



**Press Release:**

**Where Angels Play Foundation continues The Sandy Ground Project by honoring Benjamin Wheeler in Ocean City, NJ**

**Background:**

Where Angels Play Foundation announces; "The Sandy Ground: Where Angels Play" project, which launched in Sea Bright, NJ March 1<sup>st</sup>, will now be making its way to Ocean City, NJ. This program was founded and created by the NJFMBA, and was inspired by playgrounds built by our organization after Hurricane Katrina in 2006.

This playground will reflect the life and personality of Benjamin Wheeler, a student who tragically lost his life on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> playground of The Sandy Ground Project.

John Murphy, president of FMBA Local 27, Ocean City fire fighters and City staff are working with the Where Angels Play Foundation and local businesses to bring the project to Ocean City.

**Mission:**

Inspired by senseless violence in Newtown, Connecticut and in an effort to restore the storm ravaged east coast after Hurricane Sandy, we endeavor to create 26 living tributes to the lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School as well as all children who have been victims of violence while creating safe, fun places for children to be children.

May these playgrounds provide a symbol of hope, recovery and a return to normalcy, a gift to our youth in an effort to enhance and sustain their precious childhood.

**Location:**

2901 West Avenue Ocean City, NJ next to the Ocean City Firehouse

**Events Scheduled:**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am – Groundbreaking Ceremony** - Begin Construction of Playground/Volunteer Day

***We are in need of volunteers this day to help build the playground. No pre-registration is required. Please consider donating your gift of time to help build this important project.***

**May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am– Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** – Open and Welcome to the public

The playgrounds will be designed to reflect the personality and interests of the child or teacher for whom it is named. We are grateful to the families for enthusiastically supporting this blessed project. For more information, e-mail MaryKate Lavin at [mklavin@whereangelsplayfoundation.org](mailto:mklavin@whereangelsplayfoundation.org) . To make a donation to this cause or other ways to help, visit the website at [www.thesandygroundproject.org](http://www.thesandygroundproject.org).

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For further information or to donate to the Ocean City project,  
please call Laurie Howey Taylor at 609-525-9285 or email [ltaylor@ocnj.us](mailto:ltaylor@ocnj.us).