



Play matters for ALL kids

Kids who play are happier, smarter, and more social—as are their communities. They stand a stronger chance of developing into happy, healthy, smart, successful adults too. KaBOOM! is dedicated to giving ALL kids the play they deserve by bringing together parents, advocates, and Community and National Partners to ensure that kids have the opportunity to play every day, everywhere.

PLAY MORE B'MORE

“In helping to bring good kids up and give them a place to play, we are able to bring our community up and raise all of us up together.”

—Eric McGowan III, Play More B'More intern, age 19

Play More B'More mobilizes multi-sector partnerships to put kids first; giving underserved youth an opportunity to lead the creation of kid-friendly communities. The initiative creates play where it is needed most, gives opportunities to disconnected youth, and strengthens Baltimore neighborhoods.





CEDARCREST CENTER

"It's challenging for any family to have children with and children without disabilities, and on top of that, having all of your kids do meaningful activities together. A playground gives the opportunity for that to happen. They can finally play together as a family."

—Cathy Gray, President/CEO, Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities

Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities enriches the lives of children with complex medical and developmental needs, supports their families, and collaborates with other community providers to build a continuum of care.

“Bring on Play’s concept is to implement play elements into areas regularly frequented by children. Our Playful Sidewalks make the City of York more playable and provide art students opportunities.”

—Cori Strathmeyer, Chair, Eat Play Breathe York, York, PA

PLAYFUL CITY USA

Playful City USA is a national recognition program from KaBOOM! that honors communities for taking bold steps that make it easy for all kids to get the balanced and active play they need to thrive. This is York’s 8th year of recognition and play projects!



Seth Nenstiel



OPERATION PLAYGROUND

When Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, KaBOOM! launched Operation Playground to help rebuild childhoods. KaBOOM! channeled more than \$27.1 million into the Gulf Coast, served 297,796 kids, and built 198 playspaces in the 10 years since Katrina.

“KaBOOM! helped change the tide of our city. New Orleans is now remembered not only for Hurricane Katrina, but as a site of rebirth and revitalization.”

—Jarvain Bingmon, Executive Director, Trinity Christian Church, New Orleans

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

“Seeing the kids and their reaction as they ran onto the playground at the end of the day was invaluable. To see the awe and excitement in their faces and knowing this is their playground warmed my heart.”

—Shaylin Sommer, Marriott International employee

MCCH’s mission is to provide solutions to end homelessness in Montgomery County by building a community where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Clients benefit from intensive on-site case management, deep rent subsidies, educational groups and workshops, recreational/social activities, and an active tenant council.





Steven Shires Photography

PRIDE CENTER FLORIDA

“As a gay parent, I am frequently reminded that my child’s family is not the norm. No doubt she is quite aware as well. But on a playground at The Pride Center, she will be surrounded by other children with families just like hers.”

—Rob Lamarche, local father, attorney, social worker, and adoption specialist

The Pride Center provides a welcoming, safe space that celebrates, nurtures and empowers the LGBT communities and their friends and neighbors in South Florida. Their programs and services meet the distinct socio-economic, health, spiritual, and safety needs of the LGBT community. In the past year, their outreach activities have directly impacted 60,000 people.

“As parents, we trust that our kids are going to be well cared for when we drop them off at school... We need to remind parents, educators, and administrators that children have a right to eat and play!”

— Sarah Lang, parent, co-founder of Lunch & Recess Matter

FIGHT FOR RECESS

In September 2014, a group of Seattle parents realized that their kids' lunch and recess times had been cut, leaving little time to eat and play. Discovering the problem was more widespread than just their school, they formed a Facebook group to raise awareness. Media began to cover the story as they held rallies and gained momentum with a petition calling for an official recess policy. This September, the Seattle Teachers' Union joined the fight and demanded a minimum of 30 minutes of recess in every elementary school as a part of their contract. It's a start, but the Seattle group continues to fight for every child's right to play.





DONATE

Help us do more and be more for our kids. **Every tax-deductible dollar you donate tells kids they matter.** Let's ensure ALL kids get the play-filled childhood they deserve.