

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2009

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Frank Luzi

Director of Media Relations

215-581-3171

fluzi@pleasetouchmuseum.org

## **KIDS GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN AT PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM'S ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN MIXER**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – Please Touch Museum will celebrate with some 500-700 soon-to-be kindergarten students and their families at the 8th Annual Kindergarten Mixer on Saturday, August 8, 2009, from 4:30–7:30 p.m. This is the second Mixer to be held on the grounds of Please Touch Museum's new home at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park, and, for the first time, will also include indoor activities.

"Entering kindergarten is a monumental and exciting step in a child's life," said 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."

In partnership with the School District of Philadelphia's *Kindergarten is Key* Initiative and United Way, the event provides families with a free, fun-filled afternoon of entertaining and informative activities as they prepare for the exciting journey into kindergarten. Parents will get the chance to meet representatives of the School District, participate in workshops and get tips at an outdoor resource area featuring exhibitors including the Franklin Institute, Free Library of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Philly Tree People, and others.

Highlights will include an opening ceremony complete with larger than life puppets, drums, flags and pom-poms, an appearance by Please Touch Museum puppet Pinky, and performances by the Freedom Theatre, Two of a Kind, and musician Louie Miranda.

The 8th 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.

###

### **ABOUT PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM**

Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park, located at 4231 Avenue of the Republic, Philadelphia, PA 19131, is the children's museum of Philadelphia and is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Please Touch features six interactive exhibit zones and a restored 1908 carousel, along with daily activities and theater performances. Please Touch is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, children age one and over and children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit [www.pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org).