FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New York Junior League celebrates 26th year of city park revitalization with its Playground Improvement Project

3,500 volunteer hours culminated at ribbon cutting at Jackie Robinson City Park in Harlem

New York, NY—A ribbon cutting ceremony was held today at Jackie Robinson Park in Harlem to commemorate the revitalization efforts volunteers have undertaken this spring in the park. The New York Junior League’s (NYJL) Playground Improvement Project in conjunction with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation organized the renovations.

Suzanne Manning, NYJL President and William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner of New York City Department of Parks & Recreation cut the ribbon to officially re-open the park to the community. The event also featured activities in the park including live music, parachute games, face painting and a craft station for kids.

The revitalization included planting over 3,200 plants and painting benches and fences in the park with approximately 50 gallons of paint. Volunteer work also included clearing, planting, and mulching the many flowerbeds throughout the park. Volunteers have donated over 3,500 hours of their time over the past five weekends. This is the second time the New York Junior League has helped revitalize Jackie Robinson Park; the last time was in 2006.

NYJL President Suzanne Manning said, “It’s been over ten years since the New York Junior League’s Playground Improvement Project has helped revitalize Jackie Robinson Park. We are proud to provide updates to this park as it provides recreational opportunities for the entire local community by providing pastimes for children, teens, adults, and the elderly.”

NYJL’s Playground Improvement Project also gives a capital installation to a park, in the past it has included BigBelly Solar Compactors, playground equipment, and re-turfing soccer fields. NYJL’s Playground Improvement Project works with NYC Parks Department to determine the specific needs of that park.

The Playground Improvement Project is one of NYJL’s longest-running community initiatives and the impact has helped improve shared spaces across Manhattan. In selecting a park, NYJL looks at criteria to include: location, size of the park, prior partnership with NYJL at park, accessibility to public transportation for volunteers, projects involved, and possibility of indoor space for projects due to inclement weather. A full list of Playground Improvement Projects includes:

1992  Junior High School 47M, NY School for the Deaf, Gramercy
1993  PS 169 Robert F. Kennedy and PS 226, Upper East Side
1994  PS 111 Adolf Ochs School, Clinton
1995  PS 15 Roberto Clemente School, East Village
1996  PS 146 Anna M. Short School, East Harlem
1997  PS 2 Meyer London School, Chinatown/Lower East Side
1998  PS 197 Howard Bennett Playground, Harlem

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1999  PS 194 Countee Cullen Literacy Academy, Harlem
2000  PS 125 Ralph Bunche School, Morningside Heights
2001  Thomas Jefferson Park, East Harlem
2002  Baruch Playground, Lower East Side
2003  Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem
2004  Highbridge Park, Washington Heights
2005  Tompkins Square Park, East Village
2006  Jackie Robinson Park, Harlem
2007  Seward Park, Chinatown/Lower East Side
2008  JJ Walker Park & Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, Greenwich Village
2009  Morningside Park, Harlem
2010  St. Nicholas Park, Harlem
2011  Sara D. Roosevelt Park, Lower East Side
2012  East River Park, Lower East Side
2013  Fort Tryon Park, Washington Heights
2014  Tompkins Square Park, East Village
2015  Columbus Park & Foley Square, Chinatown/Lower East Side
2016  Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem
2017  Jackie Robinson Park, Harlem

The New York Junior League (NYJL) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Since 1901, the NYJL has been a leader in identifying and responding to unmet community needs. Through direct service, collaborations with other community organizations and advocacy, the NYJL provides a positive force for change within the communities it serves.

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