



NEWS RELEASE

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Families Invited to 'Come Out & Play' Sunday, October 22, for 10th Anniversary of Jonathan's Dream

West Hartford, Conn. October 6, 2006 – To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the universally accessible Jonathan's Dream playground, the Barzach family is inviting area families to "Come Out & Play" **Sunday, October 22, 2 – 4 p.m.**, at Jonathan's Dream, 335 Bloomfield Avenue in West Hartford, at the Mandell Jewish Community Center on the Zachs Campus. Activities will include face painting, musical entertainment, balloon animals, and a Boundless Bake Sale. For more information, visit www.boundlessplaygrounds.org or call 860-243-8315.

For ten years, since opening on October 27, 1996, Jonathan's Dream has been a place where children, with and without disabilities, can play together and everyone can be in the middle of the fun. The 25,000-square-foot playground was built with the help of 1,200 volunteers in memory of Jonathan Peter Barzach, who died at 9 months of age from spinal muscular atrophy, a rare, degenerative neuromuscular disease. His parents, Amy Jaffe Barzach and Peter Barzach of West Hartford, decided to build the playground as a way of celebrating Jonathan's life. They imagined that in Jonathan's dreams, playgrounds were places where children of all abilities could play together.

Weeks after the playground opened in 1996, a small article about it appeared in *Time* magazine. As a result, hundreds of inquiries were received from people across the country interested in creating playgrounds like Jonathan's Dream in their communities. This led the Barzachs, along with a passionate team of parents and professionals, to establish the nonprofit organization Boundless Playgrounds in 1997.

Boundless Playgrounds is dedicated to helping communities create extraordinary playgrounds where children with and without disabilities can develop essential skills for life as they learn together through play. There are now more than 100 Boundless™ playgrounds in 21 states and Canada.

Amy Jaffe Barzach, executive director of Boundless Playgrounds, says, "Sometimes people think Jonathan's Dream was the first Boundless™ playground, but it was actually the inspiration that led us to establish Boundless Playgrounds." She adds, "We will always appreciate the many volunteers who made Jonathan's Dream possible, as well as Learning Structures, the community build playground company that helped us design and create Jonathan's Dream. We also so appreciate the Hebrew Home and Hospital for donating the land for Jonathan's Dream and the Mandell JCC on the Zachs Campus for making the playground part of its facilities and taking such good care of it."

For more about how Jonathan's Dream has led to Boundless™ playgrounds being established all over the United States, please visit www.boundlessplaygrounds.org.