



Downtown Hampton Child Development Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“BLAST OFF” FAMILY FUNDRAISER BACK WITH NEW LINEUP

*Event benefitting at-risk preschoolers will include debut of Rainbow Puppets’
Hampton 400th anniversary show and a first look at new Air & Space Center exhibit*

HAMPTON, VA – After drawing nearly 900 people in its first year, Downtown Hampton Child Development Center is bringing back its “Blast Off” family FUNdraiser on February 6, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The community event combines lunch, music and some of the area’s most popular attractions for a truly “stellar” value. Blast Off 2010 is being held at the Virginia Air & Space Center, and all proceeds will go toward tuition subsidies for at-risk children to attend DHCDC.

This day of affordable family fun includes both educational and entertaining activities, so there is something for everyone. The cost is \$8 per child (ages 2-12) and \$25 per adult (ages 13 and up). Children under 2 are free. Each all-inclusive ticket covers:

- Chick-fil-A lunch
- IMAX volcano movie *Ring of Fire*
- Unlimited rides on the historic Hampton Carousel
- Magician Bill Warren
- Interactive children’s music with C. Shells
- Premiere of Rainbow Puppet Productions’ new show for Hampton’s 400th anniversary, “Footsteps in History”
- Virginia Air & Space Center exhibits, including “Animal Grossology,” a traveling exhibit that premiered the previous week.

As part of DHCDC’s ongoing effort to support families throughout the Peninsula, this indoor event provides a unique opportunity to get out of the house with the kids on a dull winter day—and learn something along the way.

“We work hard to make Blast Off as educational as it is fun,” said Jaynelle Oehler, executive director of DHCDC. “Learning is key to our organization’s mission— making quality preschool accessible to all children. The money raised by this event will help ensure children from at-risk populations are not only ready for kindergarten, but ready to live up to their fullest potential.”

Community sponsors are covering the cost of the event so that all proceeds will go directly to the children of DHCDC. The center offers the Peninsula's only sliding-scale tuition rate, which allows local families to pay based on need, so children from all socioeconomic backgrounds can have access to the DHCDC's nationally accredited programs.

Blast Off 2010 tickets can be purchased online at www.BlastOffForKids.com, at The Virginia Store in Downtown Hampton, or at Ute's Gift Shop in Poquoson.

For more information, call (757) 825-6200.

Downtown Hampton Child Development Center is a nonprofit preschool whose mission is to nurture young children by providing affordable, quality preschool programs that develop the "whole child" and foster school readiness. Serving children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, DHCDC's nationally accredited program (NAEYC) and degreed teachers put it in the top 7% of child care in the country. DHCDC offers the Peninsula's only sliding-scale tuition rate, based on family income, with a focus on children from "at risk" and underserved populations, including children with special needs. The organization began educating and caring for children in 1971, with support from downtown Hampton churches and the City of Hampton, and has grown to serve 275 children at four locations. As a 501(c)(3) organization, DHCDC still depends on strong support from the community. For more information, please visit www.dhcdc.org.