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The Children's Museum Receives Generous Grants for Preschool Outreach Program

West Hartford, CT (February 27, 2007)...The Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut) announces grant funding from four prestigious foundations to support the Museum's Preschool Outreach Program. Through the support of The Hartford Courant Foundation, Fisher Foundation, William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund, and The Cottonwood Foundation, the Museum is able to offer its unique science based preschool curriculum to other preschools and daycare centers in the community.

The *Preschool Outreach Program Grant* provides outreach educational programs in science and nature to preschool children from the Connecticut Department of Education designated Priority Public School Systems. These school systems might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in these programs if it were not for the kind support of these foundations. The Children's Museum Preschool travels to other facilities to present its hands-on experiments, live animal encounters, water play science station

demonstrations, and related book readings. To date the grants have enabled preschool outreach programs in Hartford and East Hartford.

The four foundations provided the Museum with a total of \$14,500 to make this program possible. “We are grateful for the generous support from these Foundations to help us extend the impact of our Preschool Outreach Program. These four supporters allow us to continue our mission to be a catalyst for science inspiration and learning at an early age,” said President and CEO Edward Forand Jr. “Achieving high levels of science literacy begins at the critical preschool years,” Forand went on to comment.

The Children’s Museum is committed to igniting the curiosity of young people through science and nature. In addition to the museum and The Children’s Museum Preschool, one of the oldest preschools in the country, the organization includes the United Technologies Wildlife Sanctuary, Gengras Planetarium, and Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. The Children’s Museum serves close to 200,000 people annually, is the fifth oldest children’s museum in the country, and serves more people than any other Connecticut 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, visit the website at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org .

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