



Building a playground for kids in Poland

On of the dispatches from Poland during the build.

"Are all Dedication Days like this?" asked one of the local volunteers after choking up a bit. I smiled and simply said "Yep!" Even the local people were touched by the pleasure their week of labor brought to these wonderful children. It never gets old.

The ceremony started out with dignitaries and a TV camera setting up near the makeshift stage outside the fence. After gathering everyone together, a couple of the younger children's classes treated us all to some traditional Polish children's songs. After that, the speeches and thanks were shared, and then more students - including one class that stole everyone's heart: They all wore cowboy hats, and did an old-fashioned square dance for their guests from America. It was so much fun to see.



When the dance was done, it was time to let the children go play, as a few more officials offered their appreciation to the KIDS team, and Paul Bierhaus gave a couple of them gifts in return. Then, we went into the playground to watch the kids enjoy their new gift. Those who have been with us on trips have no problem imagining the scene that unfolds. For those who have not yet been on a trip with KIDS, it's hard to describe. Over 200 children running, laughing, and squealing with delight. Child after child sliding down any of the 13 different slides that this new playground contains, eight swings being used almost non-stop, and parents gleaming over the site of their children having so much fun, in a place that only one week ago contained just an open grassy area.

This playground project was the result of a great effort, led by Paul through a partnership with the Wayzata Free Church and Pastor Z. at

the Glogow Baptist Church. The St. Louis Park Rotary club combined with the Rotary club of Glogow and Rotary International to fund the lions share of the project, then the city of Glogow and the Housing Authority there covered most of the local land preparation and incidental costs. Of course, Kids Around The World provided the recycled playgrounds that were taken out and installed by many volunteers who gave selflessly to help make a dream of over two years become a reality.

