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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New "WonderDome" Exhibition to Open at Children's Museum

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY- The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum will host a public opening of its newest exhibition, *WonderDome*, on Saturday, August 16. The museum will offer special hands-on activities during regular museum hours 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, and will stay open late, offering free admission between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm as part of its monthly Family Free Night. Museum members are invited to a special exhibition preview on Friday, August 15 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

WonderDome is a new immersive play space that features nine interactive sensory exhibits involving light and color. Upon entry into the *WonderDome*, guests encounter the giant *Reactor Cube* where they are invited to create light-art using brightly colored acrylic rods aimed at developing fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination in young children. Another exhibit that meets this need is *Mag Maze*, a back lit, magnetic ball maze. *Glo-Bot* challenges children to collect glowing objects using a robotic arm that operates under black lights.

"We wanted to do something really different for our newest exhibition," states Lara Litchfield-Kimber, executive director of the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum. "We have been inspired by some of the recent therapy advances that use multi-sensory environments to empower children with disabilities. The *WonderDome* features exhibits and materials that offer a broad range of open-ended sensory experiences to allow children of all abilities to explore their environment in novel ways."

Two exhibits that highlight the care and intentionality behind the development of this space as a sensory zone are the *Light Waterfall*, which is a soothing, color-changing floor length strands of LED fiber optics, and the *Tactile Curtain*, which invites children to scramble through a wall of noodles. *WonderDome* also includes hidden nooks and exhibits that explore shadows, depth, light and color.

WonderDome is designed to give children, parents, caregivers and therapists more options for using the children's museum for both therapeutic and explorative play. *WonderDome* was developed with funds raised through the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum's Annual Fund and is part of the museum's permanent collection.

The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is the ideal destination for families with young children. With exhibits that focus on literacy, art, science, math and the local community, the museum provides an educationally rich environment through which children have the opportunity to develop foundational skills, to engage in purposeful play, and to develop interpersonal connections. It is located in the heart of the historic Hudson Riverfront in Poughkeepsie, just steps away from the Poughkeepsie Metro-North train station, the Walkway Over The Hudson fabulous restaurants and a revitalized city waterfront park. The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30am to 5:00pm and Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Admission is \$8.00 per person. Children under 1 year are free. Visit www.mhcm.org or call (845) 471-0589 for more information.

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