

VOLUNTEERS FROM CMHA, HOME DEPOT AND KaBOOM! JOIN FORCES TO BUILD A NEW PLAYGROUND IN ONE DAY

Playground is open to estate and neighborhood residents

On Thursday, August 13, 2009, more than 400 volunteers from The Home Depot, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), and organizers from the nonprofit organization KaBOOM! joined together to build a state-of-the-art, 2,500 square foot playground in one day. The playground now provides a safe, fun environment for the children in the community.

“It’s a great place for me to go with my family, spend time and enjoy the outdoors,” said Chanda Young, CMHA resident.

The playground is funded through a grant from The Home Depot Foundation along with a \$20,000 contribution from CMHA. These organizations worked together to make sure the playground project was as environmentally friendly as possible. For this project, all materials were recycled and unused materials remaining after the completion of the build were donated to other organizations.

“The building of this playground was a resounding success on all accounts and represents something positive in the community,” said Jeffery K. Patterson, CMHA’s chief of staff and operations. “We couldn’t have done it without the enthusiastic support of the residents of Willson Estates, and the generous contributions of time, expertise and money of many organizations but especially from our partners at KaBOOM!, Home Depot, Cleveland Botanical Garden, and the residents and staff of CMHA.”

The new playground was built at CMHA’s Willson Estates located on East 55th and Chester. It is available for CMHA residents as well as residents from the surrounding neighborhood. The children in the estates participated in a part of the planning process and drew pictures of their dream playgrounds, parents formed the design committee, and the designs were then meshed together to devise an overall building plan. The families were thrilled to be involved with the planning and development process from beginning to end. After the build, a board-cutting ceremony was held, and the Cavs Scream Team and the City of Cleveland Show-wagon performed for the entire crew of families and volunteers. This play area now can accommodate close to 600 children including the 150 who live at the estates.

“This playground is the result of hard work and long hours; every minute was worth it. I can’t recall the last time I have felt such an immense sense of fulfillment from completing a project of this magnitude,” said Cassandra Roberts, CMHA AMP Leader. “Here at CMHA we are now providing more than safe and affordable housing. We are also providing an enjoyable place to live.”