

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2008
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**PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM RINGS IN 2009
WITH ITS BIGGEST NEW YEARS' COUNTDOWN CELEBRATION EVER**

Scenes from the Enchanted Colonial Village on display through December 30

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The little ones can't quite stay up until midnight to celebrate the New Year? Bring them to Please Touch Museum on Wednesday, December 31 for a countdown party that celebrates the "noon" year before moms and dads go to their grown-ups festivities. The annual celebration helps families celebrate the beginning of a new year together with party activities, music and confetti all in one place.

"Our Countdown to Noon® has become a favorite over the years, and we are excited to celebrate with families for the very first time here at our grand new home at Memorial Hall," says Please Touch Museum's President and CEO Nancy Kolb.

As the noon hour approaches, everyone will gather in Hamilton Hall to do the Mummies' strut, watch the ball drop and see the confetti fly as our little party animals welcome 2009! The second countdown will take place at 1 p.m. to accommodate the large number of visitors who make this the highest-attended day on the Please Touch calendar.

Special guests will include Mother Goose and musician Louie Miranda. There will be lots of giveaways and a "Mummies in Training" activity using dress up, props and instruments in the Elaine Wideman-Vaughn program room. Please Touch Playhouse will present the interactive show "How the Sun was returned to the Sky" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Inspired by several world myths, the show uses rare pieces from the museum's collections to represent the characters.

The museum will close at 3 p.m. and will be closed for New Year's Day.

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Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit our web site at www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.