After School Programs Saved!

Last January, the mayor presented a budget that slashed 33 of the city’s out-of-school-time programs. Half of these were in Queens, including two after-school programs operated by The Child Center. Thousands of families were distraught. After months of intense budget negotiations, The City Council restored this funding.

“We are thrilled and grateful that The City Council saved after-school programs in New York City,” said Executive Director Sandra Hagan. “This worthwhile investment saves money in the long run by building kids’ social and academic skills, while giving them a safe after-school haven off the streets.”

The Child Center will provide more than 1,800 children with safe and enriching after-school activities this school year.

Hundreds of Volunteers Build a Playground in a Single Day

Warner Music Group and Non-Profit KaBOOM! Team up with The Child Center of NY

In an extraordinary collaboration, 240 volunteers joined forces on October 21 to transform an abandoned loading dock into a brightly colored playground at The Child Center’s South Jamaica Clinic. This unique ‘community-build’ project was organized by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to ‘saving play’ for children.

The new 2,544-square foot play space was fully assembled from scratch in less than eight hours with the help of volunteers from Warner Music Group, The Child Center, the local community (including employees from Swiss Re) and KaBOOM! The volunteers installed slides, climbing structures, swings, benches, and flower boxes. They painted the surrounding walls with cheerful murals.

With generous funding from Warner Music Group, the new play space will be available to the 600 at-risk children who receive counseling, after-school tutoring, and special programs at this location.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, NY State Senator Malcolm Smith said, “You have no idea what you’ve done for this entire community. You’ve helped turn this neighborhood around.”

“Forty years, it’s been my dream to have a playground here. And now my dream has come true,” said Sandra Hagan, executive director of The Child Center of NY. “Playing together with peers is an essential part of healthy childhood. We are so grateful to Warner Music Group.”

Special thanks to these businesses and individuals that generously contributed materials and food for our big day:

- Apple & Eve, Inc.
- Iris Ballestere
- Rodney Batte
- Boston Market
- Cook and Krupa
- Costco
- Daniel F. Allen & Co.
- Dunkin Donuts
- Ebenezer Restaurant & Pizzeria
- Fine Fare Supermarket
- Flagship Diner
- Golden Krust Bakery
- Home Depot
- McDonald’s
- Mississippi BBQ Grill
- Rivera Produce
- Smoked BBQ Pig
- Barbara Russ
- Subway
- X Riders for the Community.

Painting blue skies and rainbows.

Checking out the new swings.
Let's not let another life be lost. There is much more to do—more parents and politicians to educate, more children and families. We prevent teen suicides, child abuse and tragedy, but there's so much left undone. The world is through empathy and tolerance. Our legacy for our young people still struggling with substance abuse. Now there are scathing critiques of the child welfare authorities' inadequate monitoring of this family over the last six months.

But I keep wondering what was going on for the first years of Marchella's life, a time that is critical for brain development and especially the wiring for relating to others. How hard it must be for a mother to even regularly visit a child who's in the hospital over several years, to say nothing of the influence of the Internet is expanding the way to cross divides and remember that we all live on the same planet is through empathy and tolerance. Our legacy for our young people is through empathy and tolerance.

The total lack of empathy displayed by the fellow students is stunning. I worry that life online makes it harder for our youth to think of others as real people, with real feelings. The influence of the Internet is expanding across many spectrums our nation is becoming more polarized. The way to cross divides and remember that we all live on the same planet is through empathy and tolerance. Our legacy for our young people is through empathy and tolerance.

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