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**Richard King Mellon Foundation grants  
\$500,000 for Children's Discovery Museum**  
*Gift to be used for construction of new facility,  
scheduled to open in fall 2007*

January 22, JOHNSTOWN, Pa. -- The Johnstown Area Heritage Association today announced that the Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh has provided a grant of \$500,000 for the Johnstown Children's Discovery Museum, which is being built in the unused space of the Frank and Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center. The museum, which had an official groundbreaking in November 2006, is scheduled to open in fall 2007.

The \$500,000 contribution from the Richard King Mellon Foundation is the largest foundation grant ever made to JAHA. The funds will be used in construction of the new museum.

"This very generous gift comes at a pivotal time in our efforts to bring a first-class children's museum to the Johnstown area. The Children's Discovery Museum will greatly enhance the quality of life in the Johnstown area by providing a resource for children and families," said Richard Burkert, JAHA executive director. "It also represents another move forward in achieving JAHA's mission of preserving and interpreting the nationally significant story of the Johnstown area, and developing cultural tourism as part of Johnstown's economic diversification plans."

The capital costs of the Johnstown Children's Discovery Museum total about \$4.4 million. The project will result in a 7,500-square-foot children's museum themed on the Johnstown region. Currently, construction is well underway on the needed modifications to the Heritage Discovery Center building. These include modifications to the third, fourth and fifth floors, where exhibits and gallery space will be located; renovations to office space; creation of a multimedia theater and classroom space; installation of restrooms on the second floor; and expansion of heating and air conditioning systems. The current exhibits of the Heritage Discovery Center, including "America: Through Immigrant Eyes" and galleries,

are located on the first and second floors and will remain open through construction.

The museum's lead donors are Dr. Sidney and Mrs. Rae Goldblatt of Johnstown. Their \$1.5 million gift was matched by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the match was announced in an April 2004 press conference held by Gov. Rendell at the Heritage Discovery Center. Since that time, project planning has been ongoing with professional consultants, local businesses and a community advisory committee. Several exhibits in the Children's Discovery Museum have been developed in cooperation with regional industries.

For more information about the Johnstown Children's Discovery Museum or any other JAHA museum or program, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org).

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown's unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. JAHA's existing museums include the Johnstown Flood Museum, the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center and the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden. In addition, JAHA produces the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest, a three-day free music and food festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; flood commemoration events; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming.