



# RAVENS IN OUR COMMUNITY

## RAVENS SIGNATURE PROJECT: KABOOM! PLAYGROUND BUILD

In June, the Baltimore Ravens partnered with the nonprofit KaBOOM! and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City to build a playground for the children and families of the Douglass Homes community. This is the fourth KaBOOM! playground the Ravens have built in Baltimore City, reinforcing their commitment to helping spread the KaBOOM! message of encouraging all children to enjoy a childhood full of active play. Over 200 volunteers, comprised of Ravens players and staff, built the playground in under six hours. Volunteer activities included assisting with painting of U.S. and world maps, assembling new picnic tables and bench seating, aiding in beautification and landscaping of the area and building the new playground. Before this playground, Douglass Homes did not have a designated area where youth could play, forcing families to travel to other parts of Baltimore to access playgrounds or recreational equipment. This project will help the children of this community continue their physical, creative, cognitive and social/emotional development.



## UP2US SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT

This spring, the Baltimore Ravens launched a five-year partnership with Up2Us Sports, a national nonprofit dedicated to inspiring children to achieve their potential by providing them with coaches trained in positive youth development. This \$1.5 million investment will help expand the Up2Us Sports program throughout Baltimore from 2018-23, aiming to hire, train and support more than 200 coaches to become life skills mentors to youth living in low-income communities. With the help of the Ravens, Up2Us Sports hopes to train more than 2,000 youth coaches in Baltimore, utilizing the lessons learned in sports to address the physical and mental health risks associated with poverty and other socio-economic issues. This Baltimore-based program aims to directly impact more than 18,000 area youth. Ravens president **Dick Cass**, along with **OLB Matthew Judon**, **T Ronnie Stanley** and **DT Brandon Williams** attended the announcement ceremony at Baltimore's Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore.

## ELLCOTT CITY RELIEF

In 2016, Ellicott City was devastated by a horrible flood. Seeing a community in need the Ravens stepped up to help with relief efforts. Two years later, that same community was hit by another disasterous flood. Honoring the promise previously made, the Ravens dedicated themselves to helping once again. On June 6th, the Ravens surprised the Howard County Community Foundation with a \$10,000 donation at their Play Like A Raven Clinic. Additionally, the team took a moment to recognize a fallen soldier and valued member of their community. Sgt. Eddison "Eddie" Hermond, a 39-year-old active Army National Guard member and Air Force veteran tragically died in the recent flood trying to rescue a shop owner who was trapped. In honor of him, a moment of silence was held before the clinic began. Sgt. Eddison Hermond, a loyal Ravens fan, is survived by his mother, younger sister and teenage son. Ravens players **RB Javorius Allen**, **RB Alex Collins**, **RB Mark Thompson** and **DT Zach Sieler** participated in the presentation.

