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For Immediate Release

Staten Island Museum Receives Generous Grants for School Programs

(Staten Island, New York – October 2012) While the nation is going through trying financial times, a few funders have come through for underserved school children by awarding the Staten Island Museum grants to continue their outreach initiative for local students. The Museum is extremely grateful to have the continued support of several organizations including MetLife Foundation (\$20,000), Target (\$20,000), Barker Welfare Foundation (\$12,500), Northfield Bank Foundation (7,500), and TD Charitable Foundation (\$2,500). Public support comes from the Office of City Councilwoman Debi Rose (\$8,000) and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

The outreach initiative, which has been running since 1987, offers free and reduced rate Museum education classes to about 15,000 school children each year, who would otherwise be unable to participate in these inspiring and curriculum enriching experiences.

“Our supporters have provided critical funding to continue this project when so many families are trying to make ends meet. Unfortunately, cultural school trips are often cut when belts are tightened,” says Elizabeth Egbert, President & CEO of the Staten Island Museum. “We are grateful to an outstanding group of organizations who have made substantial, ongoing commitments to the Museum’s signature education program.” Past funders have included Capital One, Con Edison, The Hearst Foundations, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust and NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

Among the lessons that the students grades K-12 most enjoy are the *Lenape Indians; Dia de los Muertos; Staten Island African-American Leaders; See-It-All Museum Tour; Staten Island Ferry; Art Gallery; Dinosaurs; Butterflies & Moths;* and *Community Workers*. All of the lessons meet **New York’s Learning Standards and enrich the children’s learning experience.**

To request the Education Brochure or to find out about the range of the school programs or eligibility call the Museum’s Education Department at 718.483.7103 or visit them on the web at StatenIslandMuseum.org.

Here is what some of the funders say about their motives and commitment:

“MetLife Foundation is pleased to take part in this education initiative that gives Staten Island youth the chance to explore the arts and natural sciences beyond the classroom experience,” says the foundation’s president and CEO, Dennis White.

“At Target, we are committed to serving local communities where we do business,” said Laysha Ward, President, Community Relations, Target. “That’s why we are proud to partner with the Staten Island Museum as we work to strengthen communities and enrich the lives of our guests and team members.”

“I am proud to support arts education through the Staten Island Museum; indeed, I consider it a wise investment of City Council funds. Arts education feeds the mind, nurtures creativity, and fosters ingenuity, thus providing the foundation for building leadership skills in our children. So I am thrilled to partner with the Staten Island Museum – in itself, a leader in **Staten Island’s cultural community – to create our next generation of leaders,”** said New York City Councilwoman Debi Rose (49th District/North Shore).

The Executive Director of Northfield Bank Foundation observed: “The Foundation strives to improve the quality of life of all residents. Partnering with the Staten Island Museum helps us reach students that are often deprived of a cultural learning experience.”

Added Joseph Doolan, TD Bank Retail Market Manager for Staten Island, “The TD Charitable Foundation is proud to present this grant to Staten Island Museum. Supporting Staten Island Museum’s outreach initiative aligns perfectly with TD’s commitment to education in the communities where our employees live and work.”

Photos for publication:



Photo credit: Elizabeth Egbert (l.), President & CEO of the Staten Island Museum accepts the check from Diane Senerchia, Executive Director of Northfield Bank Foundation. Photo by Henryk J. Behnke, Staten Island Museum.



Photo credit: Upon entering the Staten Island Museum students are greeted by the Wall of Insects. Photo by Michael Falco, courtesy of the Office of the Staten Island Borough President.

About each private funder:

MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 by MetLife to continue its longstanding tradition of contributions and community involvement. The goal is to empower people to lead healthy, productive lives and strengthen communities. Underlying the Foundation's programs is a focus on education at all ages and a commitment to increasing access and opportunity.

The grant is part of Target's **ongoing efforts to build strong, safe and healthy communities** across the country. **These efforts include Target's long history of giving 5 percent of its** income to communities, which today equals more than \$3 million every week. As part of this commitment, Target is on track to give \$1 billion for education by the end of 2015 to help kids learn, schools teach and parents and caring adults engage.

The mission of the Barker Welfare Foundation is to make grants to qualified charitable organizations whose initiatives improve the quality of life, with an emphasis on strengthening youth and families and to reflect the philosophy of Catherine Barker Hickox, the Founder.

The mission of the Northfield Bank Foundation is to promote charitable purposes within the communities in which Northfield Bank operates - Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. The Foundation will focus its efforts on projects to support education, health and human services, youth programs, affordable housing and other types of community organizations or civic-minded projects that improve the quality of life around us.

The TD Charitable Foundation is the charitable giving arm of TD Bank N.A., which operates **as TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®**, and is **one of the 10 largest commercial** banking organizations in the United States. The Foundation's mission is to serve the individuals, families and businesses in all the communities where TD Bank operates, having **made \$76.2 million in charitable donations since its inception in 2002. The Foundation's areas** of focus are affordable housing, education and financial literacy, and the environment. More information on the TD Charitable Foundation, including an online grant application, is available at www.TDBank.com.

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About the Staten Island Museum

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 130th year, the Staten Island Museum, **New York City's only** general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum welcomes about 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs every year. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. In Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History



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Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibitions, visit Statenislandmuseum.org.

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Pl.

Staten Island, NY 10301

Museum Hours:

Monday - Friday: 11am– 5pm

Saturday 10am–5pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

Main number: (718) 727-1135

The museum building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

Admission

Adults \$3.

Students and Seniors: \$2.

FREE to members and children under 12.

FREE Lunchtime Break: Every Tuesday between 12–2pm

History Center & Archives *New Location*

1000 Richmond Terrace, Snug Harbor Campus, Building H, Staten Island, NY 10301

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm by appointment

Please contact Cara Dellatte at (718) 727-1135, ext. 122

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 1pm – 4pm (FREE ADMISSION)