Homeless Playground Fact Sheet

Name of project: ECHO Homeless Children's Playground (John Gaskins Memorial Playground)

Location: ECHO's Homeless Families Shelter, Bethany Family Apartments, 2221 South Meridian Rd., Tallahassee, FL.

Purpose of project: To provide a safe environment to play for the more than 30 children residing at Bethany Family Apartments. Currently, the only place for the children to play is a parking lot. The new playground will allow children to play in a safe, age appropriate recreational area.

Donations needed: Contributions are needed for playground equipment, fencing, landscaping materials, and site preparation. Volunteer labor, building materials, and food (for work days) are also needed. To make a contribution, contact Colleen Barton at (850) 224-6500.

Unique information: The ECHO playground will serve children who live in emergency and short-term housing for homeless families. The Bethany Family Apartments serve as temporary home to more than 48 families a year. These children have been through very difficult times. Playing gives them an opportunity to work through the stress and anxiety associated with being homeless. Playing is a necessary part of their healing process.

Partners: The partners for the ECHO Playground Project include the Genesis Group, Florida State University Center for Civic Education and Service, FSU students and Tallahassee 25. FSU students who are partnering in the project are former Service Leadership Seminar participants.

Donors: Center for Civic Education and Service, Delta Phi Delta National Multicultural Fraternity, Inc., Koski Design Group

Contact: For information, contact Anna O'Sullivan at (850) 644-1620, or email at ao'sullivan@admin.fsu.edu.