



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO NEWS/CITY DESK EDITOR

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### **Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers Team Up to Build New Community Playground at Gettysburg's Rec Park!**

**Gettysburg, PA** (October 3, 2019) – Today, local government officials attending the Pennsylvania Municipal League's 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit joined volunteers from Gettysburg Borough, Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority (GARA), the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Highmark Blue Shield to build a new community playground and present an Imagination Playground at Rec Park.

It has become tradition that The League kicks off each annual summit by improving and beautifying a playground in the host community, creating lasting outdoor recreation for children and families. This project was a collaboration between Gettysburg Borough, GARA, DCNR, Highmark Blue Shield and the Pennsylvania Municipal League.

"It is an honor for Gettysburg to host The League Summit and welcome our municipal colleagues from across the state. This playground will be a constant reminder of the good civic work these professionals do every day. Gettysburg thanks them for their efforts and contribution to Gettysburg's Rec Park," said Gettysburg Borough Manager Charles Gable.

"The Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority is thrilled to be installing a new playground next to the American Legion Pavilion. The bulk of the funding is through a grant from DCNR, with in-kind services for the installation from GARA, the Borough of Gettysburg, and Cumberland Township. The Pennsylvania Municipal League, as well as community volunteers, are assisting with the build. The target demographic of the playground is 5-12-year-olds and is greatly needed. The playground that's being removed is over thirty years old and has become a safety hazard. This new playground is a continued promise to the community that GARA strives to provide a safe and fun environment for current and future generations to enjoy. The new playground will be ready for use by tomorrow, October 4," said Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority Executive Director Jackie Dwyer.

"The playground facilities are one of the most popular activities at the park. We are delighted with the opportunity to add new and safer equipment. It is a wonderful gesture and a fun way for The League to demonstrate its commitment to the community," said Gettysburg Borough Council President Susan Naugle.

Build Day kicked off with a welcome and thank you from local area dignitaries and project partners, as volunteers assembled, preparing for the day and forming teams for the various projects to complete the playground.

"Highmark is so proud to be a part of making life brighter and more physically active for the area's youngest residents. Our support for this project – both monetary and in the time and effort of our employee volunteers who helped build it – is part of a long history of standing behind the health and wellness initiatives of the communities where our members live, work and play," said Kathleen McKenzie, vice president of community affairs, Highmark Blue Shield.

"The membership of The League is thrilled to participate in a playground enhancement in the great community of Gettysburg," said League Executive Director Richard J. Schuettler. "The League has facilitated 11 of these builds in our member communities. The provision of safe and modern recreational facilities is a priority for our members and

greatly contributes to the quality of life in their respective communities. Many thanks to our partners – the Borough of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority, and to our generous sponsors – the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Highmark Blue Shield.”

Through this partnership, more children can have a joyful experience on a safely and beautifully crafted playground.

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**About Gettysburg Borough**

Gettysburg Borough is a thriving community of over 7,000+ residents. It's a premier destination in Southern Pennsylvania known primarily for its proximity to the Civil War battlefield as well as its higher learning institutions. [www.gettysburgpa.gov](http://www.gettysburgpa.gov)

**About The Pennsylvania Municipal League**

The mission of the Pennsylvania Municipal League is to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government. The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, The League represents Pennsylvania cities, boroughs, townships, home rule communities and towns that all share their municipal policy interests. The Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy, publications, education/training, consulting-based programs, and group insurance trusts. For more information, please visit [PML.org](http://PML.org). Join the conversation at [twitter.com/PAMunicipalLeag](https://twitter.com/PAMunicipalLeag) and [facebook.com/PaMunicipalLeague](https://facebook.com/PaMunicipalLeague) – #TheLeagueSummit19.