



**Building safe spaces for healthy kids!**

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**The Race2play initiative continues as community partners are still spreading the positive message benefitting our City's quality of life for its residents...** The Columbus Park Foundation and local partners raised over \$400,000.00 in private funding through the Race2play initiative in 2013. By teaming up with Columbus native and NASCAR driver/team owner Tony Stewart, HGTV's Carter Oosterhouse, and "Subway's" Jared Fogle, Race2Play gained BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL ATTENTION. The community and celebrities joined in celebration ribbon cuttings at each park on May 8, 2013 to invest in the infrastructure that promotes healthy living – the free resource of our parks.

**Go to any one of three parks tomorrow and you will see local volunteers from Cummins building Community Gardens to get ready for the reunion celebration of Race 2play...**

Celebrities and the message of their endorsement for addressing childhood obesity and creating all-inclusive playgrounds was what initially created the momentum, but as a result of Race2play investors also expanded The Columbus Parks & Recreation's free, supervised playground program entitled Come Out & Play. Come Out & Play has been a resource offered to residents for over 60 years and grows in popularity. It is an excellent platform for offering additional resources for children and families. Our nation faces the challenge of increasing numbers in obesity rates, especially in the state of Indiana. Being active improves a child's physical, emotional, and mental health. However, kids face a number of barriers to becoming more active, including access to safe, open spaces, playing fields and parks. The built environment plays an integral role in shaping our health.

Come Out & Play activities for children include:

- Stay Fit Challenge (a positive environment rewarding children for their physical activity)
- Field Trips (transportation provided for these trips promoting physical activity)
- Healthy Snacks & Lunches for children in qualified neighborhoods
- Crafts
- Book Express Mobile Bus
- Educational Guest Visits (i.e. police dept., local farmers, etc.)

**And Now Coming in 2014...**

- *Come Out & Grow Community Garden*
- *Friday Night Flicks*

On June 5, 2014, the last day of school, The Columbus Park Foundation and its partners will once again host a Race2play celebration at 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Pence Street Park and Morningside Park.

*You're invited to a reunion celebration for*



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Let's celebrate the value of our neighborhood parks with an evening full of fun for neighbors to enjoy. Come and hear about activities planned for families to have another reason to LOVE THEIR PARKS... all made possible by the Columbus Park Foundation & its partners.

### A Kiwanis Cook-Out at the Neighborhood Parks

*Exciting Activities Include:*

- **LIVE MUSIC**  
     
WHITE RIVER BROADCASTING COMPANY
- **Fun Activities Provided By:**  
  
- **Learn About:**
  - **The Come Out & Play Summer Playground Program**
  - **Friday Night Family Flicks sponsored by Victoria Craig Griffin**
    - June 13<sup>th</sup> at Pence Street Park; July 11<sup>th</sup> at Morningside Park; July 25<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park
- **Come Out & Grow Garden by Hackman's Farm Market & Cummins Volunteers**

**What:** Neighborhood Cook-Out & Summer Fun Activities

**When:** 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Pence Street and Morningside Parks

**Why:** To celebrate our Neighborhood Parks

**Sponsored by:**



The Columbus Park Foundation

Victoria Craig Griffin  
Johnson Witkemper/Mark Johnson &  
Associates/Steve & Linn Johnson  
Estep & Company/Subway  
Cummins

Clarence E. & Inez R. Custer Foundation  
Tom & Gina Wetherald  
Kiwanis Club  
Hackman's Farm Market

**Race2play is a sustaining initiative investors have committed to through their continued involvement by offering summer programs, resources and celebrations for families in underprivileged areas within proximity to neighborhood parks. Local partners see the parks as a long term investment, offering their continued “presence” to see to it that the parks remain in quality condition and are safe spaces for families to enjoy for years to come. Race2play has become a state-wide model and has been endorsed by the Indiana American Academy of Pediatrics as a model to address childhood obesity. Race2play is also one of the State’s Bicentennial Commission endorsed projects deemed as a project open and accessible to the public and met the recommended goals identified as being culturally inclusive, creating a lasting legacy and being engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults. Creating the infrastructure and assuring long lasting community engagement is a comprehensive strategy that has already proven to be successful through Race2Play.**