



ACTRESS VANESSA WILLIAMS HONORED AT WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM GALA

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 7:00pm
Grand Prix New York, Indoor Go-Kart Track



White Plains, NY, March 9, 2009... Performing artist and actress Vanessa Williams is the Honoree of the Westchester Children's Museum Gala, scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009. Ms. Williams, star of the critically acclaimed television series *Ugly Betty*, has also been elected to the Museum's Board of Advisors. The **Race to the Finish Gala** will be held at the Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco.

The event will feature a cocktail reception, gala dinner, and charity auction all in a very unique setting. The **venue is a European-style indoor track, designed for precision gas-powered go-kart racing. During the gala, guests will have the opportunity to compete in charity races.** Proceeds will support the Museum's final planning phase, which is currently underway.

Ms. Williams is a lifelong resident of Westchester and is currently raising her own family here. This is a fitting tribute for Ms. Williams, who has shown a deep commitment to children's education in arts and culture, and who has been a longtime supporter of causes that provide educational opportunities and support for at-risk youth. Performing – and music in particular – has always played an important role in Ms. Williams' life. Born in Millwood, New York, Vanessa and her younger brother Christopher's early years were spent surrounded by music. Her mother, Helen, and late father, Milton Williams, were both music teachers who recognized her musical gifts early on and encouraged her to pursue her love of the arts. In recognition of the Williams' family commitment to youth education and in keeping with the Museum's own mission, the Museum will present the first annual **Westchester Children's Museum Milton Williams Educator Award** to an outstanding local educator. The award will be presented at the Gala.

"The vision of the Westchester Children's Museum to create a place that welcomes and nurtures the imagination and confidence of all our children, regardless of cultural or socioeconomic background, learning or physical ability. This is in line with my own interest in supporting causes that address educational issues and provide aid to at risk youth," states Vanessa Williams. "I believe that this region needs a place like this."

The Westchester Children's Museum is in a campaign to raise the funds to build the museum at the historic landmark Bathhouses at Rye Playland. The Westchester Children's Museum will be a fully hand-on, full-service cultural and educational institution for children with their families, caregivers and schools. The exhibitions and programs will draw from the dramatic history, cultural diversity, flourishing environments and ecosystems, and the rich literary and artistic traditions of the region.

For Gala reservations, call 866-925-6292 or www.benefitoffice.org/wcm

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Media Inquiries:

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