

The Tatum's Garden Foundation
PO Box 3493
Salinas, CA 93912
www.tatumsgarden.org



Cultivating accessible, inclusive play

Dear Mr. Mariscal,

My name is Amanda Bakker, and I am the President of the Tatum's Garden Foundation in Salinas, CA. You are very likely familiar with the Tatum's Garden playground, which is Monterey County's first fully inclusive and accessible playground, located within Sherwood Park in Salinas. Our family spearheaded the effort to raise funds and construct Tatum's Garden in 2013, in what became a whirlwind year for us. With the community's help, Tatum's Garden went from a dream to a physical reality open to the public in a matter of 7 months. The playground is now about to celebrate its 2nd Anniversary in December, and serves hundreds of families a week from all over the Tri-County area.

We have since founded The Tatum's Garden Foundation, as a 501c3 nonprofit organization, to serve several purposes: to raise funds for the ongoing care and maintenance of Tatum's Garden, and implement that maintenance every day; to continue to raise awareness in the community for the need for inclusive play, and to host and promote events that do so; and to increase opportunity for inclusive play by building additional accessible, inclusive playgrounds, and adding inclusive surfacing and equipment to existing playgrounds in the community. Our vision statement as an organization is "Inspiring communities to foster abundant play for children of every ability."

We are reaching out to you today because as a Board of Directors, we have decided we are ready to begin our next playground project. We are very interested in the idea of renovating an existing playground area in Toro Regional Park, and making it fully inclusive and accessible to children in our community. We look forward to the opportunity to begin this discussion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the Best,

Amanda Bakker

President-The Tatum's Garden Foundation