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June 19, 2006

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## ***Children's Museum of Northern Virginia Enters Partnership with Junior League of Northern Virginia***

### ***Program to Benefit Thousands of Families in the Metro Area***

**McLean, VA** – The Children's Museum of Northern Virginia (CMNOVA) is pleased to announce its partnership with the Junior League of Northern Virginia (JLNV) to help establish a permanent children's museum in Northern Virginia. The JLNV has generously agreed to provide \$250,000 in financial support and 500 volunteer hours to the museum, as part of its five year commitment to the effort. The CMNOVA is currently operating as a "museum without walls" by taking programming to various locations around Northern Virginia and building support for the museum among an already enthusiastic community. The museum hopes to have a home that is open to the public by early 2008.

"We are thrilled to have established this partnership with the Junior League and are sure that this will provide a model to other organizations and businesses in the community looking to increase their presence with hundreds of thousands of families in the area," said Brenda Hyde, Chairman of the Board, CMNOVA and Publisher, *FAMILY Magazine*.

"The Junior League of Northern Virginia is proud to be part of this groundbreaking educational initiative that will provide children throughout the region with a unique place to cultivate a passion for learning and an appreciation of their community," said Katharine Powell, JLNV Past President. "Through our commitment to the Children's Museum of Northern Virginia, the League is building upon its focus to prepare children for success."

The CMNOVA hopes to meet the needs of metro area families of diverse cultures through a partnership with schools, businesses and the community with a plan for innovative outreach. A children's museum is an important community resource that can be found in virtually every other area of the country with similar demographics.

The objectives of the CMNOVA are compatible with the JLNV's primary focus to "prepare children for success." In recent years, the JLNV have coordinated annual drives for school supplies for at-risk youth, coordinated school-based enrichment programs such as Kids in the Kitchen and have donated more than \$67,000 to Northern Virginia organizations that share their vision for aiding children in meeting their potential.

JLNV members donate 20,000 volunteer hours annually to a number of rewarding and engaging projects. In addition, JLNV has raised more than \$2 million to support causes and

programming including the Family Resource Center at Shelter House, a transitional housing center for homeless families.

The CMNOVA is currently working with area legislators and businesses to establish a place where families and friends can explore one-of-kind exhibits, learn new skills and celebrate special occasions, such as birthdays and holidays. Northern Virginia's exploding population and love of culture provide the ideal backdrop for a children's museum. While there are a number of activities for families in the area, there is tremendous support for a resource that focuses on learning in a diverse community.

"The CMNOVA and Junior League partnership brings us a step closer to meeting our deadline in making the museum a reality for the region's children," continued Ms. Hyde.

The CMNOVA is a non-profit organization with a mission to create a wondrous environment for our children and their families. It is committed to helping children freely explore and develop a lifelong love of learning. Information about the museum may found at [www.cmnova.org](http://www.cmnova.org).

*The Junior League of Northern Virginia is a 501(c)3 organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. With more than 200 active members, JLNV highlights several community and fundraising projects throughout the year including Strides for Success, the Enchanted Forest, and What Can I Bring, the JLNV's award-winning cookbook. The purpose of the Junior League of Northern Virginia is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information, visit the Web site [www.jlnv.org](http://www.jlnv.org).*

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