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Kirby & Holt Fund Adaptive Playground

Lawyers from the Raleigh law firm of **Kirby & Holt** were honored as they donated funds to build New Hanover County's first public adaptive playground for the disabled.

David Kirby and **Mark Holt** of Raleigh, along with former client Morgan King, cut the ribbon for the playground, which was recently dedicated at John B. Codington Elementary School in Wilmington. The lawyers and their law firm's charitable foundation, the **Kirby & Holt** Foundation, donated \$30,000 for the project, which represented most of the money needed to build the playground.

With the new playground, for the first time students in wheelchairs or with other disabilities are able to swing on swings, slide on a slide or ride a merry-go-round alongside typically-developing students. The Codington Elementary adaptive playground is a first in New Hanover County — either at a school or a park.

The playground was the initiative of Mary Beth King, a Wilmington mother whose daughter, Morgan, a student at the school, is disabled from cerebral palsy. **Kirby & Holt** represented Morgan and her parents in a lawsuit regarding the injuries Morgan received during birth.

Morgan, now 8, had been cared for at the United Cerebral Palsy Center in Wilmington, which has a specially adapted, but private, playground. When Morgan began as a student at Codington Elementary, Mary Beth was disappointed to find her daughter couldn't use her new school's playground because it lacked the equipment needed for disabled students.

New facilities at the playground include a merry-go-round that can be used by the disabled; a climbing structure; a slide that can be used by the disabled; swings including swings that can be used by wheelchair-bound or disabled students; picnic tables that are accessible for the wheelchairs and a music table.

Covington Elementary has more than 20 disabled students at the school who will use the facilities,

and students from across the county are expected to take advantage of the playground.

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