



# THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.

COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN SERVICES IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

March 4, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Administrative Office  
293 Genesee Street  
Utica NY 13501

(315) 272-2600  
FAX (315) 732-0353

WWW.CHARTY  
ADVANTAGE.COM  
THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
CENTER.CNY

The Neighborhood Center, Inc is pleased to support the Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science and Technology in their effort to secure Presidential Stimulus funding. The Neighborhood Center, Inc. is in our 104<sup>th</sup> year of service as a non-profit grassroots organization. Our mission is to assist individuals within our community to become productive members while ensuring their immediate needs are met.

Utica NY is known as the Second Chance City, welcoming immigrants for over 100 years and refugees since the 1980's. Of the 1,562 refugees that resettled in New York State in 2006, one-hundred seventeen refugees resettled in Utica. As rich as we are in diversity, the city of Utica is the hub of a county where 15 percent of our community members and 21 percent of children under 18 live at or below the poverty level.

During these difficult economic times it is very challenging to maintain those organizations that are vital for the health of our community. The Neighborhood Center, Inc. supports and applauds the work of the Children's Museum in their efforts to nurture children's growth and development. Our philosophy is that empowerment through education is critical in assisting individuals to overcome many adversities by increasing appreciation and sensitivity of diversity, foster creative thinking, enhance problem-solving skills, and promote socially responsible behavior, self-confidence and self-esteem. The children's Museum is one such place that promotes the development of these skills by providing imaginative, interactive exhibits and programs that foster character education, diversity appreciation and life skills.

The Children's Museum has lived its mission of Learning, Creating, Experiencing-becoming the only children's museum in the country to have formed an educational partnership with both NASA and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. The Children's Museum is one of the oldest children's museums in the county and has offered a place for our children and parents to learn about local history, the environment, the arts, space and to have fun while doing so!

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Soroka  
Interim Executive Director

United Way of the  
Greater Utica Area

General Board of  
Global Ministries  
Of the United  
Methodist Church

New York State  
Office of Children  
And Family Services

Office of Mental  
Health

Please remember us ...



... in your estate planning