



METLIFE FOUNDATION MAKES DONATION TO HELP OPEN A STATE OF THE ART PARK IN OVERTOWN

MIAMI – The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit land conservation organization, and the YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade, Inc. (YWCA) on Friday, March 30, 2007 announced the opening of the new Overtown Playground in Miami, FL. It is the culmination of a cooperative effort between TPL, the YWCA and the community of Overtown. The children, parents, grandparents and guardians worked with architects to design the park for the 7,500 square foot vacant lot in Overtown, which was provided by TPL. The park is located at NW 4th Avenue between NW 5th and NW 6th Streets, adjacent to the YWCA, 351 NW 5th Street. The YWCA will maintain and operate the park, with the whole community acting as stewards to the vibrant and vital green open space they helped create.

“This grand opening is the culmination of years of work, a wonderful partnership with the YWCA, and a lot of effort and enthusiasm from the Overtown community,” said Lavinia Freeman, TPL program director. “We hope this park will create a lifetime of memories for the children and families of Overtown.”

“Playgrounds support the healthy development of young people and improve the overall quality of community life,” said Sibyl Jacobson, president of MetLife Foundation. “We are proud to join TPL, the YWCA, the other funders and particularly Overtown children and their families in creating this vital new community resource.”

The Overtown playground is the first park built in the community under TPL’s *Overtown Greenprint Plan*, created to serve as a roadmap to address the park, open space and pedestrian needs in this historic African-American community. The Overtown Playground represents one park element included in the Greenprint.

The Trust for PublicLand (TPL) is a national nonprofit land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since its founding in 1972, TPL has helped protect more than 2 million acres of land in 45 states. Working in Florida since 1975, TPL has protected more than 300 sites – over 200,000 acres at a market value of more than \$500 million. The Trust for PublicLand depends on the support and generosity of individuals, foundations, and businesses to achieve its land for people mission. For more information please contact us at (305) 667-0409 or visit us on the web at www.tpl.org/florida.

The YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade, established in this community in 1919, is readily recognizable in South Florida as an organization that focuses its collective power towards the elimination of injustice and prejudice wherever they exist in our community. This organization has set the leadership example by being the premiere agency in attaining a common community vision of

peace, justice freedom, dignity and camaraderie for all people through the women, girls, and families they serve. For more information about the YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade, please visit their website at www.ywca-miami.org.

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MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants support education, health, civic, and cultural programs. For more information about the Foundation, visit <http://www.metlife.org>.