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## MIRACLE EQUIPMENT AND BOLAND RECREATION SHINES A BRIGHT LIGHT ON PARKERSBURG

Miracle Recreation Equipment Company  
Boland Recreation

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Community of Parkersburg, Iowa, the Aplington – Parkersburg School District, and the children of Parkersburg and the surrounding area, I would like to say thank you to both Miracle Recreation Equipment Company and Boland Recreation for what you have done for the community of Parkersburg, Iowa.

After the Parkersburg Tornado struck this community on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, few words could accurately describe what the aftermath was like. Words like atomic, catastrophic, death, destroyed, and annihilated emanated from the nation's newspapers and were spoken from the reporter's mouths. One of the most violent storms in our nation's history had struck and tore through the heart of Parkersburg. 288 homes (not houses) were destroyed, 9 people lost their lives, and hundreds of Parkersburg residents were left homeless. The negative statistics describing the circumstances here in Parkersburg could literally go on endlessly. The suffering and psychological impact even today is impossible to calculate.

However, while the circumstances were bleak and our hearts were heavy, there would soon be those who would choose to spread the light. That is something that both of your companies chose to do. Less than four weeks after the tornado struck, your companies provided the children of Parkersburg a playground design to look forward to. They had hope that the future would provide something positive and a faith that everything would one day be all right. Many times on a weekly basis, children from Parkersburg would ask me about the future playgrounds they would play on one day.

Less than one year after the tornado struck, that playground "design" was a reality. While I can accurately describe the positive physical impact that the playgrounds have had and will have on Parkersburg's future, I cannot accurately describe the long-term positive psychological impact the playgrounds have had and will have. Our children are the future of Parkersburg, and the future is a whole lot brighter due to the contributions of your companies. For that, I am immensely grateful and forever thankful.

Thank you for shining a light here in Parkersburg and for all you have done for our children. There is nothing you can do for a community that is greater than what you have done for its children. God Bless and keep up the good work!

Respectfully Submitted:

Christopher M. Luhring