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24 Hour Fitness, KaBoom! launch Houston playground project

Houston Business Journal - by [Monica Perin](#) Reporter

[24 Hour Fitness](#) and KaBoom!, a national nonprofit organization focused on children, have launched a program to build new playgrounds in Houston communities impacted by Hurricane Ike.

During October, 24 Hour Fitness has pledged to donate \$1 from the monthly dues of Houston-area members to KaBoom! to help build the playgrounds. Members of the fitness club are also being invited to donate through an in-club fundraising campaign, with all proceeds going to KaBoom!

Local employees of 24 Hour Fitness along with members and community volunteers plan to build the first playground on Dec.13, with a second playground to be built in early 2009, the California-based company says.

Locations for both playgrounds have not been announced.

“KaBoom! knows that disasters such as Hurricane Ike affect everyone, especially kids, who depend on peaceful, familiar routines to keep them feeling safe and secure,” said Darell Hammond, chief executive officer and co-founder of KaBoom!.

KaBoom and local residents have teamed up to build a number of playgrounds along the Gulf Coast since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. “As we’ve seen with the playgrounds we’ve built in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, playgrounds give kids a great way to stay mentally and physically healthy when the rest of the world around them is chaotic.”

KaBoom!, which is based in Washington, D.C., has asked Houston-area residents and organizations to document playgrounds damaged by the storm. Information can be reported online at www.playspacefinder.kaboom.org.

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