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CALIFORNIAVOLUNTEERS SPONSORS NEW PLAYGROUND AT CESAR CHAVEZ PARK IN DELANO TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CESAR E. CHAVEZ

Playground is one of six constructed simultaneously by volunteers throughout California to celebrate Global Youth Service Day 2009

DELANO– CaliforniaVolunteers, the city of Delano, organizers from KaBOOM! and hundreds of volunteers joined forces on Saturday, April 25 to build a safe, new playground at Cesar Chavez Park in Delano. This playspace project is one of seven sponsored by CaliforniaVolunteers this year to honor Cesar Chavez' legacy of community building and service.

"Cesar E. Chavez was a champion of service and community involvement, and this playground is a great way to honor his legacy," said Karen Baker, Secretary of Service and Volunteering. "This initiative clearly demonstrates the power volunteers have to shape their communities."

Six playgrounds were constructed by more than 1,800 volunteers today in the following communities: Fullerton, San Bernardino, Fallbrook (San Diego County), Lemoore (Fresno County), Delano (Kern County) and Sacramento. On June 22, one additional playground will be constructed in San Francisco.

Planning committees made up of community members, children and parents organized volunteer recruitment, site preparation and safety/logistics for each of the builds. Planning for the playgrounds began in March, when children from each community met with organizers from KaBOOM! and CaliforniaVolunteers to draw their "dream" playspaces, which were used to inspire the final designs. A unique mural and garden will be established at each site to celebrate the life and legacy of Cesar E. Chavez.

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The playground construction marks the final day of National Volunteer Week 2009. The theme this year is "Celebrating People in Action" and is designed to recognize individuals across the country that are making a difference through service. Earlier this week, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed April 19-25 Volunteer Week and April 25, Youth Service Day in California.

"Today we honor our young people who have committed themselves to making California stronger through service," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

Since 2007, CaliforniaVolunteers, as part of the Cesar Chavez Day initiative, has sponsored more than 20 playspace builds with more than 6,000 volunteers and supported 77 afterschool service clubs in Title I middle schools across the state. To learn more about this initiative or to find great volunteer opportunities in your community visit CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

CaliforniaVolunteers
CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering, including the state AmeriCorps program, California Citizen Corps and the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. Through the innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals and families can find more than 45,000 volunteer opportunities throughout the state involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest. Karen Baker, the nation's first state cabinet secretary of service and volunteering leads the organization and First Lady Maria Shriver serves as the honorary chairperson. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

KaBOOM!
KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit organization that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. Since 1995, KaBOOM! has used its innovative community-build model to bring together business and community interests to construct more than 1,500 new playgrounds, skateparks, sports fields and ice rinks across North America. KaBOOM! also offers a variety of resources, including an online community, regional and national trainings, grants, publications and the KaBOOM! National Campaign for Play, which includes Playful City USA and the Playmaker Network – a national network of individual advocates for play. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., KaBOOM! also has offices in Chicago and San Mateo, Calif. For more information, visit www.kaboom.org.

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