & standard)	
~ Shade over Zipkrooz	
~ Resilient Surfacing	
~ Benches	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST.....</b>	<b>\$1,049,410</b>

**Donations will be recognized on our webpage & Facebook.**