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Museum hosts playground project fundraiser

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KAY MERRIAM

Drive along South Second Avenue in Pocatello and you pass building after building. Some are reminiscent of warehouse and factory uses, but others are taking on the toney look of theaters, dance schools, sales offices and more.

This creeping development is steadily improving the area. The best of all is Don Aslett's Museum of Clean. This building has made (and is making) use of technological solutions to lighting and heating needs that enhance its importance to our community.

Don Aslett is not accustomed to accepting the idea of "we don't do it that way" nor is Vicki Mainzer. So, instead of a quiet building on a quiet street, on this day (Saturday, Feb. 26) the street was clogged with cars as was the parking lot of the Museum.

The occasion was Brooklyn's Playground Project. The word "magnificent" is its closest meaningful descriptor. Who is Brooklyn? She is a daughter of Melissa Fisher and is afflicted with spina bifida. Simply put, she needs a safe place to play and interact with others. The outcome is a playground which would not only be safe, but all inclusive.

Back to the Museum: hundreds of people started arriving as soon as the doors opened and it continued that way all day long. Inside, there were opportunities for jumping, jousting, and trying to keep one's balance. There were zoo animals, fingerprinting stations, examples of Native American lore, T-shirts to buy, and much more. Little children walked about with pink or blue cotton candy, hot dogs, tacos, hot or cold drinks, and again, much more.

was successful. This multi-purpose activity center will be situated at the O.K. Ward Park and will accommodate all children with and without disabilities.

There were opportunities for tactile experiences including miniature sand boxes and some white stuff which made use of toilet paper, soda, and liquid soap. It was messy but fun to touch and shape. All activities were attractive to the children.

There is so much more, but let it suffice to say that the Museum was a throbbing, pulsating whole filled with adults, children, volunteers and vendors. The underlying purpose of raising money for the playground

generosity of many, many Pocatellans; and aside from the enthusiasm of the many participants, whether vendors or volunteers, this occasion was brilliant in the manner by which it engaged children and adults in a huge variety of fun experiences.

Generosity, good planning and broad acceptance can combine to provide a powerful force. When the motivating concept of a playground for all children is added on, very few people would try to deny the validity of such a valuable community project. So kudos to those who initiated this project and a toast to all who are making it happen.



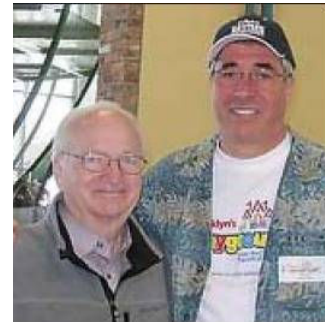
Jackson, Clark, Emilie and Nathalie Lauture and Marie Geslin



Don Aslett, Vicki Mainzer and Craig Parrish



Ellen Hargis and Laura Vailas



Arlo Luke and Tim Forhan



Marc Lauture and Melissa Barthelemy



Nicole, Ryan and Annette Davis



Shaina Vallajolid and Joann Judy



Galen Bills and Melissa Fisher



Ryan & Robin Schultz