



## CITY OF ALVIN MEDIA RELEASE

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### **KaBOOM! and the Rebuild Texas Fund Provide New Play Opportunity for Kids Impacted by Hurricane Harvey**

200 Community Volunteers Unite to Build a Kid-Designed Playground at Newman Park in Alvin

Volunteers from the Rebuild Texas Fund, City of Alvin and the community will join KaBOOM! on Saturday, November 17 to transform an empty site into a kid-designed, state-of-the-art playground in just six hours at Newman Park. The new playground will help make play the easy choice for kids and families impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Alvin.

In September, kids from the surrounding community came together to draw their dream playground. The playground is based off their drawings and will provide more than 700 kids in Alvin with a great, safe place to play following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

Hurricane Harvey was devastating to the area, especially in the area surrounding Newman Park. Many families lost their homes to the flood waters and many did not have insurance to make repairs. With the help of neighbors and a can-do spirit, the community showed just how resilient it can be. This playground will serve as a reminder of what once was an area of loss is now an area of community and play.

Ensuring kids have safe places to play is critical to helping families and communities heal during times of recovery, as they continue to deal with the stress of lost homes, lost loved ones and lost routines. By creating and providing playspaces, this work will help kids and communities continue to regain a sense of normalcy, and make play an easier choice for families.

This playground project is part of a broader effort led by the Rebuild Texas Fund and KaBOOM! to serve communities affected by Hurricane Harvey by ensuring kids can get back to the business of childhood. It will be the seventh build by the partners. Overall, the partnership will lead 15 community-designed playground projects, and award 20 creative play products – Imagination Playground™ and Rigamjig – to organizations across 41 counties in Southeast Texas, providing new opportunities to play for more than 87,500 kids over the next generation.

### **WHEN: Saturday, November 17**

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Kick-off ceremony  
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  
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony

**WHERE: Newman Park**  
1200 Newman St  
Alvin, TX 77511

**WHO:** Hundreds of community volunteers  
Local elected officials

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#### **About City of Alvin**

The City of Alvin is a Home Rule City in northern Brazoria County with a population of approximately 26,474 residents and a land area of 36.3 square miles, located 25 miles southeast of Houston, Texas. Alvin is within easy commuting distance from NASA Johnson Space Center, the Gulf Coast Petrochemical industries and the Galveston beaches. Major highways serving the community are State Highway 35, State Highway 6, State Highway 288 and FM528 to Interstate 45. The city's facilities and damage to public property is still partially in "recovery mode" as a result of the flood event caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Cost to recover from the flood event is projected to exceed \$1.5M. Visit [www.alvin-tx.gov](http://www.alvin-tx.gov), [facebook.com/cityofalvingov](https://facebook.com/cityofalvingov) and [twitter.com/CityofAlvinTx](https://twitter.com/CityofAlvinTx).

#### **About the Rebuild Texas Fund**

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations within the impacted communities that are making an impact in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; health; housing; education and childcare; transportation and workforce; and capital for rebuilding small businesses. The Rebuild Texas Fund will continue to fund projects and organizations within these areas through the end of 2019. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in Texas communities, that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuildtx.org](http://www.rebuildtx.org).

#### **About KaBOOM!**

KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to giving all kids – especially those living in poverty – the childhood they deserve through great, safe places to play. KaBOOM! inspires communities to make play the easy choice and works to drive the national discussion about the importance of PLAYces. KaBOOM! has collaborated with partners to build or improve more than 17,000 playspaces, engaged more than 1.5 million volunteers and served over 9 million kids. To learn why play matters for all kids, visit [kaboom.org](http://kaboom.org) and join the conversation at [twitter.com/kaboom](https://twitter.com/kaboom), [facebook.com/kaboom](https://facebook.com/kaboom) and [instagram.com/kaboom](https://instagram.com/kaboom). #playmatters #PLAYceforKids