



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Seasons Receives \$2,000 from Renaissance Initiative for Therapeutic Playground

SPENCER – Seasons Center for Behavioral Health received \$2,000 from the Renaissance Initiative 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, which will open 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 Renaissance Initiative will assist in building the playground project. The playground features seven distinct play areas, including: a large play area with various areas for climbing, sliding, running, and balancing; a swing set area with developmentally appropriate swings; a "twister" for vestibular input; a sensory play center wall to engage the senses with built-in tactile elements to encourage kids to explore various rough and smooth textures and shapes; a "flywheel spinner" where kids hang on and play together, providing social interaction; a "pulse tempo" which is a multi-sensory interactive musical playground game; and a "cozy dome" which offers kids a place to escape the hustle and bustle of a busy playground.

"Seasons is grateful for the support of the Renaissance Grant for the playground at Autumn's Center," said Christina Eggink-Postma, Director of Program Coordination and Compliance. "It is wonderful to be a part of a community that cares so much about our children!"

Autumn's Center is expected to open on September 1, 2016 and the therapeutic playground will be completed, weather-permitting, by the spring of 2017.

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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.