For his Eagle Scout project, Rieve Randall created a terrain park to help rehabilitation patients practice balance and mobility to prepare them to safely return home.
Terrain park helps rehab patients

Physical therapy at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center now includes real-life terrain that people may encounter when they leave the center. Practicing balance and mobility here prepares residents to return safely to their own homes.

Boy Scouts of local Troop 485 partnered with Providence Benedictine Nursing Center Foundation to create a terrain park, featuring different types of outdoor surfaces and tasks, such as opening and closing a garden gate.

“This project fit in perfectly for my school’s 10th grade service theme this year: Caring for the Elderly,” said Rieve Randall, Eagle Scout candidate and project organizer. “It brings me an enormous amount of joy when I think that in some small way I have helped serve the needs of the elderly and allowed them to stay safe.” He is a student at Blanchet Catholic School in Salem, which has a history of service with Providence Benedictine.

“The park provides the types of environmental challenges our patients frequently experience outside their home - loose gravel, uneven ground, rock pathways, stepping up onto a deck, opening and closing a gate, even managing a garden hose.” said Rhett Randall, physical therapist and assistant scoutmaster for Troop 485.

With the watchful support of therapists, patients navigate the park with the cane, walker or wheelchair they might use at home. The park enhances the center’s already thorough physical rehabilitation program. “There are a lot of outdoor experiences that you can’t re-create indoors,” said Karina Montgomery, the center’s rehabilitation manager.

Sixteen scouts, friends and family helped with the park’s construction. “Throughout the whole process I found myself asking the question, ‘What does real service look like?’” he said. “Looking back, I can say that service isn’t just a one-time act, but a commitment to helping others in every way possible.”

2021 highlights

- **Play structure for Child Development Center**
  The play structure at Providence Benedictine Child Development Center was getting old and soon would be unsafe for the children to play on. Donor support allowed us to purchase a new, custom-built structure that will provide children with safe surfaces and age-appropriate activities. “Our curriculum is play based and child centered for individual growth and development,” said Amber Tisdale, manager. “The children love to be outside to explore and engage in imaginary play, and the new structure will get lots of use.”

- **New hospital beds**
  Each year the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center budget includes the cost of replacing some of the beds in the nursing center. In 2021 however, the center needed to replace more beds than the budget allowed. Thanks to your generosity and a grant from Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, 10 new beds were purchased, giving our patients the comfort and care they need. “The cost of renting beds was more than purchasing new ones,” said Tracy Henning, Providence Benedictine executive director. “We’re so grateful for donors who gave to the foundation so we could purchase the beds immediately.”

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2021 total dollars raised by fund

- **Area of Greatest Need** | 21%
- **Building and Equipment** | 8%
- **Endowment Fund for the Poor** | 25%
- **Home Health and Palliative Care** | 2%
- **Therapy Gardens** | 9%
- **Other Funds** | 35%

Total amount raised: $397,203