

PRESS RELEASE: July 2, 2014  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Children's Museum Honors Shirley Adams with "Great Friend to Kids" Award***

**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY-** Mid-Hudson Children's Museum will be presenting its first ever "Great Friend To Kids Award" to outstanding civic leader Shirley Adams, Executive Director of the Catharine Street Community Center. This award will be presented at the Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, ***Power Up for Kids!*** on Thursday, July 24.

"The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is committed to empowering young children and their families and we are excited to recognize Shirley as a leader in our community who has advanced the well-being of children through her work in early education, the arts, community building and other areas." states Lara Litchfield-Kimber, executive director of the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum.

Through her work at Catharine Street Community Center, Ms. Adams has helped to provide Pre-K and afterschool enrichment programming to more than 2,000 children from low-income households annually since 1996. The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum launched a collaborative school readiness partnership with Catharine Street Community Center's Pre-K program in the fall of 2013 which brought pre-K children to the museum for free monthly educational field trips.

The "Great Friend to Kids" award is being established this year to commemorate the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In its first ever call for nominations, the museum received over 25 nominations of individuals, organizations and businesses from throughout the Hudson Valley region including Dutchess, Ulster, Orange and Putnam counties.

The "Great Friend to Kids" award will be presented at *Power Up for Kids!* on July 24, 2014 at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will also showcase the museum's milestones and its bold new vision for empowering young children and their families. Individual tickets are \$150 per person and proceeds will benefit a "New Exhibits Fund" to ensure a fresh stream of hands-on, educational exhibits for years to come. For more information on *Power Up for Kids!* or to purchase tickets, visit [mhcm.org](http://mhcm.org) or call (845) 471-0589. For more information on Catharine Street Community Center visit [catharinecenter.org](http://catharinecenter.org).

The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is the ideal destination for families with young children. With exhibits that focus on school readiness, science, literacy, art, and the 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. The museum 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 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM and Sundays from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Admission is \$8.00 per person. Children under 1 year are free.

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