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CHA & KABOOM! TEAM UP TO BUILD PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN AT LOWDEN HOMES

Juwan Howard, NBA Orlando Magic basketball player and former Lowden resident, makes major contribution

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Tomorrow, the CHA and KaBOOM! will team up for a special playground “Build Day” at the Lowden Homes, a CHA housing development on Chicago’s south side. This project is part of CHA’s promise to improve the lives of children growing up in public housing. **The build will take place on Saturday, August 16th from 8am to 3pm at 200 W. 95th St.**

In a unique approach that uses full community participation, Lowden residents and their children, along with 150 volunteers from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago State University, 18th District YouthNet, Trinity Church and the CHA will work side-by-side to create a new play space for the children in less than one day. 60 residents at Lowden Homes are under the age of 12.

“The children here deserve to have a fun and safe place to play,” said Myra King, Local Advisory Council President for Lowden Homes. “The building of this playground is just the beginning of a holistic approach for residents to acquire a better quality of life.”

Lowden Homes is currently undergoing rehabilitation work to update and modernize its units as part of CHA’s Plan for Transformation, a massive effort to improve living conditions for Chicago’s public housing residents.

So far, KaBOOM! has built eight playgrounds at CHA developments since June 2001, in conjunction with CHA residents, corporate partners and the respective surrounding communities. This particular “build day” will be a day-long, fun-filled festival that lets the children face paint, create banners, and participate in games while their new playground is being installed. Breakfast, lunch and t-shirts will also be provided.

\$25,000 for the new playground was donated by the Juwan Howard Foundation. Juwan Howard, current NBA Orlando Magic player, grew up at Lowden Homes and has continued to give back to the community, funding new play areas for the children there. He has also donated tickets to the children of Lowden to attend the Jalen Rose Charity All-Star Basketball Game this Sunday at the United Center.

Other funding for the playground build comes from the CHA and UBM, the CHA contractor that is currently rehabbing Lowden.

About KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit organization that has rallied volunteers to build more than 500 safe, much needed and accessible playgrounds, including 75 in the Chicagoland area. The KaBOOM! community-build process of planning for and building playgrounds, sparks communal pride and responsibility for new playspaces. For more information about KaBOOM! and photographs from other CHA playground projects, visit www.kaboom.org.

Note: Interviews with residents, volunteers and attending local officials are available.