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DDSN Awards the Silver Palmetto for the 2019 Year

City of Rock Hill

And

City of Greenville

(Columbia, S.C.) The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) today awarded City of Rock Hill and City of Greenville the 2019 Silver Palmetto Award. The Silver Palmetto is DDSN's way of recognizing and thanking city and municipal governments in South Carolina for making the lives of people with disabilities a priority in the previous calendar year.

DDSN Commission Chair, Gary Lemel made the presentation today at the annual conference of the Municipal Association of South Carolina's "Hometown Legislative Action Day" in Columbia, SC. City of Rock Hill Mayor John Gettys, Jr. was on hand to receive the award, and City of Greenville Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Flemming was on hand to receive the award.

Rock Hill was recognized for its work with MaxAbilities of York County (The local DSN Board) to plan, fund and develop a "first of its kind" Miracle Field Park in Rock Hill. The park will house 4 miracle fields, a large fully accessible playground with golf and fishing features which allow children with disabilities to play alongside typical children. The park also includes an area for retail use. The park, located adjacent to Winthrop University, is 7 acres in size and will cost in excess of 8 million dollars. The funding will come from the City and will be raised from donors in cooperation with the York County Disabilities Foundation. Ground was broken on the park late last year and it is currently under construction.

Mayor Gettys pointed out at the presentation, "This park is not a statement of where we have been, but where we want to go as a community. It is a statement of what we aspire to be."



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF Disabilities and Special Needs



(Pictured from left to right, Tyler Rex, Thrive Upstate Executive Director, Christy Cates Bright, Thrive Upstate Board Vice Chair, Dorothy Dowe, Greenville City Council, Lillian Fleming, Mayor Pro Tem Greenville City Council, Gary Lemel, Chair, SC DDSN Commission)

The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs is the state agency that plans, develops, coordinates and funds services for South Carolinians with the severe, lifelong disabilities of:

- intellectual disability and related disabilities
- autism spectrum disorder
- traumatic brain injury
- spinal cord injury and similar disability

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