



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Joan Gurski  
860.231.2830 x30  
860.202.4854 (cell)

**The Children's Museum Celebrates Winter Solstice on December 17**

*Annual Solstice event features the science of the solstice, crafts and telescope viewings*

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., December 6, 2011 – The Children's Museum halls will be decked for the season as we gather on Saturday night, December 17, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, to celebrate the shortest day of the year and the coming gradual increase in daylight hours. Planetarium Director Kristie Mazzoni will lead guests on an exploration of the science behind the year's shortest day in the Travelers Science Dome Planetarium. Afterward we'll celebrate the season with crafts, a bonfire and telescope viewing. In case of snow, the celebration will occur on Sunday, December 18 at the same time.

"Various cultures, from ancient to modern times and around the world, celebrate this event, which signifies the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days," explained Bob Griesmer, president and CEO of The Children's Museum. "Traditional celebrations for the winter solstice, also called 'The Solar New Year,' include festivals, feasting, singing, dancing and fires in the hearth. It's a special time of year, and we're happy to celebrate it together at The Children's Museum."

Pre-registration is recommended. The cost for this program is \$5 for members; \$6 for non members. For more information call 860.231.2830, x44, e-mail us at [events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](mailto:events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org) or register on-line at [www.thechildrensmuseumct.org](http://www.thechildrensmuseumct.org).

The Children's Museum offers over 100 live animals, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. It is one of Connecticut's top museum attractions. The Children's Museum and The Children's Museum Preschool are located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org).

###