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Images Available

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The Child Center of NY, BOSS, and KABOOM! Unveil 9,000 Square Foot, Kid-Designed Playspace at the Child Center of NY's Residential Treatment Facility

Community comes together with nonprofit to advance playspace equity in Brownsville, Brooklyn

Brooklyn, New York – Today, young people at <u>The Child Center of NY</u> (TCCNY) are celebrating the debut of a new youth-designed outdoor playspace at TCCNY's Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The 9,000 square-foot space is the culmination of a months-long partnership between The Child Center of NY, BOSS, and KABOOM!, a national nonprofit committed to ending playspace inequity. NY Giants quarterback Daniel Jones and Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Kim Council also joined the festivities.

More than 50 volunteers installed the new playspace, which will provide young New Yorkers in treatment at The Child Center with a place to get active, build social bonds, and gather as a community. The layout of the playspace was drawn from ideas presented by community members, including young people, during a design day in August 2022. It features a customized football turf, basketball court and more.

The Child Center's RTF is a coeducational program in a welcoming, supportive environment that serves young people ages 12-18 who have had multiple psychiatric hospital placements or have been involved with the juvenile justice system. It is the only downstate RTF in the state that is a dual NYS Office of Mental Health/Office of Children and Family Services facility. The overarching goal of the RTF is to stabilize young people so that they can return to their communities, live as independently as possible, and realize sustained positive outcomes post-treatment, including improved family relationships.

"Bringing these interactive spaces to children and young adults who have suffered from mental health challenges or have been involved with the juvenile justice system can provide further enrichment," says **Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso**. "I thank all of the partners

that made this playspace at the Child Center Residential Treatment Facility in Brooklyn possible."

"Play is essential to the physical, social, and emotional health of every child, and especially vital for the children in our care at the RTF. Research indicates that daily cardio activity can stabilize emotional disorders better than the combined treatment of medications and therapy," said the Child Center of NY's Chief Clinical Officer Sherri Romano. "Historic disinvestment and exclusion caused by systemic racism have denied generations of children equitable access to parks and playspaces. The new space brings Brooklyn one step closer toward ending playspace inequity, and ensuring that every kid can experience the joys of childhood."

BOSS has provided support for the new playspace through its partnership with KABOOM!, furthering its commitment to ending playspace inequity.

"When we released our brand campaign earlier this year we projected the saying, 'Bosses aren't born, they're made.' That statement is the core of what we want this partnership to embody," said **Stephan Born, President & CEO, Americas at HUGO BOSS Fashion Inc.** "We're grateful to be working alongside TCCNY and KABOOM!, who have welcomed us and allowed us to be a part of building the bosses they are meant to be."

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About The Child Center of NY

The Child Center of NY's mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. Founded in 1953 as a children's counseling center, today it is a multiservice organization that annually reaches 43,000 children and adults through 60 school and community locations, as well as virtual programs. The Child Center works in six main program areas: behavioral health; early childhood education; health homes and integrated care; prevention and family support; residential services; and youth development. The Child Center has become a powerful community presence throughout all five boroughs and Long Island. To learn more, please visit ChildCenterNY.org or join us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Linkedin.

About KABOOM!

KABOOM! is the national nonprofit committed to ending playspace inequity – the reality that quality places to play are not available to every child, especially in communities of color. Since 1996, KABOOM! has partnered with kids and communities to build or improve 17,000+ playspaces and ensure that nearly 12 million kids have equitable access to the crucial benefits and opportunities that playspaces offer. In 2022, KABOOM! launched the 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity, the \$250 million plan to accelerate its mission in 25 high-priority locations over five years. Learn more at kaboom.org or join the conversation on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

About BOSS and HUGO BOSS

BOSS is made for bold, self-determined individuals who live life on their own terms, with passion, style, and purpose. Collections offer dynamic, modern designs for those that embrace who they are fully and unapologetically: as their own BOSS. The brand's heritage tailoring, performance suiting, casualwear, denim, athleisure, and accessories cater to the style needs of the discerning consumer. Licensed fragrances, eyewear, watches, and kidswear complete the brand. The world of BOSS can be experienced in over 400 own stores worldwide. BOSS is the core brand of HUGO BOSS, one of the leading companies positioned in the premium segment of the global apparel market. The group offers collections in 132 countries at around 7,400 points of sale and online in 70 countries via hugoboss.com. With approximately 17,000 employees worldwide, the company, based in Metzingen (Germany), posted sales of EUR 3.7 billion in the fiscal year 2022.