THE PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM WELCOMES
XOXO: AN EXHIBIT ABOUT LOVE & FORGIVENESS
FOR A THREE-MONTH RUN AT MEMORIAL HALL

With a focus on teaching children the importance of identifying, appreciating and expressing their emotions, XOXO further elevates the Museum’s mission of learning through play.

PHILADELPHIA (February 8, 2020) – Today, the Please Touch Museum cut the ribbon on a new traveling exhibit, XOXO: An Exhibit About Love & Forgiveness (XOXO), which is on loan from Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh from February 8 – May 10, 2020. Locally sponsored by Main Line Health and Nemours duPont Pediatrics, XOXO provides children and caregivers the opportunity to explore feelings through a variety of interactive components designed to help them understand the power of articulating their emotions in honest, constructive ways.

“As the U.S. grapples with increased rates of depression among adolescents and teenagers, it is imperative that we begin to teach children to better understand and share their emotions from the youngest age possible,” said Patricia D. Wellenbach, President & CEO of the Please Touch Museum. “Learning about emotions and empathy is equally important to learning about literacy, STEM, fine motor skills and more. Over the next three months, we encourage families to visit this fun yet important exhibit, which reminds us of the power of love and the need to connect to others. More, we are deeply grateful to Main Line Health and Nemours duPont Pediatrics for serving as the local sponsors of XOXO. Beyond providing outstanding health care, these organizations share in our commitment to the social and emotional well-being of children across our region.”

Rooted in the wisdom of Fred Rogers’ legendary words, “Everyone longs to be loved. And the greatest thing we can do is let people know that they are loved and capable of loving,” XOXO offers visitors opportunities to:

- Illuminate a hidden message about love by Holding Hands
- Answer questions about love and forgiveness, and tie them to a wall for others to read at the Response Wall
- Write down loving thoughts and press them into Tokens of Love
• Work together to Balance on a seesaw or connect an infinite Story Puzzle
• Create Silhouettes using a unique set up of light boxes
• Build and explore a variety of facial expressions using Empathy Blocks
• Release the Negative by drawing or writing down what makes you angry or sad and then crank it through a paper shredder
• Speak into Tone Phones and watch how your voice affects shapes projected on a screen

“We are again delighted to partner with the Please Touch Museum and longtime partner, Nemours, to bring XOXO to children and families throughout our region and beyond,” said Brenda DeFeo, Vice President of Women’s and Children’s Services at Main Line Health. “Our mission at Main Line is rooted in compassionate human care. What better way to support that mission than to sponsor XOXO, which teaches our children how important compassion and human care are in their own lives. Emotional health is just as critical as physical health and we are proud to demonstrate our belief in that through this important partnership.”

Nemours duPont Pediatrics will also build off its previous sponsorship with the Please Touch Museum, welcoming the Museum’s education team and its beloved mascot, Squiggles, to Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE, throughout spring 2020 so that children receiving pediatric care can still experience the fun – and lessons – of XOXO beyond the walls of the Museum.

“At Nemours we are devoted to treating the whole child,” said Pauline Corso, Nemours Operational Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Delaware Valley. “That means in addition to providing high-quality medical care, we are – in tandem – treating children’s emotional and mental wellness during their care. We are proud to partner with the Please Touch Museum and Main Line Health on XOXO, which focuses on this invaluable skill, helping children understand, appreciate, and express their emotions.”

XOXO: An Exhibit About Love & Forgiveness was created in 2014 by Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh with support from The Fetzer Institute. For additional information about XOXO or to purchase advance tickets for Museum admission, please visit: www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

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About The Please Touch Museum
The Please Touch Museum’s mission is to change a child’s life as they discover the power of learning through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children’s museums, Please Touch Museum is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is $19.95 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181 or visit our website at www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

About Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh
Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is a place that delights and inspires children, where they can take off on fantastic flights of imagination daily, and return to earth to splash in a river, hammer a nail and ink a silkscreen. With 80,000 square feet of space, the Museum welcomes more than 307,000 visitors annually and provides tons of fun and loads of “real stuff” experiences for play and learning. The Museum was voted one of the nation’s Ten Best Museums for Families in USA Today’s Reader’s Choice Contest in 2017, and named one of the nation’s fifteen top children’s museums by Parents Magazine in 2015. In April 2019, Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh opened MuseumLab™, a new museum for older kids, in the former Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny next door. This project transformed a historic landmark on Pittsburgh’s North Side and completed what is now the nation’s the largest cultural campus for children.

About Main Line Health
Founded in 1985, Main Line Health is a not-for-profit health system serving portions of Philadelphia and its western suburbs. Main Line Health’s commitment—to deliver advanced medicine to treat and cure disease while also playing an important role in prevention and disease management as well as training physicians and other health care providers—reflects our intent to keep our community and ourselves well ahead. A team of more than 10,000 employees and 2,000 physicians care for patients throughout the Main Line Health system.

At Main Line Health’s core are four of the region’s most respected acute care hospitals—Lankenau Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Paoli Hospital and Riddle Hospital—as well as one of the nation’s recognized facilities for rehabilitative medicine, Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital. Main Line Health also includes Mirmont Treatment Center for drug and alcohol recovery; Main Line Health HomeCare & Hospice, which includes skilled home health care, hospice and home infusion services; Main Line Health Centers, primary and specialty care, lab and radiology, and other outpatient services located in Broomall, Collegeville, Concordville, Exton and Newtown Square; Lankenau Institute for Medical Research, a biomedical research organization; and Main Line HealthCare, one of the region’s largest multispecialty physician networks. Main Line Health is the recipient of numerous awards for quality care and service, including System Magnet® designation, the nation’s highest distinction for nursing excellence, the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence (MAAPE) Excellence Award, and recognition as among the nation’s best employers by Forbes magazine.

Main Line Health is committed to creating an environment of diversity, respect and inclusion and has proudly embraced the American Hospital Association’s #123forEquity Pledge to Act to eliminate disparities in care. We are dedicated to advancing patient-centered care, education and research to help our community stay healthy. To learn more, visit mainlinehealth.org.

About Nemours Children’s Health System
Nemours is an internationally recognized children’s health system that owns and operates the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., and Nemours Children’s Hospital in Orlando, Fla., along with outpatient facilities in six states, delivering pediatric primary, specialty and urgent care. Nemours also powers the world’s most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, KidsHealth.org and offers on demand, online video patient visits through Nemours CareConnect.
Established as The Nemours Foundation through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. duPont, Nemours provides pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy, and prevention programs to families in the communities it serves.

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