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The Children's Museum of Virginia Announces Access Program for Low-Income Families
Museums for All to increase accessibility of high-quality museum learning resources

Portsmouth, VA - Today the Children's Museum of Virginia announced that it has joined *Museums for All*, a signature access program of the Association of Children's Museums (ACM) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to encourage families of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits. The program will enable low-income families to visit the Children's Museum of Virginia for a minimal fee of \$3.00 per person (for up to four people) with the presentation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and photo ID. Families can also visit any participating museum year-round for a minimal fee. *Museums for All* is part of the Children's Museum of Virginia's broad commitment to seek, include, and welcome all.

The *Museums for All* initiative represents a long stride toward the goal of reaching more children and parents, especially those living in poverty, with the valuable learning resources of museums. Children's museums, with their unique focus on bringing children, families, and communities together, are committed to providing access to all. Each year, children's museums host more than 31 million visitors. The *Museums for All* initiative will allow children's museums to further expand their reach and impact."

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

About Association of Children's Museums (ACM)

In an increasingly complex world, children's museums provide a place where all kids can learn through play and exploration with the caring adults in their lives. There are approximately 400 children's museums around the world, which annually reach more than thirty-one million visitors. ACM provides leadership, professional development, advocacy and resources for its member organizations and individuals. To learn more about ACM and to find an ACM-member children's museum near you, visit www.ChildrensMuseums.org

About the Children's Museum of Virginia

The Children's Museum of Virginia is a place where children step inside a world where bubbles grow bigger than they are, where the forces of energy electrify and spark their imagination, where they can be a farmer, a banker, a scientist, and more! The Museum also includes the Lancaster Antique Toy and Train collection – an attraction for kids of all ages as well as a modernized Planetarium. It also features a Museum Gift Shop where children can take some imagination home with them. The Children's Museum of Virginia is located at 221 High Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. For more information call 757-393-5258 or visit www.childrensmuseumva.com

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