



**Bennett's
Village**
a place for ALL to play

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bennett's Village Receives a \$25,000 Gift from the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – May 8, 2023– Bennett's Village, a non-profit dedicated to building a multigenerational, all-abilities play space at Pen Park in Charlottesville, was gifted \$25,000 from the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). With this gift, Bennett's Village has now passed the \$300,000 mark of the \$500,000 needed for Phase One of the five phase project to transform Pen Park into an inclusive play space where all can play.

"These funds will be used to directly support the construction of our accessible Treehouse, set to break ground in Spring of 2024" says Bennett's Village President and co-founder, Kara McClurken. "The treehouse will be constructed behind the existing playground and extend into the tree canopy so people of all abilities can experience truly being surrounded by nature. We are grateful for ODEC's commitment to inclusive play for all our community and the many donors who have gotten us to over 60% of our fundraising goal for Phase One."

Phase One includes the accessible treehouse, complete with electricity to support medical equipment and communication needs of our community members as well as an accessible path that will allow those who use wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers the ability to enjoy access to the woods below the treehouse. Future phases will include a parkour track, misters, accessible swings and merry-go-rounds, splash pad, sensory gardens and nature play, areas for hide-and-seek and creative play, shading and seating for all types of bodies, gender inclusive bathrooms, additional picnic and gathering spaces, fencing to prevent elopement and more.

The Old Dominion Electric Cooperative is an electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Glen Allen, Virginia that provides wholesale power to its 11 member electric cooperatives in the states of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware in the United States. Floyd Lively, Plant Manager at the Louisa Generation Facility, brought the need to build an all-abilities playspace to his company. Lively, whose grandson Wilson will benefit from a play space like Bennett's Village, says "My favorite part about working for ODEC in my current position is the pride I get by being a representative of a company that has our local communities best interest at heart."



Bennett's Village Board members and their kids, Heather Lively Rogers and son Wilson, and Old Dominion Electric Company Director of Communication and Public Relations celebrate the \$25,000 donation at Pen Park.

For more information on how you can help Bennett's Village make Charlottesville a place where all can play, visit us online at bennettsvillage.org. You can also find us on Instagram @BennettsVillage.

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