

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MORE THAN 500 NEW SCHOOLKIDS CELEBRATE THEIR "HISTORIC BEGINNINGS" AT ANNUAL  
KINDERGARTEN MIXER AT MEMORIAL HALL

Philadelphia, Pa. – Please Touch Museum will celebrate with soon-to-be kindergarten students and their families at the 7th Annual Kindergarten Mixer on Saturday, August 9, 2008 from 4 – 7 p.m. This is the first Mixer to be held on the grounds of Please Touch Museum's future home at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park.

In partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, Kindergarten is Key Initiative and United Way, the event provides children with a free, fun-filled afternoon as they prepare for the exciting journey into kindergarten and engage in entertaining and informative activities. This year's Kindergarten Mixer theme is "Historic Beginnings," highlighting the connection to the nation's centennial celebration of 1876, for which Memorial Hall played an integral role as the exhibition's Art Gallery.

"Just like Memorial Hall was a centerpiece when our country celebrated a historic beginning back in 1876, the K-Mixer held at the Hall will help celebrate this monumental step in a child's life as they enter kindergarten," says Please Touch Museum's President and CEO Nancy Kolb. "We hope to help make the transition a smooth one that gets families involved in a fun way."

Some 500-700 children plus their families from across the Philadelphia region are expected on the grounds of Memorial Hall, located at 4231 Avenue of the Republic. Parents will get the chance to meet representatives of the School District and get tips at a resource area featuring exhibitors including the Franklin Institute, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Academy of Natural Sciences, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Independence Blue Cross, Crayola and a Zoo on Wheels from Elmwood Park.

Highlights will include a parade, snacks, water ice, and performances by the Freedom Theatre, magician Tommy McDonald, musicians Louie Miranda and Peter Moses, and the Spiral Q Puppet Theater.

Also on site will be "Kid Fit" and the "Road to Fitness" made possible by the Auto Dealers Association's CARing for Kids Foundation. The Kid Fit Care-A-Van will be hosting fun activities for the whole family including hula hoop contests, limbo, jump roping, dance freeze, and instructions on bicycle helmet safety.

The annual Kindergarten Mixer showcases Please Touch Museum's role in the Kindergarten Is Key School Readiness Initiative. Kindergarten Is Key is a city-wide effort to mobilize families and educators to work together to transition young children into kindergarten, and is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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Please Touch Museum® is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by creating learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. through Monday, Sept. 1. Admission is \$10.95 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. Please Touch Museum at Memorial Hall, 4231 Avenue of the Republic, opens to the public on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008. For more information, please call 215-963-0667, or visit [www.pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org).

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