



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DESIGNED BY KIDS, BUILT BY VOLUNTEERS:
ARIZONANS FOR CHILDREN, PLAYWORLD SYSTEMS AND KaBOOM! TO
BUILD PLAYGROUND IN JUST ONE DAY FOR MESA CHILDREN**

WHAT: More than 250 volunteers from Playworld Systems and Arizonans for Children, organizers from KaBOOM! and residents of the Mesa community will join forces on Wednesday, Feb. 6 to build a new playground at Arizonans for Children's Mesa Visitation Center. The new playground's design is based on drawings created by children who participated in a Design Day event in December.

WHY: Today's kids spend less time playing outside than any previous generation in part because only 1-in-5 children live within walking distance of a park or playground. This play deficit is having profound consequences for kids physically, socially and cognitively. Children need a place to play every day in order to be active and healthy, something KaBOOM! has been committed to since 1996.

The new playground will serve thousands of children. Arizonans for Children's Mesa Visitation Center provides a comfortable and neutral environment specially designated for supervised visitations so that children who are wards of the state can establish and maintain the best possible relationship with non-custodial parents and family. Currently, the facility's playground is not sufficient and in need of replacement.

Playworld Systems is a KaBOOM! Partner in Play and is the primary equipment manufacturer for KaBOOM! playground builds. Playworld Systems donated approximately \$60,000 in playground equipment in memory of Wayne Anderson, president of Dave Bang Associates, a Mesa-based distributor of Playworld Systems' products, who passed away last June. The park is named Wayne Anderson Commemorative Park in his honor. This project is one of more than 150 playground builds KaBOOM! will lead across the country in 2013 in an effort to fulfill its vision of a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 6
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Kick off ceremony and volunteer deployment
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Best viewing of playground construction
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Final construction phase and adjustments
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate new play area
(Note: all times approximate)

WHERE: Arizonans for Children's Mesa Visitation Center
1020 N. Horne
Mesa, AZ 85203

WHO: **SPECIAL GUESTS, VIPS;** hundreds of volunteers

Arizonans for Children

Arizonans for Children, Inc., a 501(c) 3 non-profit operating in Arizona since 2002, exists to facilitate opportunities and provide effective solutions to improve and stabilize the fragile lives of abused, neglected and abandoned children in child protective custody in Arizona. We provide the resources to ensure foster children have educational, tutorial and skill-development opportunities as well as special care items and other specialized services critical to their individual needs, overall development and general well-being. We provide services to these youths at no cost including tutor/mentoring, special education, legal education, financial education, creative classes such as sewing, dancing and cooking and family visitation centers.

Playworld Systems, Inc.

For more than 40 years, Playworld Systems has delighted in igniting joy in people of every age and ability through play and fitness. Based on the belief that *The World Needs Play*[®], Playworld Systems turns dreams into reality with its imaginative, customized commercial playground and fitness equipment. Our innovative product lines – PlayDesigns[®], PlaySimple[®], Playworld[®], Origins[™], NEOS[®], ENERGI[®], and LifeTrail[®], to name just a few – are designed to unleash the transformational power of play, and imaginations soar and bodies strengthen along the way. An industry leader, we are first and foremost a family-owned company that cares about our customers as if they were family. Our customers benefit from unparalleled personalized attention from our network of local distributors and our value-added services. We invest significant resources to measurably reduce our impact on the environment. Our aggressive action to eliminate polyvinyl chloride (PVC) helped Playworld Systems become the first and only playground manufacturer to have its products Cradle to Cradle Certified[™] Silver. We are deeply committed to evolving the world of play by moving beyond accessibility to create truly inclusive play spaces. That's why we developed the Inclusive Play Design Guide[™], a free comprehensive resource that enables the creation of landmark inclusive play spaces.

Come out and play with us. For more information about Playworld Systems, visit www.PlayworldSystems.com.

KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to saving play. Children today spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation, a fact that is having disastrous consequences on their health, achievement levels, and overall well-being. To fight this play deficit, social entrepreneur Darell Hammond founded non-profit KaBOOM! in 1996 in Washington, D.C. with a vision of creating a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. Since then, KaBOOM! has mapped over 90,000 places to play, built more than 2,200 playgrounds, and successfully advocated for play policies in hundreds of cities across the country. KaBOOM! also provides communities with online tools to self-organize and take action to support play on both a local and national level. Hammond chronicles the founding of the organization and the importance of the cause of play in his *The New York Times* Best Seller [*KaBOOM!: A Movement to Save Play*](#), now out in paperback. The book details how businesses and communities can work together to save play for children across the country. All author proceeds support KaBOOM!. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., KaBOOM! also has an office in San Mateo, Calif. For more information, visit www.kaboom.org.

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