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Stepping Stones Museum for Children Awarded \$15,000 Grant from the Perrin Family Foundation for *Open Arms* Accessibility Initiative

Norwalk, CT, June 27, 2008 -- Stepping Stones Museum for Children has received a \$15,000 grant from the Perrin Family Foundation. This is the fourth year for the Perrin Family Foundation to award a grant to Stepping Stones. The grant provides continued support of the museum's *Open Arms* accessibility program, specifically to provide funds for the Community Admission Pass program and one of the museum's *Get Into It!* FREE evenings.

"We are very grateful for the Perrin Family Foundation's continued generosity and support of the museum and our *Open Arms* initiative," said Rhonda Kiest, executive director of Stepping Stones. "This grant will focus on supporting low-income families and community groups, which otherwise would not be able to visit the museum, and will help to ensure the museum's award-winning exhibits and educational programs are accessible to all."

Through *Open Arms*, Stepping Stones partners with numerous non-profit organizations and schools to reach families that would not visit the museum without encouragement and/or financial assistance. Nearly 30,000 children and families benefit from *Open Arms* each year.

"Stepping Stones provides children, families and schools with a safe, enriching environment that nurtures creativity, play and lifelong learning," said Sheila Perrin, founder of the Perrin Family Foundation. "The Perrin Foundation is proud to provide funds to help all children have access to Stepping Stones robust educational exhibits and participate in its wonderful programs."

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Founded in 1994, the Perrin Family Foundation is committed to providing equal opportunities for children and young adults to lead safe, productive and creative lives. Based in Ridgefield, Connecticut, the foundation's grant making activities focus on social services in Fairfield County and social change within the state of Connecticut. The foundation prioritizes its funding for organizations primarily serving low income families. For more information, visit www.perrinfamilyfoundation.org or call 203 438 7349.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children is an award-winning children's museum committed to broadening and enriching the lives of children. Museum exhibits, educational programs and special events complement efforts in schools, childcare centers and homes. With four main galleries, a toddlers-only gallery and more than 100 hands-on activities, Stepping Stones offers children ten and under plenty to explore and discover. Stepping Stones Museum for Children is a non-profit organization. To learn more, visit steppingstonesmuseum.org.

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