



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 10, 2008

Contact: Jason Archer  
Acting Marketing Manager; Science Dome Director  
The Children's Museum

Email: [Jarcher@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](mailto:Jarcher@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org)

Phone: 860.231.2830, Ext. 40

Attachments: Photo: Solar Observing, Astronomy Day at The Children's Museum, © 2008 The Children's Museum

## **“Bringing Astronomy to the People” on Astronomy Day**

April 10, 2008 (West Hartford, CT)...The Children's Museum, featuring the new Travelers Science Dome, will be hosting **Astronomy Day** May 10, 2008 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. In order to support the national theme of Astronomy Day, “Bringing Astronomy to the People,” The Children's Museum is organizing a series of courses and shows that children, families and adults can all participate in. This year, staff astronomers and educators will be leading courses that will include learning about black holes,

rockets, telescopes, and of course the intricacies of the night sky. In addition, there will be special *StarGazing 101* talks by Staff Astronomer Jason Archer, a feature presentation of *Oasis in Space* planetarium show and solar observing in the courtyard (weather permitting).

“Astronomy is one of the oldest sciences. Most everyone at some point in their life has stopped to gaze up to the stars at night to wonder and dream. In fact, astronomy is one of the few scientific disciplines where amateurs are making significant contributions. Day after day, in the Planetarium we foster and nourish that wonder of the universe in kids and families,” says Jason Archer, Staff Astronomer and Director of the Science Dome.

Throughout the day, The Children’s Museum will have free give-aways and hand-outs, and will be raffling off a Meade ETX\_80 Telescope on site to one lucky astronomy enthusiast. Like in years past, all attendees will have the chance to win the grand prize, an 8-inch LX 90 Schmit-Cassegrain Telescope. All give-aways and prizes are made possible thanks to The Meade Instruments 4M Community and Astronomy Magazine. This year’s event at The Children’s Museum is sponsored in part by Cabot Creamery.

*Astronomy Day was born in California in 1973. Doug Berger, then president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, decided that rather than try to entice people to travel long distances to visit observatory open houses, they would set up telescopes closer to where the people were - busy locations - urban locations like street corners, shopping malls, parks, etc.*

*Berger’s strategy paid off. Not only did Astronomy Day go over with a bang, not only did the public find out about the astronomy club, but they also found out about future observatory open houses. Since the public got a chance to look through a portable telescope, they were hooked. Then they*

*wanted to see what went on at the bigger telescopes, so they turned out in droves at the next observatory open house.*

*Excerpted from The Astronomical League -*

<http://www.astroleague.org/al/astroday/astrofacts.html>

Pre-registration for the courses is highly recommended, since they may fill up prior to the event. For more information about courses, planetarium shows, available packages and to learn more about astronomy, please visit The Children's Museum website at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org). To register, call 860.231.2830, ext. 44 or [events@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:events@thechildrensmuseumct.org). Astronomy is certainly looking up!

The Children's Museum has a long history of providing hands-on learning focused on science based education for younger children and families. One of the state's major attractions, each year it serves nearly 200,000 children and their families. The Children's Museum is also home to the new Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium, wildlife and interactive science exhibits, as well as science based outreach programs in the elementary school system statewide. The Children's Museum offers one of the longest running early childhood education centers in the nation at The Children's Museum Preschool. Additionally, the Museum's Roaring Brook Nature Center in nearby Canton offers natural science and history exhibits and programs, a wildlife sanctuary, nature trails and outdoor gardens. With the recent recommitment of support from the State of Connecticut and the Town of West Hartford, The Children's Museum is poised to begin an exciting new chapter in its 80-year history with plans to relocate and expand at a new facility over the next few years.

###



