



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NASA To Unveil Hubble Image at The Children's Museum TCM's Planetarium is One of 100 Chosen

WEST HARTFORD, February 13, 2009 – In honor of Galileo's birthday and the International Year of Astronomy, NASA has donated two special images to The Children's Museum. On Wednesday February 18, 2009 at 1:00 pm The Children's Museum will unveil two large prints of the spiral galaxy Messier 101 that combines the optical view of Hubble, the infrared view of Spitzer, and the X-ray view of Chandra into one multiwavelength picture.

The Children's Museum's planetarium – Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium – was one of only 100 educational institutions to be chosen for this honor. The images are 3-foot-by-3-foot and 3-foot-by-6-foot.

In 1609, Galileo first turned his telescope to the heavens and gave birth to modern astronomy. To commemorate four hundred years of exploring the universe, 2009 is designated the International Year of Astronomy. NASA's Great Observatories - the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra X-ray Observatory - are marking the occasion with the release of a suite of images at over 100 planetariums, museums, nature centers, and schools across the country in conjunction with Galileo's birthday on February 15.

The International Year of Astronomy Great Observatories Image Unveiling is supported by the NASA Science Mission Directorate Astrophysics Division. The project is a collaboration between the Space Telescope Science Institute, the Spitzer Science Center, and the Chandra X-ray Center.

The public is welcome to view the unveiling. The event is included with admission to The Children's Museum.

The Children's Museum offers hands-on science exhibits, live animals, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. With over 210,000 visitors annually, it is one of Connecticut's top museum attractions. The Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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