



# PRESS RELEASE

*News from Monmouth County's Open Space, Park and Recreation Agency*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **TONY'S PLACE PLAYGROUND DEDICATION NOV 7**

Long Branch, NJ - All children love to play! With the opening of Tony's Place at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park on Saturday, November 7, 2009, children of all abilities will have another place in Monmouth County to laugh, play, grow, and learn together. This universally accessible playground is the second joint venture playground project of the Monmouth County Park System, Challenged Youth Sports, based in Middletown, and Friends of the Parks.

Challenged Youth Sports, Inc., a non-profit, recreational sports program for children with disabilities, was founded in 1990 by Margo and Paul Hooker. The group believes children of all abilities love to play and they work hard to assure all children get the opportunity. Tony's Place, named in honor of Dr. Anthony Musella, former Vice-Chairman of the Board of Recreation Commissioners, is a wheelchair friendly play space where people of all ages and abilities can interact and play in an accommodating environment.

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“Tony’s Place is now a reality and a tangible result of the dedication of Margo and Paul Hooker to the youth of Monmouth County”, according to Ed Loud, Chairman of the Board of Recreation Commissioners. “The Board of Recreation Commissioners committed an area at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park for the playground and Challenged Youth Sports group and the Friends of the Parks assisted with the funding of this exciting project. We are proud to name this facility in honor of Tony Musella, a tireless advocate of the benefits of recreation.”

This completed play facility includes elevated surfaces that are accessible to those in wheelchairs, Braille signs for the visually impaired, and other areas where children of varied abilities can play together in fun and stimulating activities. Tony’s Place will replace and expand the park’s existing playground. It is part of the Park System’s ongoing program of upgrading and improving all county park playgrounds in order to comply with access requirements and safety standards as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, Consumer Products Safety Commission, and the American Society for Testing Materials.

The construction cost of Tony’s Place was \$633,700 and has been made possible with \$140,000 of individual and group donations to Challenged Youth Sports, and a \$12,000 donation from the Friends of the Monmouth County Parks. The Friends of the Parks is a non-profit charitable organization comprised of area citizens and businesses committed to the support of the Monmouth County Park System.

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The Monmouth County Park System manages over 30 park areas, six golf facilities, offers more than 4,000 recreation programs and welcomes over five million visitors each year. To find out more about the Monmouth County Park System, call (732) 842-4000, ext. 4312, TDD (732) 291-9484, visit the Park System web site at [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com), email [info@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:info@monmouthcountyparks.com) or write to 805 Newman Springs Rd, Lincroft, NJ 07738.



Photo: Children love to play! On Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 10 am the Monmouth County Park System will dedicate Tony's Place, a universally accessible playground for children of all abilities located at Seven President's Oceanfront Park, Long Branch.

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