



**CON EDISON AWARDS GRANT TO WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
TO SUPPORT EXPANSION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMING**

**MUSEUM TO PROVIDE INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
TO CHILDREN IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

November 16, 2009 White Plains...The Westchester Children's Museum was awarded a grant this month from Con Edison in the amount of \$7,500 to support the expansion of the Museum's education programs. With a goal of opening the museum facility in late 2010 at the historic Playland Bathhouses, the institution is currently in the midst of a campaign to raise funds to complete design and construction. Until then, the Museum provides educational experiences for children throughout the region through a series of activities known as our Museum Without Walls Program. In keeping with the Museum's own mission, the goal of these education programs is to bring museum-type educational programs to underserved communities whose children do not have exposure to such experiences.

The Con Edison gift expands the Museum's current education effort through the introduction of "Suitcase Science"; an outreach program exploring sustainable solar and wind technologies. The program, designed to operate during the 2009-2010 academic year, targets over 300 children participating in out-of-school-time activities at community centers in Westchester. Specifically, they include the Boys and Girls Clubs of New Rochelle, the Carver Center in Port Chester, and the YWCA and YMCA of White Plains. The Suitcase Science program is designed to support energy related curriculum in our local schools and, as the WCM education program grows, these activities will also be available for in-school presentations.

"Creation of a children's museum represents a community-wide investment in our children and this grant enables the Westchester Children's Museum to bring more children around the region enriching educational experiences that they might not typically have access to or the resources to seek out," comments Tracy R. Kay, executive director of the Westchester Children's Museum. "We are grateful to Con Edison for partnering with us in our efforts to provide fun and engaging learning opportunities, especially in science, for the children of our region."

Hilary Ayala, Director, Grass roots Management, Con Edison, states, "Con Edison has a long-established tradition of providing financial or in-kind support to organizations whose activities advance strong, vibrant, and stable communities. We choose these groups carefully, looking to their ability to utilize education , training, and special programs and events, to enrich the quality of life of all New Yorkers. We are very pleased to help launch Suitcase Science in partnership with the Westchester Children's Museum. "

Funding from Con Edison will allow members of the WCM Education Team to facilitate hands-on workshops for children that will stimulate their curiosity and engage them in the design, construction and testing of model solar-powered cars. In a separate workshop, the children will

investigate the potential of wind energy through the creation of a mini wind farm. Con Edison will be the sole supporter of this project.

Concurrent to building its education programming, the Westchester Children's Museum is raising funds and finalizing designs for build at the Playland Bathhouses in Rye. The Museum working with Dattner Architects, a renowned New York City firm with a long history of master planning and building educational and cultural institutions. The Museum has also engaged the outstanding exhibition designers Van Sickle & Roller, Ltd. They are planners, designers and producers of award winning projects for visitor centers, museums and educational environments whose projects are focused on natural, cultural, and social history, the environment and physical science. Thomas Luckey, creator of renowned climbing structures at the Long Island and Boston Children's Museums, has been commissioned to create a unique climbing structure for the Museum. Sustainability and green design are among the priorities for renewal of the space for public use.

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