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Non-Profit Organization TLC for Kids Sports and General Contractor O.C. Jones & Sons Partners with Local Community to Rehab Historical Park in West Oakland

Project Brings Community Together to Renovate Public Space and Help Save Youth Sports

BERKELEY, CA – Opening Day at the Historic DeFremery Park in West Oakland took on a whole new meaning as youth athletes, coaches, parents, and visitors were greeted by newly renovated park facilities. Local non-profit organization TLC for Kids Sports and Berkeley-based general contractor O.C. Jones & Sons Inc. gifted a full rehabilitation of the softball/baseball field benefiting the Oakland Bandits Fastpitch Softball. The Bandits play in honor of fellow teammate, Cynthia Rodriguez, who passed away in 2012. Born and raised near DeFremery Park, Cynthia was diagnosed with Leukemia at the first Bandits practice. During the opening ceremony, the Bandits released balloons in honor of their teammate and friend.

TLC for Kids Sports and O.C. Jones spearheaded a community volunteer day at the park back in June. During the volunteer day, over 250 community volunteers assisted in construction activities that included sod installation, landscaping, infield dirt spreading, painting, cleanup, and tree trimming. “I didn’t know what to expect and you always hope for the best,” said Ryan Crawford, Board Member for TLC for Kids Sports, “But we were certainly overwhelmed by the number of parents and kids from the local community, our sponsors, and employees of OC Jones that donate their time. It’s just a true community effort that comes together, so it’s really a rewarding experience.”

Some of the subsequent work performed by O.C. Jones included paving, new fencing, scoreboard installation, dugout rehab, sealing and striping courts and play area. “My favorite part about the process is seeing the before and after...to see kids out here enjoying this is the sweeter end of the story,” said Jim Gallagher, Project Manager OC Jones/Construction Lead at DeFremery Park.

On Opening Day at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, children were thrilled to meet Former Major Leaguer/Oakland Native Bip Roberts, Former Major Leaguer Willie McGee, and Former SF49er Brent Jones. Roberts was amazed at the transformation. “What the TLC foundation has done is, they have refurbished this field for the kids in the neighborhood so that they can come out and enjoy the game of baseball,” he continues, “And what they’re doing is really, really great for this community because nothing has been done here in over 50 years.”

In addition to the building materials provided by O.C. Jones and TLC for Kids Sports, other materials and equipment were donated by a handful of sponsors including: Ford, Leavitt Group, Berkeley Cement Incorporated, Benjamin-Moore Paints, St. Francis Electric, Delta Bluegrass, Oliveira Fence, Sportsfield Specialties, Reed & Graham, Green Growth Industries, Griffin Soil Group, Compass Engineering, and TMT Enterprises. “Sponsoring the TLC for Kids Sports program has been a way for all of us at O.C. Jones to give back to our communities and our youth,” said Kelly Kolander, President and CEO of O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc. “We especially want to thank our many great sponsors and volunteers that helped make this project a reality.”

This project is one of many that have been completed in the last few years throughout Northern California. O.C. Jones, KNBR 680 AM, and TLC for Kids Sports created a contest where youth parks and fields could win the opportunity to be selected for a full makeover. To date, many sports facilities have been renovated. The Tahoe Tallac, Eastridge and Antioch Little Leagues have all recently benefited from the efforts and charity of the TLC for Kids Program. Recently, TLC for Kids Sports wrapped up the construction of the Las Lomas Memorial Outdoor Classroom in Walnut Creek. It was the culmination of a year-long fundraising campaign and school activities in

honor of Gavin Powell and Matt Miller, two students who died while rafting in a storm-swollen local creek. 150 student volunteers were mobilized to assist in landscaping the new Outdoor Classroom, which was designed based on sketches that Miller did for a school assignment.

O.C. Jones & Sons, KNBR, and TLC continuously review entries to select new winners in the months ahead.

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Photos and video are available online at <http://www.tlcforkidsports.org/current-project> or contact Jennifer Sebay directly for high resolution photos js@TLCforKidsSports.org, (510) 809-3421

About TLC for Kids Sports

Award-winning TLC for Kids Sports, sponsored by O.C. Jones & Sons, is aiming to improve our local communities and youth sports...one field at a time. This non-profit corporation partners with radio station KNBR 680AM, *The Sports Leader*, to hold special contests. The winners receive much-needed Tender Loving Care for their youth sports fields and parks. Thousands of children are playing on safer and modern fields. Our vision is for every child involved in youth sports to play on a safe field that is also accessible for the physically challenged.

We are seeking out neighborhoods where fields and parks need some strong attention and rebuilding as many of them as we can. We reach out along the way to local sponsors, donors, public officials and volunteers to give everyone a chance to be involved and to exemplify a true community project.

Visit: www.TLCforKidsSports.org.

About O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.

O. C. Jones & Sons, Inc., founded in 1924, continues to build on its historic legacy as a leading heavy construction contractor in Northern California. We perform paving, grading, excavating, demolition, synthetic surfaces, underground utility, environmental remediation, and emergency response for public and private clients. Core markets include highway and airport construction; stadiums, athletic fields and parks; transit; commercial; industrial; residential; and intermodal facilities. Visit: www.ocjones.com