



## Share your Whale Tale with The Children's Museum

*The Children's Museum seeks community members' photos and memories of beloved iconic whale statue*

WEST HARTFORD, Conn (April 4, 2016) – Conny the Whale is turning 40-- meaning Museum visitors have been making memories with him for the past 40 years. Now, The Children's Museum in West Hartford is calling on families to share those memories. Whether they're from the last month or last decade, from your own childhood or your grandchild's, The Children's Museum is encouraging visitors to send in their pictures and memories of Conny the Whale.

Built in 1976 to celebrate the sperm whale being named the State Animal of Connecticut, the 60-foot-whale sculpture is the result of thousands of hours of volunteer labor and donated material. The cement and iron whale is now an icon in the West Hartford community and an example of what a group of committed individuals can accomplish.

"Conny was built by a group of dedicated volunteers. The spirit of their contribution is reflected in the community's love for the statue," says Amy Kosciukiewicz, Development Coordinator at The Children's Museum and Project Manager of The Year of Conny.

Beginning last May, the Museum has been celebrating The Year of Conny with programming throughout the year as they prepare for the whale's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday bash on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. The pictures and stories collected from the community will be put together into a slideshow that will be featured on the day of the event.

Conny the Whale is an unofficial landmark in the West Hartford Community. From field trips to family visits, children have visited the live-size replica of a sperm whale for generations. "We're hoping the community will come together, just like they did 40 years ago, to celebrate Conny and the memories they have made with him over the years," says Kosciukiewicz.

To share your images or stories for the event, please contact Tessa Rickart at [trickart@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:trickart@thechildrensmuseumct.org). The Museum and Cetacean Society International (CSI) are also looking for individuals who helped build the original whale.

The New Children's Museum and Roaring Brook Nature Center are the region's premiere destinations for exploration and education. Home to over 100 live animals, the Museum features hands-on exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for young children and families. The New Children's Museum and Preschool are located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and Roaring Brook Nature Center is located at 70 Gracey Road in Canton. More information is available at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org).

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