

KABOOM! DESIGN DAY

CMHA and KaBOOM! design playground number three for Cleveland's public housing communities

CMHA is partnering with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit that empowers communities to build playgrounds, for the second summer in a row. Together the two organizations along with Home Depot and the rest of the community will build a play area for the residents in Willson Estates. CMHA has completed two other build days with KaBOOM! at Olde Cedar Estate and Bellaire Family Homes. The playgrounds are each assembled in one day utilizing a "green build" and an all-volunteer workforce.

"The opportunity to partner with both CMHA and The Home Depot to bring a new great place to play to the Willson Family Estates is certainly an exciting opportunity. The numerous projects we will be building along with this new playground (shade structures, garden beds, benches, and murals) will make this an amazing space for the community to come enjoy, and it will be built by the community," said Mike Dunn, Project Manager for KaBOOM!.

The community-build process kicked off with a Design Day on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. The children in the estates participated in a part of the planning process and drew pictures of their dream playgrounds. Then staff met with the parents to get them involved and form a design committee. The play areas will serve as neighborhood gathering places for residents and their families.

Next CMHA and KaBOOM! will take the designs they received from the children, mesh them with the input from the parents, and devise an overall building plan. CMHA's KaBOOM! 2009 Build Day will be held August 13 at Willson property. More than 200 volunteers will be needed in order to make this exciting day a success.

"These projects strengthen communities and transform bare areas into a place where families want to be. This will be a great experience and I hope people will walk away knowing they really can make a difference," said Cassandra Roberts, AMP Leader at CMHA. "Watching parents and non-parents alike taking ownership and pride in their property is an amazing sight. This project will definitely be an asset to not only Willson, but to the surrounding community."