

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Valley Children's Museum Presents 4th Annual
"Big Hands Helping Little Hands" Gala***

The Junior League of Oakland East Bay, Inc., Supports VCM Event, "A Night at the Oscars," Benefiting Life-Long Learning Outreach Programs

SAN RAMON, CA. – Jan. 26, 2005 – The Valley Children's Museum (VCM) presents its fourth annual *Big Hands Helping Little Hands* fundraising gala on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, at the Blackhawk Country Club in Danville. The event will combine the glamour, excitement, drama, and suspense behind the entertainment industry's top awards show with an exceptional benefit for children in the Tri-Valley and surrounding community. Lending volunteer support to the VCM's "not-to-be-missed event," the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. (JLOEB), is proud to be a partner with the VCM. Event proceeds benefit the Museum's outreach programs, including classroom education programs in the Tri-Valley.

Randy Hahn, television play-by-play announcer for the San Jose Sharks on Fox Sports Net, and Roberta Gonzales, CBS 5 TV and KCBS AM 740 weather anchor, will emcee this black-tie optional event, which runs from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The benefit features a "paparazzi" filled red carpet entry, "celebrity" entertainers, a gala dinner, silent auction, and VCM's trademark hands-on creativity contest, along with the live awards broadcast via big screen. Complimentary valet parking is included.

"The VCM's goal is to provide a creative space for children, families, educators and parent groups to learn about their world and each other. Our unique outreach programs stimulate curiosity, imagination and life-long learning," said Sonja Hongisto Executive Director, Valley Children's Museum. "*Big Hands Helping Little Hands* gives people a chance to join us on our red carpet, dodge the "paparazzi," mingle with "celebrities" and share in the glamour and suspense of Hollywood's most celebrated awards ceremony, while supporting important educational programs for the children in our community."

Tickets for the *Big Hands Helping Little Hands* are available online at www.valleychildrensmuseum.org; by mailing a check to VCM, P.O. Box 305, San Ramon, CA 94583; or by calling 925.461.6574 ext. 2. Ticket prices are \$75 per person or \$675 for a table for 10, if purchased before Feb. 1. After Feb. 1, the cost of a table for 10 is \$750. For information on sponsorship or donations, please call 925.461.6574 ext 2, or e-mail Linda at linda@valleychildrensmuseum.org.

Women Building Better Communities

The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. (www.jloeb.org) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The JLOEB offers women the opportunity to implement change in the community in three major ways: projects, grants, and outreach. The common thread in the JLOEB community work is the League's dedicated mission focusing on *Children at Risk*.

"The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. is proud to lend volunteer support to the Valley Children's Museum *Big Hands Helping Little Hands* benefit. Helping to fill community needs, particularly when it involves benefiting the lives of children, has been the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay's mission for 70 years," said Sabrina Benjamin, 2004-2005 President, Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. "The Valley Children's Museum is a wonderful resource for children, families, educators, and the community at large, and we are thrilled that we are able to assist them both at this event and for their future." VCM's Hongisto adds, "The Junior League has been instrumental in establishing successful children's museums throughout America. We share similar values and look forward to a long fruitful partnership."

About The Valley Children's Museum

The Valley Children's Museum (VCM) is a non-profit organization committed to providing educational, play-based, interactive activities for children, families, caregivers and educators. Their goal is to promote life-long learning through exploration and discovery. Upon completion of its permanent site, the Museum will serve as a regional community and educational resource center. Currently, the VCM's "Museum without Walls" program serves the region through traveling exhibits and programs. For more information, please call 925.461.6574, or visit their website at www.valleychildrensmuseum.org.

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