City takes rec on the road

BY SHERRY JACKSON – UPDATED JULY 11, 2013

Source: Greenville Journal

The City of Greenville unveiled its first roving MRV (mobile recreation vehicle) Thursday at a press conference. The "Mobi-Rec" unit, filled with sports and play equipment, is ready to provide play sessions, mobile camps and other special events, compliments of Furman University’s Riley Institute.

As part of their Diversity Leaders Initiative class project, the nine members of the Mobilizers team set out to tackle childhood obesity in a new way by making physical recreation more accessible to children of every socioeconomic status in Greenville.

"Approximately 30 percent of children in South Carolina are overweight or obese, and we know that having a healthy lifestyle including adequate exercise is important," the team said in a statement.

The Mobilizers purchased the 2013 Chevrolet Express 3500 MRV with donations from Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, Daniel-Mickel Foundation, Greenville Health System Children’s Hospital, John I. Smith Charities, TD Bank Foundation and United Way of Greenville County.

City Parks and Recreation staff will use the mobile vehicle in select neighborhoods this summer to allow kids to participate in a safe, quality, structured play area where those options are not normally available, officials said.

"The concept is simple," said Dana Souza, Greenville Parks and Recreation director. "If children can’t join us for play at one of our community centers, we will come play with them in their neighborhoods."

The Mobilizers team members are April Buchanan, Ann Bourey, Lynne Fowler, Andreas Kalscheuer, David Lominack, Arelis Moore, Mike Posey, Patricia Ravenhorst and Paul Thompson.

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