



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Seasons Receives \$5,000 from Clay County Community Foundation for Therapeutic Playground

SPENCER – Seasons Center for Behavioral Health received \$5,000 from the Clay County Community Foundation to help fund a therapeutic playground at Autumn's Center.

The therapeutic playground will be specially designed playground equipment for outdoor play therapy at Autumn's Center, opening in Spencer in September. The playground, designed and contracted by Landscape Structures, Inc. of Delano, Minnesota, will serve as an outdoor enhancement to a child's therapy plan. The purpose of the therapeutic playground is to strengthen developmental skills in children, including sensory, motor, cognitive, and social-emotional.

"Sometimes children have a difficult time processing their feelings and experiences in an office setting," said Natalie Sandbulte, Director of Clinical Psychology at Seasons Center. "The therapeutic playground will allow children to move about if they need to, thereby facilitating the therapeutic process and the child's ability to learn. The playground will be a wonderful opportunity for children to learn new skills in a natural and familiar environment."

The funding provided by the Clay County Community Foundation will assist in building Phase 1 of the playground project, designed for 5-12 year olds. The playground will include an integrated play area called "PlayBooster" and a freestanding play area.

"We are appreciative of the continued support from the Clay County Community Foundation in serving children in our community," said Kim Scorza, Executive Director at Seasons Center. "It takes everyone to help children heal from life's hurts and this grant award is reflective of this belief."

Autumn's Center is expected to open on September 1, 2016 and the therapeutic playground will be completed in the fall.

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Autumn's Center, the first of its kind regional children's center, will house rooms and offices designated to care for children's behavioral health, including areas for psychiatric services, outpatient therapy, psychological testing, behavioral health intervention services, substance abuse counseling, parent education, and care coordination services. The center will offer a child friendly and healing environment throughout the building.

Founded in 1959, Seasons Center for Behavioral Health continues to be a leading, comprehensive behavioral health center in the northwest region of Iowa. Offering a broad range of behavioral health Services, Seasons recognizes that investing in behavioral health is investing in a community's economic, education, health and human services systems. Seasons strives to empower individuals so they might become active, contributing members of their communities. For more information on Seasons' services, please visit www.seasonscenter.org or call 1-800-242-5101.

Avera is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to provide excellent care at 300 locations in 100 communities in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states. Our ministry, our people and our superior values distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion hospitality and stewardship. Avera employs more than 13,500. Inpatient, outpatient and clinic visits totaled nearly 2.5 million in the last year, a number equal to more than twice the population of the Avera service area. For more information please visit www.avera.org.