



Friends of BJM
Beverly J. Martin Elementary School PTA
302 West Buffalo Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

10 October 2007

I am writing to ask for your help in transforming the playground at Beverly J. Martin (BJM) Elementary School into a state-of-the-art outdoor play and learning space.

The March 2007 school bond issue began that process by providing \$150,000 for new playground equipment for our school. This comes at a good time for BJM. We have the most diverse student population in the district, the largest pre-K program, the highest proportion of special needs students and the district's only classroom for autistic children. Our playground needs major reconstruction. But equipment is not the whole story.

The school bond money is paying for the purchase of innovative and dynamic play equipment, but we need financial support for other parts of the new play area.

With your help, the new BJM Play Area will include:

Natural Elements

- Flower, fruit and vegetable gardens maintained by students
- Green spaces for play - a scarce and valued commodity for many of our students
- Landforms that encourage dramatic play and imaginative use
- Trees and ornamental planting for shade and landscape color
- Small hill for sledding and as an island within a tricycle path for pre-K use

Seating and Outdoor Meeting Areas

- Quiet retreat areas for large and small groups
- Classroom area for outdoor instruction
- Outdoor theater

Community Development

- Arbors to welcome visitors to Buffalo and Court Street entrances
- Child-directed art and development projects involving larger community

Your donation will help build the most remarkable playground in Ithaca. The BJM Play Area Steering Committee worked tirelessly for nearly 2 years with teachers, staff and

students to produce the new play area design. It includes physical, social and developmental elements that will help our children learn and grow.

Design and planning professionals contributed hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars of research and design time to the BJM playground project. Members of the Greater Ithaca Activities Center, the ICSD Board of Education, the Downtown Civic Association, Common Council and Cornell Cooperative Extension helped us incorporate these elements into an overall design. The result is both a true educational space as well as a play area. Our outdoor environment is more than just a place to let off steam. It is an integral part of our children's learning environment.

We've come a long way. We need your help for the final mile!

The continued success of BJM is essential to the health and vibrancy of our downtown neighborhoods and to the greater Ithaca community. Help us make this design a reality! In recognition of your tax-deductible donation your organization will be listed on our website (www.bjmpta.org). Larger donations will be recognized with permanent signs on the playground. No gift is too small.

Thank you your support. If you have questions, please call me at 280-0661.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Brock
BJM Playground Committee Coordinator
cynthia.ny@earthlink.net
607 280-0661

The BJM PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible. Our EIN is 23-7005244.

Send donations for the new BJM play area to:

Friends of BJM
BJM PTA
302 West Buffalo Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

We are happy make a donation to the Friends of BJM for the new playground!

Please return this portion with your donation to:

Friends of BJM
BJM PTA
302 West Buffalo Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Donation of: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I agree to donate the following goods or services to the Friends of BJM:

Type of Goods or Services: _____

Estimated Value: _____

Please retain a copy of this form for your records and to substantiate your contribution to a Federal tax-exempt organization.