

Ka-BOOM!

AND A PLAYGROUND APPEARS

By Lindsay Graham • On a hot and humid morning in late September, the Universal Boys & Girls Club of Orlando was overtaken by a wave of black, orange and green T-shirts. In a matter of minutes, more than 500 volunteers from HD Supply, The Home Depot and Hands On Orlando joined forces to change the lives of the children in the Carver Shores community — an area that has one of the highest murder rates in Central Florida. Their goal? To build a world-class playground and renovate the Boys & Girls Club in one day, a project called KaBOOM!



The Home Depot (THD) is a founding partner of KaBOOM! — an organization whose goal is to create great playspaces within walking distance of every child in America. In 1996 THD began working with KaBOOM!, providing volunteers to build playgrounds across the country. The September 30th KaBOOM! build in Orlando was just one of many builds during the Corporate Month of Service, a month-long series of volunteer events throughout the country.

More than 200 HD Supply associates volunteered for the event, wearing T-shirts and hats sporting the new HD Supply logo — announced just days before. The opening festivities began with Mayor Buddy Dyer thanking associates for their time and dedication to the community. He announced that September 30 would officially be known as “Corporate Month of Service Day” in Orlando. Joe DeAngelo, executive

vice president of HD Supply, and David Hughes, former chairman of Hughes Supply, presented a check for more than \$400,000 to the Boys & Girls Club to build a new facility in an area of downtown Orlando called Parramore. Volunteers were then divided into groups to build a playground from scratch, repaint and renovate the interior and exterior of the Club and refurbish the landscaping around the facility.

“It was truly amazing to see the combined HD Supply and The Home Depot teams join together with KaBOOM!, Hands On Orlando and the Boys & Girls Club to renovate virtually every inch of the Universal Club’s interior and exterior facilities,” said Joe. “I could not be prouder of the HD Supply and The Home Depot teams and thank them for giving straight from the heart to those who need it the most.”



BEFORE



AFTER



THD will invest nearly \$25 million and nearly 1 million volunteer hours in support of the KaBOOM! program, which is expected to benefit 1.5 million parents and children across the country. For more information, visit www.kaboom.org.

Hands On Orlando is part of the Hands On Network, an organization that provides assistance to non-profits across the country. By identifying, planning and managing community service projects, they engage volunteers, families and companies in a meaningful, hands-on experience that improves the community. For more information on the Hands On Network, visit www.handsonnetwork.com.