



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robin Wexler, Manager of Marketing and Communications
203 899 0606, ext. 295
robin@steppingstonesmuseum.org

Stepping Stones Museum for Children Selected by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to Host Youth Panel Discussion to Tackle Issue of Childhood Obesity

Norwalk, CT, September 9, 2008 – Stepping Stones Museum for Children has been selected as one of six sites from across the country by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a partnership between the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation, to organize and host a Youth-Hosted Forum. The Forum will be held on Saturday, September 20 from 6 to 8 pm and will be led by a youth moderator and five youth panelists, ages 8 – 17.

The Forums are part of The Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s Go Healthy Month in September, aimed at educating, engaging and empowering kids across the U.S. to make healthy living the norm, rather than the exception. Stepping Stones youth volunteers are helping to plan and organize this event to celebrate strides youth are making to solve the childhood obesity epidemic and highlight what else they can do to continue to move the needle. Children between the ages of 8 and 17 are encouraged to attend and participate in the Youth-Hosted Forum. The event is free. For more information or to register to attend, please call 203-899-0606, ext. 247 or visit steppingstonesmuseum.org.

“The Youth-Hosted Forum is providing an important platform for young people to come together and talk about their health, and what they are doing and can do to lead healthy lives, to seek solutions and activate change,” said Rhonda Kiest, executive director at Stepping Stones. “As part of Stepping Stones ongoing *Healthy Children, Healthy Communities* initiative, we will continue to develop and deliver programs educating children and families about how the choices they make each day contribute to their long-term health and well being.”

--more--

Today in the United States, nearly one in three kids is overweight or obese. If this trend continues to increase, many believe this current generation of children will become the first in American history to live shorter lives than their parents. Childhood obesity is leading to an increase in potentially life-threatening conditions that usually don't develop until adulthood. High blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and type-2 diabetes are just some examples.

About the Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a joint initiative of the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation, is working to reduce the nationwide prevalence of childhood obesity by 2015, and to empower kids in the United States to make healthy lifestyle choices. The Alliance is having a positive impact on the places that make a difference to a child's health: homes; schools; restaurants; doctor's offices; and the community. For more information about the Alliance for a Healthier Generation visit www.HealthierGeneration.org.

About Stepping Stones Museum for Children

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 is located at 303 West Avenue in Norwalk, CT, just off exit 14 North and 15 South off I-95. To learn more visit steppingstonesmuseum.org or call 203 899 0606. Stepping Stones Museum for Children is a non-profit organization.

#