



**For Immediate Release
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YouZeum celebrates first birthday with a party

(COLUMBIA) – The YouZeum, mid-Missouri’s only interactive health science center, is celebrating its first birthday with a three-day party. Birthday party activities include a birthday present ribbon-cutting, a Fun Fair in the YouZeum parking lot sponsored by Joe Machens Toyota, an Emergency Medical Services exhibit on Cherry Street, and half-price admission for all visitors.

The 30,000 square foot YouZeum first opened its doors to the public on May 1, 2008. Since then, the YouZeum has served 27,875 people, including 5,073 children on field trips.

“The YouZeum is an important addition to Columbia and serves as another unique attraction for visitors,” said Lorah Steiner, executive director of the Columbia Convention and Visitors’ Bureau. “People visit the YouZeum to play and learn, and then they end up staying in Columbia to enjoy all that our city has to offer.”

The birthday party kicks off with a birthday present ribbon-cutting at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 1, on the YouZeum front steps. Participants include Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, YouZeum donors and friends and Lee Elementary students.

“We are extremely proud of the YouZeum’s first year in the community,” said Glenn McElroy, YouZeum Board Chair. “It provides an excellent opportunity for children and adults alike to learn about healthy lifestyles while having fun. We look forward to celebrating many birthdays to come.”



The celebration continues on Saturday, May 2, with the Joe Machens Toyota Fun Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the YouZeum parking lot. Attendees can enjoy three-legged races, hula hoops, jump ropes and an inflatable soccer field.

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Scheduled events include:

- 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Face Painting & Stress Balls
- 12 - 2 p.m.: Tie Dye
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- 3 - 4 p.m.: Water Balloon Fun

Also on Saturday, Cherry Street between 6th and 7th Streets will be closed for activities in recognition of Emergency Medical Services month. Visitors can view an ambulance, fire truck and car safety demonstrations for kids.

As a birthday present to the mid-Missouri community, the YouZeum will be offering half-price admission May 1-3 for all visitors.

The YouZeum, where it's all about you, promotes health and wellness in a fun and engaging way. Its mission is to improve personal, family and community health by reaching a large, diverse audience with an engaging approach to health education.

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