



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **ARC DONATES \$10,000 TO AVEN'S VILLAGE AT ISLAND GROVE**

**August 12, 2014 (Greeley, CO)** – Shanes' Inspiration for Purposes of Aven's Village and the City of Greeley received their first substantial donation from ARC of Weld County. Larry McDermott, Executive Director of Weld County ARC and Kris Housel presented a \$10,000 check to Andy McRoberts, the City of Greeley's Culture, Parks, and Recreation Director, and Rev. Arron Chambers, Pastor of Journey Christian Church and lead advocate for Aven's Village, on Thursday, August 7. Brandy and Ethan Mondy, their daughter Aven (for whom the playground is named) and their son Isis were also there for the presentation.

What's Aven's Village at Island Grove? It's the vision to build an inclusive playground at Island Grove Regional Park, located at 501 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue in place of the current playground. With the support of Rev. Chambers and the City of Greeley in partnership with Shane's Inspiration (a non-profit organization devoted to creating inclusive playgrounds and programs that unite children of all abilities), this dream may soon become a reality.

"The donation from ARC is a huge step towards building Greeley's first inclusive playground," stated Andy McRoberts. "We are hoping that this generous donation will encourage other organizations and businesses to help fund the project." In fact, ARC's Executive Director, McDermott is challenging other organizations to step up to the plate and make a donation by August 20. McRoberts is in the process of applying for grants to assist with funding, and needs to show how much financial backing they have received thus far by that date. There are 512,000 children and adults with disabilities that live in Colorado; Weld County School District 6 has 2,000 students (17% of the student population) with some type of disability. An accessible park in the community would mean that Aven and so many other children would be able to play with their family and friends without limitations.

Help make Aven's Village a reality at Island Grove by making a donation. Visit [www.avensvillage.com](http://www.avensvillage.com) to donate online or send checks payable to: SI FPO Aven's Village (Shane's Inspiration for Purposes of Aven's Village) and mail to c/o Tom Welch, 501 N. 14th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631. Like them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/friends/requests/?fcref=rup#!/avensvillage> to follow the progress. For more information, contact Sarah Boyd, Parks Planner, at 970.336.4180.

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