



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Becca Stamp,  
Development & Community  
Relations Coordinator  
PHONE: 717-569-5437  
EMAIL: [becca.stamp@handsonhouse.org](mailto:becca.stamp@handsonhouse.org)

## **Hands-on House Announces Access Program for Low-Income Families**

*Museums for All to increase accessibility of high-quality museum learning resources*

Lancaster, PA —Today Hands-on House, Children’s Museum of Lancaster announced that it has joined Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), to encourage people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. The program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits visiting Hands-on House for a minimal fee of \$3 per person, for up to four people, with the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. Similar free and reduced admission is available to eligible members of the public at more than 250 museums across the country.

Hands-on House also announced that this reduced admission program will be underwritten by a donation from Environmental Recovery Corporation (ERC). “We believe Museums for All will make a meaningful difference in our community. We are pleased to help children and families, who might not otherwise be able to participate, experience the unique and memorable educational experiences at Hands-on House,” said Ken Lefever, President at Environmental Recovery Corporation.

Founded in 1987, Hands-on House Children’s Museum of Lancaster is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating landmark learning experiences for children and their families through play. The museum is home to interactive exhibits, including The Clubhouse, a self-guided STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classroom, educational programs and an outdoor play garden. Activities are designed for children ages 2 to 10, while inviting and encouraging the engagement of accompanying adults.

The museum benefits from the service of 110 volunteers and welcomes more than 50,000 visitors annually. Through Museums for All, Hands-on House hopes to see this number grow.

“As we work to include and welcome all audiences at Hands-on House, we are deeply grateful for this outstanding commitment from Environmental Recovery Corporation. This partnership is enabling us to

fulfill our mission – creating landmark learning experiences for children and their families through play – for hundreds more visitors,” said Jim Bland, Hands-on House Executive Director.

Museums for All helps expand access to museums and also raise public awareness about how museums in the U.S. are reaching their entire communities. More than 250 institutions participate in the initiative, including art museums, children’s museums, science centers, botanical gardens, zoos, history museums, and more. Participating museums are located nationwide, representing more than 40 states.

**About Hands-on House, Children’s Museum of Lancaster:** Hands-on House is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating landmark learning experiences for children and their families through play. The museum is designed for children ages 2–10 years old and includes interactive exhibits, educational programs, and a play garden. Learn more at [handsonhouse.org](http://handsonhouse.org).

**About ERC:** ERC provides turn-key environmentally sound waste management solutions. With locations in Lancaster, Chester and Baltimore, ERC is one of the largest residual waste processing facilities in the Mid-Atlantic. ERC processes a wide variety of non-hazardous waste materials from a variety of industries. Learn more at [www.ercfpa.com](http://www.ercfpa.com).

**About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS):** The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

**About Association of Children’s Museums (ACM):** The Association of Children's Museums (ACM) champions children's museums worldwide. With more than 400 members in 48 states and 20 countries, ACM leverages the collective knowledge of children's museums through convening, sharing, and dissemination. Learn more at [www.childrensmuseums.org](http://www.childrensmuseums.org).