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**Hands On! Regional Museum Reaches Children
Through Unique and Entertaining Exhibits**

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.—Voted by Marquee Magazine as Best Regional Attraction, Hands On! Regional Museum has been entertaining and educating children and families for more than 20 years with its combination of exhibits and displays, daily outreach programs and festivals. Hands On! Regional Museum is a showcase of unique exhibits that allow children to explore educational topics, ranging from science and technology, to enjoyable exhibits such as KidsBank, the art studio, WKID-TV and Kindermart.

“The Hands On! Regional Museum caters to every member of the family with activities and events for all ages to enjoy,” said Brenda Whitson, executive director of the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau. “The museum offers a wide variety of distinct and educational opportunities for visitors to experience. For children, the museum offers an alternative learning experience to sitting in a classroom, giving kids the chance to connect educational experiences with an enjoyable time.”

The museum has 20 permanent exhibits for visitors to tour, as well as two feature exhibits each year.

“The variety of exhibits and programs we offer make this the perfect place for families with children of all ages to visit. Whether you are a budding artist, dream about flying a plane, or just want to have fun, Hands On! is the place to be. Hands On! is *The Place to Discover*,” said Kristine Carter, marketing manager for Hands On!

In summer of 2007, Hands On! unveiled *The Place to Discover*, the museum’s new theme and also introduced a new website, printed materials and the stance line.

From movie nights to art studios, Inventor’s day and Eastman Discovery Lab, Hands On! has many exhibits that allow children to learn first hand about the world around them, including a bulbs and batteries exhibit, pulleys, coal mining, kaleidoscope and a water play dam. Eastman Discovery Lab offers opportunities for hands-on learning in many areas of science, including chemistry and biology. Children can become the meteorologist and predict the weather or anchor the evening news at the WKID-TV exhibit. The Beyond Music Sound Room explains to kids how music affects people, through different demonstrations on the musical instruments showcased in the room. A cultural lesson is also available with musical instruments representing different cultures around the world.

“The Eastman Discovery Lab offers a microscope from which images can be projected onto a screen for everyone to view, as well as distance learning capabilities, which allows Hands On! to deliver science programming anywhere in the world,” said Carter.

“The Hands On! Regional Museum is an outreach program that allows young children to participate first hand in learning about educational topics, ranging from the Cherokee Indians to creepy, crawling bugs, creating an atmosphere that will stimulate their bodies and minds,” said Whitson

The museum also gives special discounts for groups that visit the museum, and special group tours are provided with the opportunity to build a customized tour, by choosing which areas the group wants to visit that relate, especially in relation to what is being taught in the classroom, choosing from topics such as earth science, engineering, math, personal health, biology, music, dance, physical fitness, and anatomy.

“Hands On! is a fun, unique destination for families who live in this region and beyond. We have had visitors from all 50 states and several foreign countries,” said Carter.

For more information, please visit www.handsonmuseum.org or call (423) 434-4263.

Johnson City is located in Northeast Tennessee and is the fourth largest metropolitan city in the state. Set in a region known as America's First Frontier, Johnson City is “Where the Pioneer Spirit Began”—a historically significant and culturally rich community surrounded by an abundance of unspoiled natural beauty. Johnson City has a history, which dates back more than 200 years, and its culture embraces individual creativity and encourages innovation through expression. The area is world-renowned for its modern and traditional Appalachian and bluegrass music, art and cuisine, and outdoor recreation for the whole family throughout all four seasons. For more information on Johnson City, please visit www.visitjohnsoncitytn.com or call (423) 461-8000 or (800) 852-3392.

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