

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ITS 24TH ANNUAL BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Please Touch Museum's Book Award founding sponsor is *The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation*

PHILADELPHIA, PA – A cookie dough mystery and a haiku-speaking panda are at the heart of the two imaginative children's books chosen to receive the 24th Annual Please Touch Museum Book Award, the only award of its kind to honor the publication of quality books for young children. The award is given annually to two books in categories based on the age of the museum's visitors, kids ages seven and under.

"Since 1985, the Museum's Book Awards have highlighted some unique and innovative examples of storytelling for young children," says Please Touch Museum's President and CEO Nancy Kolb. "Helping a child discover the joys of reading is one of the ways we hope to start our young visitors onto the path of learning."

This year's winners are:

Age 3 and Under

Who Ate All the Cookie Dough?

written by Karen Beaumont and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin

Age 4 to 7

Zen Ties

Written and Illustrated by Jon J Muth

Who Ate All the Cookie Dough? is a colorful twist on the familiar game "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?" Kanga wants to bake cookies, but someone took all the cookie dough! "Eeny, meeny, miney, moe! Who ate all the cookie dough?" asks Kanga. Who could it be? Maybe cheetah? Maybe monkey? Maybe hippo? Help Kanga and her colorfully illustrated animal friends solve this delicious cookie mystery, as you join in the jolly rhyme.

Karen Beaumont is the author of several children's books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!*; *Move Over, Rover!*, a 2007 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book; and *Louella Mae, She's Run Away!*

Eugene Yelchin is a Russian-born award-winning painter and illustrator of a variety of children's books including *The House of a Million Pets*, *Won Ton*, and *Heart of a Snowman*.

Zen Ties is a charming tale of compassion and friendship that introduces children to the genuine panda, Stillwater, and his haiku-speaking young nephew, Koo. When Stillwater encourages Koo and their friends Michael, Addy and Karl to help grumpy old neighbor, Miss Whitaker, the children are rewarded in ways they never expected, as they "learn the importance of our ties to one another."

Jon J Muth has written and illustrated a wide range of children's books, including his Cadecott Honor Book *Zen Shorts*, which has been translated into more than ten languages. For his illustrations in his first children's book, *Come On, Rain!*, written by Karen Hesse, Muth received the Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators in 1999.

Please Touch Museum's Book Award is given to books that are imaginative, exceptionally illustrated, and that help foster a child's life-long love of reading. The winners will be honored at the annual Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC) Early Childhood Conference on Friday, April 17, 2009, at 9:15 a.m. in the Ballroom (Level 300) of the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

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The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation is a Philadelphia-based philanthropic organization that supports civic and community life, including education, the arts and social service programs. The Foundation is the Founding sponsor of Please Touch Museum's Book Award and *Celebrate Stories* programs during April and May. These programs are designed to help children build their reading skills and help families to understand the importance—and fun—of reading and playing together.

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.