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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mid-Hudson Children's Museum Honors Ozie Williams with
"2017 Great Friend to Kids Award"**

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY- Mid-Hudson Children's Museum has selected Ozie Williams, Public Health Nutrition Educator for the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Public Health Nursing Division as the recipient of its 2017 Great Friend to Kids Award. The award will be presented on Wednesday, September 13 during the Museum's "Taste of the Market" event to be held from 6:00pm – 9:00pm in its waterfront pavilion in Poughkeepsie.

The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum's annual Great Friend to Kids Award recognizes individuals living in and around the Hudson Valley who are transforming the lives of children and families through their work in education, health and wellness and community-building.

"By partnering with local schools and not-for-profit organizations, Ms. Williams works tirelessly in our community to promote comprehensive wellness from birth through adulthood," states Lara Litchfield-Kimber, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum. "She is personally dedicated to working with families with young children of all backgrounds to advance understanding about optimum nutrition."

Ms. Williams is a Certified Lactation Counselor, providing breastfeeding education and support to expectant and new mothers. She also works with many local early learning and pre-K programs to educate parents and educators of young children about the importance of good nutrition for proper child development and early learning and on preventing childhood obesity. In addition to her formal scope of work with Dutchess County, Ms. Williams volunteers as an informal "health ambassador" through her many civic, faith-based and professional associations.

The public is invited to celebrate Ms. Williams at the Taste of the Market event on Wednesday, September 13. Tickets to this event are \$75 per person and can be purchased online at tegfcu.com/MHCM-Taste-Ticket. Sponsorship is available. For more information, call 845-452-7323 ext 1218.

Named Hudson Valley's 2016 Favorite "Kid Friendly Museum" and recipient of the 2015 Dutchess Tourism Family Entertainment Award of Distinction, the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is the ideal destination for families with young children. With exhibits that focus on early literacy, art, STEM, 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. The museum is located in the heart of the historic waterfront in Poughkeepsie, just steps away from the Poughkeepsie Metro-North train station, the Walkway Over the Hudson's Elevator, fabulous restaurants, and a new city park. The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30am to 5:00pm and Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Admission is \$9.00 per person. Children under 1 year are free. Visit mhcm.org or call (845) 471-0589 for more information.

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