



Press Contact: Maureen P. Mangan
Direct Line: (516) 224-5828

PROJECT LEARNING TREE SUPPORTS "GREEN TEENS" AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Area High Schoolers Trained as Volunteer Outdoor Educators

Garden City – Project Learning Tree® (PLT), the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation, has awarded a \$5,000 *GreenWorks!* grant to the Long Island Children's Museum to train high school students to serve as outdoor educators. As "Green Teens," 10 area high school students will learn how to work with visitors in the Museum's award-winning green space, *Our Backyard*.

Transformed from the asphalt alley adjacent to the Children's Museum, *Our Backyard*, is a 3,600-square-foot bilingual, intergenerational outdoor exhibit space. The exhibit area serves as a gateway to nature appreciation using all five senses, as visitors explore Long Island's ecosystem, animal and insects, meteorology, botany and agriculture. *H2Oh! Watering Our Backyard*, the newest area of the outdoor exhibit, allows visitors to explore all aspects of the water cycle as they create sun showers on demand, race boats in rills, and splash through a river bed and over a wooden bridge.

"Nature deficit is an increasing problem, especially among young people," notes LICM Executive Director Suzanne LeBlanc. "Through the *GreenWorks!* grant, the Children's Museum will be able to inspire high school age students to connect with the outdoors and provide our younger visitors with role models who are both protectors of the environment and community volunteers."

Green Teens will work with Museum educators on the development and delivery of daily interactive nature-based programs. At the conclusion of the summer program, the 10 teens will provide written evaluations of the program and make recommendations to assist the program's growth.

Since 1992, Project Learning Tree has distributed more than \$600,000 to fund 873 grant projects in communities across the country. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available.

About the Long Island Children's Museum

Artfully housed in a former airplane hangar at historic Mitchel Field, the award-winning Long Island Children's Museum is a creative, innovative and inspiring destination for children and their grownups. 44,000-square-feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits, a state-of-the-art theater and three learning studios await visitors. A private, not-for-profit institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, the Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) has been voted one of the "Top 20 Children's Museums" and "LI's Best Cultural Attraction to Support."

###