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15-year-old working to build playground in Russia

by *alynsen*

If you ever doubt you can make your playground dreams come true...a 15-year-old is well on his way to getting a playground built at a children's hospital in Krasnoyarsk, a city in the Siberian region of Russia.

Alex Griffith of Forest Hill, Md. spent the first year of his life in that hospital. Recently, he read a journal that his father had written detailing their experience while traveling to Russia to adopt him in 1994. The journal mentioned a playground at Hospital #20 in a state of utter disrepair. The playground had one rusty swing with a rotten wooden seat, a sandbox mostly covered in dirt and mud, and a small gazebo with a picnic table. Alex thought the playground was unsafe and decided he wanted to build a new playground so that the children of Krasnoyarsk could have a safe, fun place to play.

At the time Alex was reading this journal, he was brainstorming ideas for his Boy Scout Eagle Project. An Eagle Project is a service project helpful to any religious institution, school or community and Alex decided he wanted to provide service to his birth home in Russia by building a new playground. He then spent 6 months doing research and planning for the project, and was given approval to do so from the Boy Scout Harford District Advancement committee.

Alex has already received help from over 500 people in 62 cities, 20 states and 4 countries in his effort to make his dream of building a playground at his birthhome a reality. He will be traveling to Krasnoyarsk this summer along with friends to install the playground. You can learn more about the project, and how you can support it, on [his website](#).



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Timbolo - 03/17/2009

This is so cool. I also remember really poor playgrounds when I was a kid in Romania. I'm checking out his website and sending a donation. love it.



kasaturyan - 03/10/2009

This is wonderful! I wish I could build one in Moscow, where I grew up. I remember having the same rusty swing set and a horrendous rusty slide (from which my mom prohibited me to slide down) and a dirty sand box that we played in. However, I still played there everyday afterschool, despite the conditions. All Russian playgrounds are so similar!