



September 22, 2009

Contact: Erin Gong

734.995.5439 734.995.1188 (fax)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

egong@aahom.org

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Receives Grant from Target for Preschool ScienceWorks

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum recently partnered with Target to expand efforts in delivering imaginative science programs for preschool students. With a \$5,000 grant from Target, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum will develop a new ScienceWorks Lab especially for preschoolers and provide free labs to Head Start preschool programs in Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

ScienceWorks Labs are 50-minute labs providing a hands-on experience with a variety of science topics identified in the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations.

“Preschool lab activities are very different from what most students get in the classroom. They use real scientific tools, like a tuning fork, but are still learning at their level,” said Nandini Bakshi, education programs leader, ScienceWorks, Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. “As they leave the class, many of them will look at me and say ‘I’m a scientist!’”

Last year, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum started its first preschool ScienceWorks Lab, All About Our Senses. As word spread, the lab was booked 3–4 times a week and the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum delivered a total of 27 labs to 400 students.

This grant is part of ongoing efforts by Target to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since opening its doors, Target has given 5 percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism. Today that equals more than \$3 million every week.

“At Target, our local grants are making a difference in the communities we serve,” said Laysha Ward, president, Community Relations, Target. “We’re proud to partner with the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work.”

About Target

Minneapolis-based Target Corporation serves guests at more than 1,600 stores nationwide and at Target.com. Target is committed to providing a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to unique and highly differentiated products at affordable prices. Since 1946, the corporation has given 5 percent of its income through community grants and programs like Take Charge of Education. Today, that giving equals more than \$3 million a week.

About the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum provides more than 250 interactive exhibits that spark the imagination. The Museum is a regional destination attracting over 200,000 visitors every year. The mission of the Museum is to inspire people to discover the wonder of science, math and technology. Visit www.aahom.org or call 734.995.5439 for more information.