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Stepping Stones Museum for Children Awarded \$10,000 Grant from the Perrin Family Foundation for *Open Arms* Accessibility Initiative

Norwalk, CT, September 9, 2009 – Stepping Stones Museum for Children has received a \$10,000 grant from the Perrin Family Foundation. This is the fifth 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 one of the museum’s *Get Into It!* FREE evenings and for the Community Admission Pass program.

“We are very grateful for the Perrin Family Foundation’s long-standing support of Stepping Stones and our *Open Arms* initiative,” said Rhonda Kiest, executive director of Stepping Stones. “This grant helps to ensure the museum’s award-winning exhibits and educational programs are accessible to all audiences.”

Through *Open Arms*, children, families and schools are welcome to enjoy the museum’s safe, enriching environment which nurtures creativity, play and lifelong learning. Stepping Stones partners with numerous community 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.

“The Perrin Family Foundation is proud of its continued support of Stepping Stones and its *Open Arms* programs,” said Sheila Perrin, president of the Perrin Family Foundation. “We know these funds will help provide many children with access to Stepping Stones and its exciting exhibits and programs.”

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The Perrin Family Foundation founded in 1994, is committed to providing equal opportunities for children and young adults to lead safe, productive and creative lives. Based in Ridgefield, Connecticut, the Perrin Family Foundation funds a continuum of direct social services and empowerment programs in Fairfield County as well as youth engagement and social change programs throughout the state to address unmet needs. The goal of the Perrin Family Foundation is to encourage and support non-profit organizations in the areas of education, health, social services and advocacy for youth in underserved communities. For more information, visit www.perrinfamilyfoundation.org.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children, a 501(c)(3) private non-profit organization, 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, a new outdoor play space and more than 100 hands-on activities, Stepping Stones offers children ten and under plenty to explore and discover. To learn more, visit steppingstonesmuseum.org.

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