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**COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF
PAMPERED PRINCESS SPA WITH RIBBON CUTTING**

By Acquiring a Vacant Retail Space from Cook County Land Bank Authority, Pampered Princess Spa Owner Laticia Brown Achieved Her Dream of Opening a Spa Designed for Young Girls

CHICAGO—The Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) today celebrated the grand opening of the Pampered Princess Spa, a Broadview establishment geared toward providing spa amenities for kids including manicures, pedicures, steam and peel facials, and make up treatments. The Spa’s new retail space was acquired through the CCLBA and gave owner Laticia Brown the ability to scale her growing business, turning vacant commercial property into a valuable, revenue-generating asset for the Broadview community.

“This property sat vacant for years, providing no value to the community and generating no revenue. Today, the Pampered Princess Spa is providing a place of community for kids and families and is transforming Broadview for the better,” **said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle**. “The Land Bank’s purpose is to facilitate this type of transformation in communities throughout Cook County, and the Spa is a success story that highlights the kind of meaningful development the Land Bank makes possible when paired with a small business owner’s great idea.”

Brown opened Pampered Princess Spa in 2015 with the help of her partner, who tragically passed soon after. To process her grief, Brown focused on growing the business to fulfill the original vision she and her partner shared. When it became time for a dedicated space, Brown was able to acquire one affordably through the CCLBA. She spent months transforming it into a beautiful dreamland for kids to host a birthday party, have a spa day with a best friend, and create their own fragrances, lotions and lip glosses.

“I opened Pampered Princess Spa because every little girl deserves to feel like royalty, and it has long been my dream to own the commercial space that houses my business,” **said Pampered Princess Spa Owner Laticia Brown**. “Thanks to the Cook County Land Bank, today I not only own my own space, but I was also able to expand my business into a space where more families can come to create memories and kids can let their imaginations run wild.”

“Today’s ribbon cutting shows what the Land Bank is all about: turning vacant buildings and land back into valuable assets that move a community forward,” **said Jessica Caffrey, Executive Director of CCLBA**. “Laticia looked at this vacant space and saw it as a blank canvas that she could turn into the business of her dreams, and the CCLBA is thrilled to have helped make it possible.”

“As Mayor, bringing new development to Broadview is one of my top priorities, and I’m so proud to unveil this new business that is drawing customers to Broadview for its unique services,” **said Katrina Thompson, Mayor of Broadview**. “Thanks to the Cook County Land Bank and to Laticia, a commercial property that had been vacant for years is now a place where kids will be able to feel like princesses for a day.”

The CCLBA, launched in 2013, acquires properties that have sat tax-delinquent, abandoned and vacant for years and sells them at fair-market rates to qualified community-based developers. The properties are rehabbed for prospective homeowners or small business owners, reducing blight and generating community wealth across Cook County communities. The Land Bank has generated more than \$170 million in community wealth, which signifies the increase in property value that Land Bank properties have created. The Land Bank model has disrupted decades of disinvestment and enabled small developers to build businesses and create jobs, leading to greater stability in their own neighborhoods.

For more information about the Cook County Land Bank Authority, visit www.cookcountylandbank.org.

About the Cook County Land Bank Authority

The Cook County Land Bank Authority, an independent agency of Cook County, was founded by the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 2013 to address residents and communities hit hard by the mortgage crisis. CCLBA gives local developers, small business owners, community groups and potential homeowners the tools to transform their own communities from within. The Land Bank acquires properties that have sat tax-delinquent, abandoned and vacant for years and sells them to qualified community-based developers and business owners, who then rehab the properties. This approach not only keeps revenue and jobs in the community, but also helps local developers and entrepreneurs grow their businesses. Learn more about the Cook County Land Bank Authority at <http://www.cookcountylandbank.org> or email info@cookcountylandbank.org.

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