

CMHA BUILDS ITS FOURTH NEW PLAYGROUND FOR THE COMMUNITY

CMHA teamed with Kool Aid, KaBOOM! and Center for Families and Children

On Friday, November 6, 2009, close to 200 volunteers from CMHA, Center for Families and Children, and City Year joined together to build a new playground in one day. The playground is located at Cedar Estates, near the Bingham Day Care Center. This is the fourth build CMHA was awarded by Kool Aid and KaBOOM!, a national non-profit that empowers communities to build playgrounds.

“Thank you for the playground. I love you all,” said a very excited three-year-old resident from the Bingham Day Care Center.

The new playground was built at CMHA’s Old Cedar Estate located on Central Avenue and East 24th Street. It is available for CMHA residents as well as residents from the surrounding neighborhood. The day kicked off with CMHA’s Far West AMP Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Michael Burns as the MC. Botanical Gardens designed and planted the gardens, Artist Hector Vega and his team created murals on the surrounding buildings, and many others worked on the construction of the equipment, all contributing to the wonderful beautification project.

“On behalf of the Center for Families and Children’s Board of Trustees, leadership staff and the many families enrolled in our Bingham Early Learning high quality program, thank you to CMHA and Myers Design for going way above and beyond in creating a fun, safe and loving outdoor environment for our most precious community asset—our young children,” said Bernadette M. Kerrigan, chief operating officer for Center for Families and Children. “It truly takes a caring community with extraordinary partners willing to go above and beyond so children and families can be served in high quality early learning programs surrounded by an awe-inspiring outdoor setting!”

After the build, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the families and kids that came out to support the volunteers. The play area will have an enormous impact on the residents as well as the entire neighborhood.

“CMHA is extremely grateful for this opportunity to bring a great place to play for the Cedar residents and the community to come enjoy,” said George Phillips, CMHA’s chief executive officer. “People will walk away knowing they really can make a difference.”