

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2006

Contact: Shanyn McNulty
703-938-6705

***Children's Museum of Northern Virginia Creating Butterflies
at Reston Festival***

Reston, VA – The Children's Museum of Northern Virginia (CMNOVA) will be presenting an innovative and interactive activity for children and their families at the Reston Festival, July 8 and 9, 2006. The CMNOVA will provide kids of all ages with the opportunity to create a moving butterfly.

CMNOVA volunteer and engineer Roger Sonntag uses magnets and a circuit board to provide a magnetic force that pulses donut shaped magnets upward on a wand. Kids will add glittery decorations to the wand and watch their butterflies come to life.

“We are thrilled to be presenting fun and educational activities to our area's children at the Reston Festival,” said Brenda Hyde, Publisher, *FAMILY Magazine* and Chair of the CMNOVA Board.

The CMNOVA is currently operating as a “museum without walls” as its Board and volunteers continue harnessing the community support that has been provided by countless Northern Virginia families and a new partnership with the Junior League of Northern Virginia. The goal of CMNOVA is to continue to provide exciting and educational programming for the families in our region, while we finalize our location and logistics over the next year.

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 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 and at the Reston Festival this weekend.

- ### -