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**CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY & HOME DEPOT TEAM UP TO
BUILD NEW KABOOM! PLAYGROUND AT ALTGELD GARDENS**

June 8, 2002

On Saturday, June 8, 2002, a brand-new playground will be constructed at Altgeld Gardens, a CHA housing development at 131st Street & Ingleside on Chicago's far south side. The playground "Build Day" will begin at 8:00am and conclude at 3:00pm with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The project is part of the CHA's ongoing commitment to transform the lives of children growing up in public housing.

Scores of volunteers from Home Depot, CHA and East Lake Property Management, along with residents of Altgeld Gardens and their children, will work side-by-side with KaBOOM!, a non-profit agency, to build a safe play area with fun playground equipment, including two swings for physically challenged children. The playground's design was inspired by the drawings of Altgeld's resident children as part of a special "Design Your Dream Playground" event held earlier in the year. Currently, there are more than 2,000 children under the age of 14 who reside at Altgeld Gardens.

The festive atmosphere of this build will feature a slew of fun activities for the kids. Brookfield Zoo will be on-hand to provide face-painting, building bird feeders and their traveling interactive butterfly exhibit. Home Depot volunteers will also bring activity kits for the children that include materials to build toolboxes. Breakfast, lunch and dessert will be served, while a DJ spins music all day long to keep the crowd energized. Rusty Smith, U.S. Olympic Bronze Medal winner for speedskating will also participate in the playground build as part of Chicago Cares 9th annual Serve-a-thon.

"This new playground illustrates the ongoing commitment by the community and our corporate partners to help improve the quality of lives for our residents. This will be a safe and fun place for our children to play," said Terry Peterson, CHA's Chief Executive Officer.

The playground will be dedicated to the memory of Carol Parker, a former Local Advisory Council (LAC) member who devoted her life to the upward mobility of the Altgeld Gardens' residents.

"We're very excited that the community is coming together to create this new playground for our kids," said Altgeld Gardens' LAC president Bernadette Williams. "On behalf of Carole Parker's family, we appreciate the efforts by

everyone who helped make this playground a reality."

The funding for this playground comes from an \$80,000 grant awarded to the CHA by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, which was secured through the efforts of State Senator William Shaw (15th District), who represents the Altgeld Gardens' area.

The playground build will incorporate the professional guidance and community-build model of KaBOOM!, the national nonprofit that has rallied volunteers to build nearly 350 safe, much-needed and accessible playgrounds for kids, including 60 in Chicagoland. The KaBOOM! process of planning for and building playgrounds sparks communal pride, and responsibility for new playspaces. For more information on KaBOOM!, and photographs from other CHA playground projects, visit www.kaboom.org.

