



## Jackson companies inspired to help 6-year-old girl rebuild Partnership Park's playground

Published: Monday, September 17, 2012, 1:14 PM Updated: Monday, September 17, 2012, 2:04 PM

By **Tarryl Jackson**

JACKSON, MI – A 6-year-old Jackson girl who has been raising money to rebuild a fire-damaged playground in Jackson's Partnership Park is getting more help from the community. Businessman David Klein and Tylers Construction Services, 6580 Spring Arbor Road, have stepped up to help Akaysha "Kay-Kay" Dempsey-Owens' by volunteering their services. Since Akaysha set up her own lemonade stand last week to raise money to "get her slide back" and fix up the park, the first-grader has received many calls from people who want to help, said her grandmother Wanda Beavers. "They're reaching out," Beavers said about the community. "I'm going to let God take it as it goes and let people chip in when they can. I want (Akaysha's) goal to come true."

A popular slide at the park was set on fire Aug. 25. Beavers said the equipment at the park was installed three years ago and that the park is the cornerstone of the community. Grants keep the park going. She estimated the park could cost as much as \$20,000 to rebuild. Klein said he found out about Akaysha's effort through the Citizen Patriot. Klein Brothers and many other community members helped build the park, he said. "We were there from the beginning," he said. "Where would (the children) play if they didn't play there? It's really important that we put this park back together." Klein said he plans to meet with Beavers Monday afternoon to assess the damage to the playground and what needs to be done to get it going again.

Jeff Tyler, owner of Tylers Construction Services, said his company has also done a lot of work with Partnership Park. After seeing Akaysha's story, he contacted Beavers to see what the company could do to help. He is hoping to raise money for the rebuild through the company's Saturday morning radio show on 970 WKHM by reaching out to their listeners. Tylers Construction Services will also volunteer labor to rebuild the park. "It was a good thing in the community, and people have worked to get it there," Tyler said about the park.

Akaysha said it was good that people are reaching out. "Every day I went up there (to the playground)," she said. "I asked to go there every day." Beavers said she is proud of her granddaughter, calling her a "little community leader."

"It was a little bitty girl, and she took the effort," Beavers said.

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