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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BREAKS GROUND ON MONROE SCHOOL RENOVATION

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ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION GIFT FROM BARNES FAMILY

Over 200 community members joined Mayor Phil Gordon, Jerry Colangelo, and new Suns owner Robert Sarver in the front yard of the historic Monroe School in downtown Phoenix to officially break ground on renovations of the future home of the Children's Museum of Phoenix. At the event, Paradise Valley residents Daron and Ron Barnes announced a \$1 million gift to The Children's Museum.

The groundbreaking, held on Saturday, April 8th and open to the public, was attended by community leaders, museum volunteers and supporters, and children and families from the surrounding neighborhoods. Mayor Phil Gordon opened the celebration, and was followed by Museum Capital Campaign Co-chair Robert Sarver. Mr. Sarver introduced Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Daron Barnes, who spoke about their support of the Museum, and announced their gift of \$1 million. Jerry Colangelo, who has been an active supporter of the Children's Museum and serves as co-chair of the Capital Campaign finished up the program talking about the importance of investing in the children of our community.

Museum leaders and the many children at the event then “broke ground” by digging into a 30,000 pound pile of rainbow-colored fish gravel, glitter and sand.

The \$1 million donation from the Barness Family will be donated to the Children's Museum's \$12.3 million capital campaign. Ron N. Barness is the Chairman of Barness Papas Investments, LLC a commercial real estate firm. He is involved in the acquisition, development, leasing, sales and management of shopping centers throughout Arizona and California. Ron and Daron are both active in many charitable organizations, including local, national and international organizations. Mr. Barness is also an owner and member of the executive board of The Arizona Diamondbacks Baseball Club.

The Children's Museum of Phoenix is a 501(c) (3) non-profit dedicated to opening a children's museum that will engage the minds, muscles and imaginations of children and the adults who care for them. The museum will focus on learning through play, with emphasis on early childhood education and school-readiness.

For more information about the Children's Museum visit

www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org

For more information about Daron and Ron Barness visit

www.barnessfoundation.com

Photograph of Ron and Daron Barness and family attached. Additional photographs of event available.

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