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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dime Bank Foundation, Inc. Provides Funding For The Children's Museum's Groton Homeschooling Initiative

The grant will fund the Young Scientist Outreach Program, bringing science, technology, engineering, and math to the community.

[West Hartford, CT, January 2, 2019—] The Children's Museum has been awarded a grant of \$2,500 from Dime Bank Foundation, Inc. The grant is to help fund "Homeschooling Young Scientists," a series of free programs, based on the core concepts of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The program will serve 300-400 homeschooling students and parents in Southeastern Connecticut, particularly New London and Groton.

The series will not only provide STEM education opportunities to homeschooling students who otherwise might not experience this kind of learning, but it will also greatly help parents and families who often struggle to afford or access such opportunities. Programs held at the Groton Public Library will enhance the community as a whole. These experiences may also provide important and unique opportunities to engage students who come from communities where they may be an underrepresentation in the sciences. The *Homeschooling Young Scientists* program not only enhances STEM learning and engagement, but provides these opportunities to students who may otherwise miss out on them.

Each program will feature hands-on science and environment-based activities, such as up-close biology and ecology examinations with live animals and plant samples, explorations with rock

and minerals to learn how igneous sedimentary and metamorphic rocks form, or a guided tour of the night sky in a portable planetarium.

Since 1869, Dime Bank has been focused on offering our customers valuable banking solutions. In 1998, Dime Bank established The Dime Bank Foundation, enabling them to further the bank's mission of supporting and giving back to the communities they serve. The Foundation strives to improve the well-being and quality of life for members of our communities by funding organizations or programs that provide, strengthen, or enhance service to individuals.

The Children's Museum has been a West Hartford institution since its founding in 1927. Helping young children discover their lifelong love of learning, The Children's Museum is made up of a many diverse educational assets. The Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium opened in 1968. Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, established in 1948, which became part of The Children's Museum in 1973. The Wildlife Sanctuary, opened in 1981. Sophisticated in-school and on-site educational programs aligned with Connecticut's curricular standards. The museum itself with hands-on, minds-open, child-centered interactive activities. These together give The Children's Museum authority as a trusted and creative community resource for teaching and learning about science and nature.

The Children's Museum is proud to be awarded this grant from The Dime Bank Foundation. This partnership will benefit families in many ways, and will allow both institutions to expand their mission of education and service to the community.

The Children's Museum is part of The Children's Museum Group, a registered 501 (c)(3). Their mission is to provoke life-long experiential learning and innovation among children, adults, and their communities. The museum is open Tuesday Through Saturday from 9 AM-4 PM, and Sunday 11AM-4PM. Admission is \$14.75 for adults, \$13.75 for children 2-12 and seniors 63 and over, and free to children under 2. Memberships are available. For more information, please visit www.thechildrensmuseumct.org.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Joe DeFeo at 860.726.4016, or email jdefeo@thechildrensmuseumct.org.