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**Rebuild Texas Fund and KaBOOM! Put Kids First by Increasing Opportunities to Play in Wharton
200 Community Volunteers Unite to Build a New Playground at Sivells Elementary School**

Volunteers from Wharton ISD and the local community will join KaBOOM! on Saturday, June 8, 2019 to transform an empty site into a kid-designed, state-of-the-art playground in just six hours at Sivells Elementary School. The new playground will help make play the easy choice for kids and families in Wharton.

Play is essential to physical, creative, cognitive, social and emotional development. The previous playground equipment was outdated and needed to be replaced. Through this playground project, Wharton ISD will work with Rebuild Texas Fund and KaBOOM! to make a difference in their community and address the most urgent needs of kids.

In April, kids from the surrounding community came together to draw their dream playground. The playground is based off their drawings and will provide thousands of kids in Wharton with a great, safe place to play over its lifetime.

This playground is part of a broader effort led by the Rebuild Texas Fund and KaBOOM! to ensure communities have great PLAYces for kids and families. Through this partnership, KaBOOM! and the Rebuild Texas Fund are creating an oasis where kids feel valued and loved, and where their potential is supported, nurtured and celebrated.

WHEN: **Saturday, June 8, 2019**
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
(Times approximate)

WHERE: **Sivells Elementary School
1605 N. Alabama Rd.
Wharton Texas 77488**

WHO: Hundreds of community volunteers
Tina Herrington- Wharton ISD Superintendent
S.B. Pierson- Wharton ISD Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Dana Foyt- Sivells Elementary Principal

About Sivells Elementary School

Sivells Elementary serves approximately 500 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade. The school opened in 1952 and serves lower income to middle income families. The mission of Sivells Elementary faculty and staff is to empower all students to be successful by fostering a love for learning. Sivells Elementary will nurture an environment that cultivates academic success and lifelong learners. The motto for Sivells Elementary is "Where Learning Journeys Begin".

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 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, facebook.com/rebuildtexasfund, twitter.com/rebuild_tx and instagram.com/rebuildtx

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, engage over 1.5 million volunteers and serve nearly 10 million kids. To learn why play matters for all kids, visit kaboom.org and join the conversation at twitter.com/kaboom, facebook.com/kaboom and instagram.com/kaboom. #playmatters #PLAYceforKids