

Media Advisory

For the first time in their lives, Calgary children with disabilities at URSA Cub House will have a playground they can access

With the help of generous donors URSA is delighted to open the fully accessible park for Cub House residents to enjoy

CALGARY, September 16th, 2022 – Children living at the URSA Cub House in Martindale can now finally play on a fully accessible playground thanks to a successful fundraising campaign. In coordination with HomeSpace and Parkworks by MAKR, URSA is delighted to open the accessible equipment to the children it serves as well as sensory play spaces for every level of ability.

“Our job is to break down barriers for these children,” says Pam McGladdery, the CEO at URSA. “They already have so many barriers in life – including barriers to access playgrounds and play space. URSA works to break down these barriers no matter how big or small they are.”

The playground renovation was made possible through major donor contributions, namely Calgary Foundation, Kinsmen Club of the Stampede City, and iA Financial.

“Providing a space for the children at URSA to access play freely will contribute to their development in enormous ways. Projects like the one URSA is implementing is one step closer to more accessible options for all to experience and enjoy.” – iA Financial

URSA's Cub House site houses and supports children with complex medical needs with around-the-clock care from specialized staff. Most of the children who are a part of this program rely on wheelchairs and assistive equipment which makes most playgrounds inaccessible for many.

“For kids like ours, having the time to play is limited by the daily challenges of their disability and the medical appointments that go with that,” says Jeff, a parent of an individual in URSA's program. “Thanks to them, our severely disabled daughter can now have a wonderful escape that will bring tons of joy.”

The Cub House location was established in 2018 with the support of HomeSpace, the Government of Alberta, and the Government of Canada.

“For children who have faced more complex challenges in their first few years of life than many of us will ever face, the creation of this playground will make a massive impact to their quality of life” says HomeSpace CEO Bernadette Majdell. “We are so proud of URSA for their dedication to these children.”

For more information please visit: HomeSpace.org/playground

Who: Pam McGladdery, CEO, URSA
Justin Graham, President, Kinsmen Club of the Stampede City
Sean Parlee, Vice President, Kinsmen Club of the Stampede City
Liz Bradley, Marketing Associate, iA Financial Group
Elder Leonard, Children Services

Cub House Overview

URSA's Cub House program supports medically fragile children with complex needs. Developed as a placement option for children, age 0-17, who were previously living in a hospital or had no alternate respite or placement options, Cub House provides 24-hour awake staff support to meet the physical, emotional, and medical needs of these children. Cub House works to train and support a child's family in their transition to assuming the child's medical care and enabling the child to return to the family home or move to a more permanent home in the community.

About HomeSpace Society

HomeSpace is a charitable developer, rental housing owner and property manager. HomeSpace provides safe, appropriate, and affordable housing for the most vulnerable Calgarians and owns a portfolio of more than 700 units in 24 communities across the city. For more information visit HomeSpace.org

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IMAGES AND VIDEO available at: <https://homespace.org/images-playground>

