



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2009

Contact: Kevin Sullivan
President and CEO, The Children's Museum
ksullivan@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org, 860.231.2824

Aetna Foundation \$50,000 Commitment to The Children's Museum Benefits Science Achievement for All Education Initiative

WEST HARTFORD, March 4, 2009 – The Aetna Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc., has teamed with The Children's Museum to improve science achievement in Connecticut's neediest schools. The Aetna Foundation's commitment of \$50,000 will be used over the next two years to provide science programs to approximately 2,000 students annually from the state's priority school districts through the Museum's *Science Achievement for All* program.

"We're so grateful to the Aetna Foundation for this generous commitment," said Kevin Sullivan, President and CEO of The Children's Museum. "Everything we know tells us that science achievement is falling and our schools cannot do it alone. Especially for younger kids, smaller scale and more hands-on learning that is also fun makes all the difference. This Aetna funding will bring students here on-site and bring our education outreach to schools that otherwise would not have access to really experiencing science and nature. The Children's Museum is passionate about closing the science achievement gap for the state's neediest children and this is what drives *Science Achievement for All*."

Science Achievement For All is The Children's Museum's cornerstone science classroom program that has served Connecticut's Priority School Districts and schools for over 14 years. This program provides science-related educational programs on-site and at schools, free of charge, to needy classrooms in the state-designated 15 Priority School Districts.

The Aetna Foundation is the independent charitable and philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc. Founded in 1972, the Foundation seeks to help build healthy communities by funding initiatives that improve the quality of life where Aetna employees and customers work and live. The Foundation's giving is focused on health, diversity and employee community involvement, with

broader programs in its home state of Connecticut. Since 1980, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation have contributed over \$359 million in grants, sponsorships and social investments. In 2008, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation contributed over \$25 million nationally.

Additional information about the Aetna Foundation is available at www.aetna.com/foundation.

The Children's Museum offers hands-on science exhibits, live animals, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. With over 210,000 visitors annually, it is one of Connecticut's top museum attractions. The Children's Museum is 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.

#