



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New exhibit at Children's Museum of Denver teaches young children about proper dental care through hands-on play

Village of Healthy Smiles opens February 21

Denver, CO –*Village of Healthy Smiles*, the Museum's newest exhibit, is designed to teach children good dental health through engaging hands-on exploration. The experience, specifically created for children three and under, will open Saturday, February 21, 2015.

Village of Healthy Smiles is reminiscent of an old-time village and was created to captivate young minds with dental folklore from various cultures, whimsical elements and larger-than-life features.

Each area within the exhibit – the Tooth Fairy's Workshop, Brush Together Cottage, Your Dental Home and Sugar Bugs Plaza – presents a different opportunity to develop and enhance children's understanding of dental health. A child-sized dental office and home bathroom allow for family role playing, a giant magnetic tooth with jumbo-sized toothbrushes teach which foods stick to teeth the most, and children can build fantastical structures in an area filled with hand carved wooden blocks inspired by healthy teeth.

The Museum, along with lead exhibit sponsor, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, recognized the need to educate Colorado families about proper dental care beginning at a very young age in a comfortable, welcoming environment.

"Delta Dental of Colorado and its Foundation are proud to partner with the Children's Museum of Denver as the lead sponsors of the Village of Healthy Smiles," said Marilyn Taylor, chair, Delta Dental of Colorado Board of Trustees. "It's estimated that one in seven Colorado children have untreated cavities by kindergarten, putting them at greater risk for tooth pain, decay and gum disease. Village of Healthy Smiles makes dental health an imaginative adventure for young kids and families, which then sets the stage for good brushing habits and fewer cavities later in life."

Village of Healthy Smiles was designed, developed and fabricated by the exhibits and education teams at the Children's Museum of Denver with intentional planning and conceptualization to create the interactive

experience for early learners. The result is a one-of-a-kind exhibit exclusive to the Children’s Museum of Denver that builds upon the Museum’s educational philosophy of fostering an environment of learning through play.

About the Children’s Museum of Denver

The Children's Museum of Denver believes in kid-powered learning. Every day, expertly designed exhibits and programs open doors for Colorado's curious young minds to express what they know and to discover, create and explore more - on their own terms.

Since 1973, the Children’s Museum of Denver has served the metro-Denver community as a learning institute dedicated to the education and growth of young children, newborn through age 8, and their caregivers. The Museum provides rich play experiences and a dynamic learning environment for children to joyously learn through innovative and interactive Playscapes (hands-on exhibits), engaging daily programming and year-round special events. Last year, they served more than 359,000 children and their grown-ups.

The Museum is currently under construction on a \$16 million expansion to create a 9-acre campus and new experiences; doubling the size of the current facility. The expansion is slated for completion fall 2015.

The Children’s Museum of Denver is a 501(c)(3), private non-profit organization, and a Tier II SCFD member.

About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Colorado – the state’s largest dental insurance provider. As Colorado’s leader in children’s oral health, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation’s mission is to improve the state's oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation's initiatives have included educational programs targeting low-income, high-risk families; support of dental health education for medical and dental students as well as providers; and opportunities to teach good dental habits and cavity prevention among pregnant women and children. The Foundation works to make good dental health a community priority through a passionate belief that, because dental disease is almost 100 percent preventable, its efforts will result in more healthy smiles across Colorado. To learn more about the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit www.deltadentalcofoundation.org.

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