



News Release

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New Playground Will Help Strengthen Bonds, Promotes Community Unity *Inclusive playground under construction in Columbus County*

WHITEVILLE, NC: A new, all-inclusive playground at the Columbus County Playground is under construction. Equipment will include examples such as a Liberty Swing (for children and adults who use wheel chairs), glider, quad-seater see saw, jungle climber with adaptive seating and entranceway, and a rocking boat--accommodations that provide an opportunity for individuals of all ages and abilities to play together outside.

The funding for the playground is a result of Trillium's ability to effectively and efficiently manage Medicaid services on a local level, ultimately providing an opportunity to reinvest savings into the communities in which it operates. We also recognize that everyone deserves an equal playing field; no matter where they live or what diagnosis they have, everyone deserves somewhere they can exercise, experience nature, and enjoy visiting with others.

"Trillium is so excited to officially start on this the playground in Whiteville and continue making a positive impact on the community," says Joy Futrell, Trillium's CEO. "This playground will help children with disabilities to better enjoy play time with their peers, and family members with disabilities can participate in outside play together. By focusing on the power of play rather than our differences, this park will eliminate the stigma of disabilities."

As part of the "Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds," Trillium supplied \$500,000.00 to Columbus County Parks and Recreation for the playground at the Columbus County Playground. Towns and counties across eastern North Carolina applied for these grants for playground updates or to build brand new playgrounds.

"Play is for everyone, and everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy an engaging playground experience. The opportunity to have an inclusive playground is not only a wonderful amenity, but it is imperative to the citizens of Columbus County and the development of their children. Thank you Trillium for making one of my recreational dreams come true and for the joy you are affording all of the children," added Julie Strickland, Director of Columbus County Parks and Recreation.

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Trillium first offered these grants in 2015, and has since constructed 31 playgrounds across our region. Each location received a grant amount appropriate for the scope of work and land space allocated for developing or updating a playground. To learn more, [please visit our website](#). We will announce an opening date soon.

ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 28 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by providing them with ready access to quality care. We take a person-centered approach to health and wellbeing, coordinating care across multiple systems to achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care and efficient use of resources. Trillium is investing in innovation to meet the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve, and remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit www.TrilliumHealthResources.org.

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