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**Stepping Stones Museum for Children Awarded \$10,000 Grant from
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri-State Area
for *Get Into It!* FREE Evenings**

Norwalk, CT, December 26, 2008 -- Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri-State Area (RMHC-NYTSA) recently awarded \$10,000 to Stepping Stones Museum for Children. The grant provides funds for materials and supplies for the museum's monthly *Get Into It!* FREE evenings. These evenings, part of the museum's *Open Arms* accessibility program, are held the last Thursday of every month and provide free admission to the museum for children, parents and caregivers.

"We are very grateful for the generosity and support of Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Tri-State Area," 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.

"We are so excited about all the worthwhile programs that we are able to fund this year," said Gerald McCoy, president of Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Tri-State Area Chapter. "It's wonderful to partner with non-profit organizations working to better the community and support programs that benefit children."

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About Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri-State Area

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri-State Area (RMHC-NYTSA) is working to better the lives of children and their families in our communities, by creating and supporting programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children in the areas health, education, the arts, civic and social issues. Since 1992, RMHC-NYTSA has provided more than \$10 million to local non-profit organizations whose programs improve the well-being of children and their families. For further information on Ronald McDonald House Charities-NYSTA, visit www.rmhcnewyorktri-state.org or call 973-287-1476.

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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