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Stepping Stones Museum for Children Awarded \$15,000 Grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation for the *Norwalk After School Partnership Program*

Norwalk, CT, September 9, 2009 -- Stepping Stones Museum for Children has received a \$15,000 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation. The Fairfield County Community Foundation has supported the museum since 1999. The grant provides support of the *Norwalk After School Partnership Program*, an important collaboration between Stepping Stones and the Norwalk AfterSchool Alliance, to offer museum-based after school workshops for free at public elementary schools and community sites throughout Norwalk. Through this program, Stepping Stones works with the Norwalk AfterSchool Alliance network of providers, a unique collaboration of nearly 40 Norwalk community organizations, to provide free after school choices for children.

“We are very grateful for the continued generosity and support of the Fairfield County Community Foundation,” said Rhonda Kiest, executive director of Stepping Stones. “This grant helps to combine the best community resources to improve after school programming in Norwalk and enable every Norwalk child to have equal access to high quality, safe, and academically and socially-rich activities.”

“The Fairfield County Community Foundation is proud to support Stepping Stones and its Norwalk After School Partnership Program,” said Dorcas Blue, Program Director of the Fairfield County Community Foundation. “We know these funds will help provide many children with after school workshops that nurture creativity, play and lifelong learning.”

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations’ national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

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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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