



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jason Archer, Director & Staff Astronomer -  
Travelers Science Dome  
The Children's Museum 860.231.2830, ext. 40;  
[jarcher@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:jarcher@thechildrensmuseumct.org)

**Winter Solstice Celebration at The Children's Museum**  
West Hartford, CT (December 11, 2007)...The Children's Museum will be hosting its third annual Winter Solstice Celebration at the new Traveler's Science Dome on December 28<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m. The event will celebrate the longest night of the year and the beginning of winter (officially December 22) and features:

- .. Storytelling around a roaring bonfire,
- .. Fun family games,
- .. Stargazing through the Museum's many telescopes,
- .. A special viewing of the elegant and sophisticated planetarium show "Season of Light", which traces the history and development of many of the world's most endearing holiday traditions and includes over 20 holiday songs.

Throughout history and around the world, the Winter Solstice has been celebrated by different cultures in many different ways. Some cultures, such as the Native Americans and the Romans, used the

solstice as a time to ask for a good crop in the coming year. The Romans called it Saturnalia, named for Saturn, the god of sowing. European traditions, such as the burning of the yule log, were meant to ensure good luck for the coming year. The Iranian festival, Yalda, is celebrated with bonfires as the darkness of winter is conquered and light begins to return, while in China the day of solstice was referred to as Dong Zhi or the arrival of winter.

Pre-registration is required at a cost of \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. To register, call 860.231.2830, ext. 44 or [events@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:events@thechildrensmuseumct.org).

Established in 1927, The Children's Museum is a one-of-a-kind museum featuring hands-on science exhibits, live animals, digital space and science shows, and programs for the whole family. The Museum includes the United Technologies Wildlife Sanctuary, the new Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium, Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT, and The Children's Museum Preschool, one of the oldest preschools in the country. The Children's Museum serves close to 180,000 people annually, is the fifth oldest children's museum in the country, and is Connecticut's largest museum. Located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford, the Museum is accessible from I-84 Exit 43 and offers free parking. For more information and specific show schedules, visit the website: [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org)

####